



St Leonard's Church

Chesham Bois

Annual General Meeting

To include Vestry meeting and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021

The Parish Centre, Glebe Way, Chesham Bois, HP6 5ND



Agenda & Minutes

Reports from Parish Organisations

For the Year Ended 31st December 2020

Rev'd Laurie Clow
Choi Mei van Rest – Cathy Baldwin – Katie Flory

Registered Charity Number 1134113





CONTENTS

Vestry Meeting Agenda	Page 1
Minutes of Vestry Meeting 23rd April 2019	Page 1
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Agenda	Page 2
Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 23rd April 2019	Page 2
Reports from Parish Organisations	Pages 4 -21



VESTRY MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Worship
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of 2020 Vestry Minutes
4. Election of Church Wardens: Choi Mei van Rest and Cathy Baldwin

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING HELD ON 21st SEPTEMBER 2020

Present: Laurie Clow
47 members on the electoral roll

Apologies: 9 Apologies received

- 1. Welcome and Opening Worship:** Laurie started the meeting by saying that the procedures we were using complied with Charity Law, and also went through the process of how we would be voting. He then prayed and read from Psalm 91. We are safe dwelling in the Lord, and if we lock ourselves down during lockdown, then the enemy is getting to us. We need to be free in our spirit but still abide by the law. God is calling us to rise up in the heavenlies.
- 2. Present and Apologies:** as above
- 3. Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on 29th April 2019:** Taken as read and approved
Proposed: Ali Clare **Seconded:** Henny Edward-Few **Unanimous**
Abstentions: 1 (as not present last year)
- 4. Election of Church Wardens:**

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Cathy Baldwin	Adrian Dunn	Andrew Silley
Choi Mei van Rest	Jackie Lambert	Tom Brewer

Choi Mei and Cathy were elected by **unanimous** decision to serve as Church Wardens for the next 12 months.
- 5. Thanks to the Church Wardens:** Laurie thanked the Churchwardens and also Cathy for raising £900 for her charity diet. He also thanked Jonathan Coutts for serving for 5 years, and for his wisdom and his friendship during that time, and that he had excelled and departed himself so well as a church warden. Jonathan responded with thanks.
- 6.** The vestry meeting was closed



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of 2020 APCM minutes
3. Correspondence
4. PCC reports:
Wardens' Report and presentation of Log Book of Fabric and Ornaments
5. Reception of Independently Examined Accounts
 - 5.1 Honorary Treasurer's report, as attached
 - 5.2 Present accounts as an accurate record of PCC activity
 - 5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2021
6. PCC Elections for 2021
 - 6.1 Electoral Roll Officer's Report and Election of Electoral Roll Officer for 2021
 - 6.2 Election of PCC members in addition to ex officio members and church wardens
Following to continue:
Andrew Silley, Katie Flory, Adrian Dunn, Jenny Robinson, Alison Greenhalgh, Edoardo Cavallo
In line with APCM 2015 resolution, Peter Flory and Jackie Lambert act as ex-officio posts for qualified LLM's
To be elected for 3 years: 3 people: Malcolm Hafter, Sam McEwen, Marion Campbell-Brown
To be elected for 1 year: Andrew Pimenta
7. Reception of Reports from Parish Organisations, as attached
8. Any other business of general Parish interest to be submitted to the Churchwardens or the PCC Secretary before **Sunday 28th March 2021**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2020

1. **Present and Apologies:** as above
2. **Minutes of APCM held on 29th April 2019:** Taken as read and approved
Proposed: Choi Mei van Rest **Seconded:** Alison Greenhalgh **Unanimous**
Abstentions: 0 abstentions
3. **Correspondence:** None had been received
4. **Parochial Church Council Reports**
Reports from the PCC and its various sub-committees were reported in the TAR.
5. **Presentation of the Independently Examined Accounts**
 - 5.1. Katie Flory reported that the PCC have accepted the accounts which have been fully audited, and Katie presented them to all present
 - 5.2. Katie thanked a number of church members who had helped her with the accounts over the past year.
 - 5.3. Katie officially presented the independently examined accounts.
 - 5.4. Katie proposed Nicola Anderson as the Independent Examiner for 2020.
Proposed: Katie Flory **Seconded:** Fred Clayton **Unanimous**
 - 5.5. Laurie gave a huge thank you to Katie and Peter for all their tireless work with the accounts over the years, and especially their faith with the finances and lack of fear to spend coupled with good stewardship.



6. PCC Elections for 2020

6.1. Electoral Roll and Electoral Roll Officer

The updated Electoral Roll listed 170 members at April 2020 (9 had left since 2019, but 9 had joined).

Marianne Chiappetti (helped by Ruth Leach) was thanked for carrying out her role and agreed to continue in this capacity.

Proposed: Laurie Clow **Seconded:** Cathy Baldwin **Unanimous**

6.2 PCC Nominations

Laurie by giving a huge thank you to Karen Willcox for serving 6 years on the PCC and as a member of the Personnel committee and helping with a number of interviews during the same period. She has brought professional insight as well as spiritual input. Karen responded by saying she had enjoyed it very much.

The following church members were nominated for election to PCC for the next 3 years.

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Edoardo Cavallo	Ruth Leach	Alice Somervell
Alison Greenhalgh	Denise Kolb	Ruth Leach
Jenny Robinson	Di Wright	Denise Kolb
Katie Flory	Alice Somervell	Jonny Somervell
Adrian Dunn	Jonny Somervell	Di Wright

The vote was a **unanimous** decision and there were no abstentions.

Laurie thanked those who have been on PCC in the past and encouraged members of the church to speak to PCC members to get updates on the life of St Leonard's.

7. Deanery Synod

Laurie thanked Monica Bartlett for 6 years on Deanery Synod, though Monica will be continuing on PCC.

There were two nominations for Deanery Synod:

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Peter Flory	Jonathan Coutts	Choi Mei van Rest
Jackie Lambert	Jonathan Coutts	Choi Mei van Rest

Passed **unanimously**

Peter is already in the Mission and Clergy committee on Deanery Synod

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. In Conclusion

Laurie explained why the meeting had to take place by Zoom and mentioned to ask the Churchwardens if anyone wanted to see the terrier/logbook..

Peter Flory closed the meeting in prayer.



RECTOR'S REPORT

2020? Mmm? So Jesus, what shall I say? A year like no other and so the report will be different. The thank yous are here - thank you to EVERYONE. All who have helped lead and do church in these strangest of circumstances. St Leonard's has a wonderful Core Team, Eldership, Standing Committee, Wardens, PCC and ministry leaders. You are awesome. Vicky going, Colin & Jen going, Denise stepping up, new homegroups and leaders - you have all been amazing. And so have the whole St Leonard's family - you have stuck in there. We have all had different ups and downs all year - no different than normal really they have just been shaped in unusual and unique ways.

We have seen a number of different things in church life. The radical re-shaping of homegroups in the New Year was not all easy but has proven to be an amazing call of God to cope with lockdown and online church. After the School of the Prophetic I was waiting for the increase in that area and in 2020 we have seen it come forth in amazing ways. It started in January, took off in May and April as we moved into lockdown, accelerated again in the early summer and was continuing to grow as we hit Christmas!!

We had three lots of input early in the year that were significant. Ian King spoke to our leadership team at a Pastor's Day in Fulham having spent time with Jackie Pullinger in Hong Kong; Pete Portal came to us on the first Sunday of March and again shook us up and then came the Parish Weekend away.

That weekend away could not have come at a better time. It equipped us and sustained us for the coming months. Those foundations for Family Identity have been crucial: Family & Father, Being Men & Women of Hope, Warriors in Worship, Pregnant with Prophecy, Jesus as Priority and Knowing our own significance. These have all enabled us to activate our identity as St Leonard's.

Immediately after that weekend Covid 19 Lockdown arrived - recording the content for Sundays, Daily Bible Reading Podcasts and all that followed. Locked out of church but able eventually to worship in small numbers and then moving to Restore Hope Barn / Marquee. Wow, we have been flexible all year - thank you. Doing the normal stuff of church - Easter, Harvest, Christmas - in such unusual ways. The Bags of Blessing, Envelopes of Encouragement, Presence & Proclamation material. All has had to be more creative and we have thrived not just survived.

We've seen the Development plans rejected, then accepted at the Parish Council level. We've hit significant opposition but we continue to pray for those who curse us and seek to bless ALL in the community. 2021 was to hold its own battles.

I am going to stop there. We continue on. We see new PCC members - thank you to Yvette and Monica for their lengthy time of service and we welcome new folk on to serve. Cathy Baldwin has chosen an interesting year to be a new Church Warden but she and Choi make a great team.

I give thanks for you all. We are seeing God doing amazing things among us and through us. Let's keep on, keeping on.

Laurie Clow – Rector



RESPONSE FROM THE WARDENS

The Lord's timing is impeccable.

We were so blessed to have our church weekend away in March where we had the opportunity to gather, learn and worship together and connect as a church family. Unbeknown to us at that time, immediately after that weekend, we were plunged into lockdown and a severe time of adjustment ensued. Laurie, Chris and Vicky quickly worked out how to broadcast church online with the help and technical expertise of our fabulous admin team Ruth Leach and Alice Somervell. We are so grateful for our leadership and admin team who worked so hard to overcome the challenges and obstacles the pandemic presented to keep us connected and rooted in Christ.

Home Groups were another important source of connection during this last year. Some chose to meet online and when restrictions eased, some were able to meet in church and outdoors. However, all Home Groups provided much support for one another and love was evident in so many ways - running errands and helping with shopping for those unable to get out, providing prayer support, a phone call to check in....there were numerous examples of love shown to one another and meeting regularly to worship and study the Word was a blessing of fellowship and unity. Thank you to all the Home Group leaders for your dedication in keeping the Home Groups going.

On a beautiful sunny day in September we said our goodbyes to Vicky Burton, our brilliant, faithful Assistant Pastor, in appropriately distanced family groups on the field outside the church building. It was another opportunity to come together safely as a church family and to release Vicky to her new church as she entered the next phase of her ministry calling. We have been so blessed to be touched by Vicky's gentle wisdom and prophetic gifting for so many years and we know that her new church will be richly blessed by her presence too. We thank you Vicky for loving us so well and so faithfully.

Many were delighted to be able to return to attending church in person when restrictions were lifted. A huge sense of family was evident at our gathering at Restore Hope Open Barn in the Autumn and it was wonderful to be able to worship together again. All of this would not have been possible if it were not for the leadership and admin team working tirelessly - again! Christmas brought about another lockdown and yet another change of plans but we were able to hold family worship, Carol services and Midnight Communion - once again, thanks to an innovative team who were willing to adapt and work out safe ways for us to meet at a very special time of year.

Collin and Jen, our Children and Youth Pastors, introduced us to Mr Scruff and Jed over church online. The young and not-so-young at St Leonard's all warmed to these two furry additions to the team and the lessons taught through them. We said farewell to Collin and Jen after Christmas as they went to seek God's path for them and we are hugely thankful for the love and care they poured into the St Leonard's family while they were with us.

Our thanks also go to Adrian Dunn, our PCC secretary, who diligently minutes our Zoom PCC meetings and helps us prepare for the APCM. We are immensely grateful to be blessed by our PCC Treasurer, Katie Flory, who has done a fabulous job of managing our church finances during a challenging year while also managing the finances of the PC Development project. Katie not only serves St Leonard's with wisdom and grace but also has a real heart for our fellow brothers and sisters in other churches, always ensuring that they receive help too. As mentioned before, our



administration team, Ruth Leach and Alice Somervell, have surpassed themselves this year and we are extremely grateful for their hard work and can-do attitude. They played a huge part in making it possible for us to do church online as well as meet in church by sorting out technical issues, additional cleaning in accordance with Covid guidelines, online booking for church services, Envelopes of Encouragement.....the list goes on. Thank you to our Leadership teams, PCC and all the volunteers in our church family who all give up time to help out and love our fellowship. Thank you also to Jonathan Coutts for all the years you have served St Leonard's as Churchwarden - we miss your wisdom, humour and snazzy ties!

Huge thanks must go to Laurie Clow. In every step of this ever changing year, Laurie has sought Holy Spirit's guidance and revelation, enabled us to worship individually as well as corporately (safely) and we have certainly seen the Kingdom manifest here in Chesham Bois! Laurie has worked tirelessly bringing the Word to us not just in services but also through the Daily Bible Readings. The energy he has put into teaching us, uplifting us, releasing us is incredible. Thank you so much Laurie for all the love you have poured into us.

Choi Mei van Rest and Cathy Baldwin – Churchwardens

WARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC AND CHURCH PROPERTIES

In response to the need to stream services from church, the broadband connection at church was upgraded and cabling was installed. New carpet was installed in the sanctuary and leaking gutters were repaired and cleared as part of the usual maintenance work carried out on the church building.

The window in the upper room of the Parish Centre was repaired and some damaged roof tiles replaced.

The Church continues to use 37 Milton Lawns (Chesham Bois) and 19 Stubbs End Close (Amersham) under Licence from the Chiltern Christian Trust.

We are grateful to the Property Committee for their diligence in these matters.

Choi Mei van Rest and Cathy Baldwin – Churchwardens

PCC TREASURER'S REPORT

In 2020 both income and expenditure in the General Fund decreased, resulting in a net deficit in the General Fund. The giving to our Mission partners has been sustained and we have met all our costs.

In 2020 we paid our Parish Share to the Diocese based on our current clergy.

We have paid less rent, for the Beacon and the use of Restore Hope, and have chosen to pass some of the savings on to the Storehouse Project and St Germain's Church to help them meet the needs in the community. The costs of the Parish Weekend in March were almost entirely met by donations.



In 2020 the PCC spent £54,368.56 on the Parish Centre development project and received gifts of £6,000 for the project.

We have been led by God throughout this extraordinary year and He has bounteously supplied all our needs. We pray that He will guide us as individuals and the body of the church in wisely stewarding our resources through the year ahead. The budget for 2021 shows a small deficit which we need to address as we go through the coming year.

Simplified accounts for the General Fund, the Parish Centre Development funds, Maryland, Mission and the Parish Centre are available as a separate appendix to this document.

Thank you to those who support me in my role, especially John Ogle, Ruth Leach, Alice Sommervell and Peter Flory.

Katie Flory – Treasurer

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The Electoral Roll at the end of March 2021 stands at 173 members.

The changes are made up of the following:

3 members removed from the roll due to:

- 2 worshipping elsewhere
- 1 moved away
- 0 not worshipping anywhere
- 0 deaths

6 new members have been added to the roll.

Marian Chiappetti – Church Electoral Roll Officer

WORSHIP AT ST LEONARD'S

2020 was a strange year for the church and certainly a curveball for the worshipping life of St Leonard's - however, as I have reflected on the year I have been greatly encouraged to see God at work in our church fellowship and beyond.

In February, the youth team and young people went on a weekend away! It was great to see many of the youth deeply engaging with God in the times of worship and teaching. A couple of the young people played the mini drum-kit with me as we worshipped together - something I know at least one of them would have been far too self-conscious to do amongst the whole church family. However, this seemed to renew their musical confidence and much to my surprise they would play in the worship band with me at our Family Gathering at the Beacon a few weeks later!

The church weekend in March was another highlight of the year. I was joined by my great friend Joe - an extremely talented electric guitarist - for the gatherings and it was a joy to lead worship with him. There were many amazing things that happened during the times of worship with people of all ages



being released in the spiritual gifts - notably a young boy speaking in tongues for the first time! The worship night on the Saturday was perhaps the highlight of the weekend - it was fantastic to see the whole church family worshipping together with such joy and passion. One of the things I'll always remember is the dancing - the unashamed worship of our King!

The pandemic and lockdown then made things a little bit complicated. After a couple of weeks we managed to move to church online and it was great to hear how people had engaged with God in worship from their homes - in particular during the first online Encounter service. To start with it was difficult to get other worship leaders involved in the pre-recorded services due to technical challenges with recording from home etc. but as the year moved on we started to be able to meet in church to record worship and do more as a worship team. A number of young people, who didn't have the confidence to play or sing in church before, joined us to record worship sessions for the online services.

Later on in the year we were able to hold live services, and whilst it felt very strange leading worship with the restrictions not allowing congregational singing, it was very special to see the church fellowship being physically united in worship again.

My work with Homegrown Worship in 2020 has also been a great source of encouragement. When the pandemic began to take hold earlier in the year, local and regional Christian radio stations were struggling to source new, original material for their shows. This presented Homegrown Worship with a unique opportunity to host a hour long show (The Homegrown Worship Hour) consisting of entirely homegrown worship songs. This ever-changing show has been and continues to be broadcast on 14 radio stations multiple times a week, and many of my songs have featured regularly. Although we don't necessarily see the benefits of this, it has been a huge blessing to so many people up and down the country on a weekly basis!

It's also been encouraging to see how God has used my work with Homegrown Worship to release and inspire others in songwriting. Last year one of our worship leaders, Eliza, wrote a song called "Pursue My King", which was so incredibly anointed and thought-provoking that I felt stirred to ask her if we could record and release it as one of our songs with Homegrown Worship this year! I can't wait to see how God moves people with this song as it's shared with the world in 2021.

So whilst 2020 has had its setbacks because of the pandemic, God has still used the situation for good. I look forward to what God has in store for us at St Leonard's in 2021!

Jonny Somervell – Worship Pastor

PRAYER AT ST LEONARD'S

FREEDOM PRAYER

Covid-19 has not stopped people walking free of their strongholds and the things that entangle them! Over the year we prayed for 69 people during prayer appointments and a further 9 people during a prayer day in January.



In the early part of the year, I started to meet up with new listeners who had joined the team during 2019 and had been active in listening for prayer appointments. This was mainly a pastoral chat to see how they were finding things and answer any questions or concerns they had.

During the first lockdown we trialled virtual prayer appointments, which were a success. In addition, we put in place follow up and pastoral measures following online prayer appointments to ensure everyone was cared for. As restrictions eased and the weather improved we continued with prayer appointments in gardens and church, with some still online.

During October, we were able to hold a Prayer Team training session, socially distanced in church, which was amazing to have the majority of the team attending. During November, I resumed catching up with new prayer team members.

Over the year, the team have also provided Original Design by email (the person was not present, the team prayed for revelation for Original Design and it was emailed to them) 24 times, which included a baby yet to be born, 2 jobs/ministry roles and a church.

I want to say a huge thank you to the team, for your flexibility and adaptability and for continuing to push forward and walk in the freedom that is our's.

If you would like to book a prayer appointment at a time that suits you or discuss Freedom Prayer, then please contact me at prayer@stleonardscb.org.uk.

Ruth Leach – Prayer Team Coordinator

SANCTUARY PRAYER

For about the past 15 years, we have had the church open regularly for individual and corporate prayer. This was hosted and stewarded by stalwarts of the faith who faithfully came once a month and welcomed others who wanted time with God, away from the hustle and bustle of life's demands.

I believe that this time of prayer and being still in God's presence has been a sanctuary to hear God's heart for many and receive healing. I found it was such a blessing and helped me to bring all the concerns to the feet of Jesus and brought it into His kingdom perspective. I believe it was a time and a season that has contributed to so many answers to prayer, both individually and corporately for St Leonard's.

However, as it reminds us in Ecclesiastes "for everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven", and not long before the pandemic affected how we were able to meet, we decided it was time to close Sanctuary prayer and move into the new God has for us as a church. He always knows what is ahead for us and prepares us.

So as we walk out from the "old into the new", I just want to say thank you to all who stewarded Sanctuary prayer so faithfully for many years such as John Ogle, Peter Bright, James Worthington, Terry Neal, Jackie Lambert, Fred and Jeanne, Gwyneth, Cathy Baldwin, Jenny Beirne, Barbara Williams, Ruth Leach, Choi and Vicky and of course we remember our dear friends Maggie and Red.



Thank you to others who came and prayed and we look onward and forward to what God has instore for us as the body and bride of Christ. Exciting times!!

Diana Wright – Sanctuary Coodinator

And we offer other forms of Prayer Ministry as and when required

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We had been seeing some good signs of our kids making the transition to being one group together, across the KS1 and KS2, in the early part of the year.

Church life changed for us all with the impact of the pandemic, so we adapted as far as we were able to do. This included collating the activity packs being sent to families, contacting and often visiting families and celebrating Junior Church birthdays with home visits too. We had started celebrating every birthday in our sessions prior to lockdown.

At one of our surprise Junior Church birthday visits we were informed *"She got up this morning upset because she said 'if we'd been in church, they would have celebrated my birthday in Junior Church'"*.

Visiting children and their families also had an additional benefit that we got to meet and connect with a number of parents who don't actually attend St Leonard's.

When we were asked to provide children's content for church online later in the year, Jed and Mr Scruff arrived on the scene and proved to have cross congregational appeal! We recorded about 20 episodes on a range of topics from toilet roll hoarding to Christmas jumper knitting.

It was great to see several families when we were able to meet at Restore Hope and run sessions during the services.

As the social gathering restrictions around COVID remained in place, we looked at ways to continue connections for the children and BubbleClub burst onto the scene. The Wednesday club, after school for the children up to Yr 6, met in St Leonard's church. We looked at what we thought Jesus might do in real life scenarios the kids shared, we played games, prayed for one another and of course ate snacks.

Although 2020 was a challenging year for everyone, on the whole, children stayed connected to Junior Church and continued to hear its core message of 'Loving Jesus and Creating Family.'

Collin and Jen Wallace – Junior Church Pastor



OPEN THE BOOK MINISTRY

2020 was a very different year for the Open the Book team. We started the year as normal, with our two teams going into 6 schools in the area on a weekly basis in order to share interactive Bible Stories with the children. Unfortunately, one school decided to opt out for this year but we pray that they will re-engage next year.

Of course, in March, everything changed as we were no longer able to physically go into schools, but that did not stop the team from sharing Bible Stories with the children. The Open the Book website has videos provided by different teams from across the country, acting out various Bible Stories. The library of resources grew rapidly over the year, so there were many to choose from.

Therefore, as the Amersham Open the Book team, we decided to still supply our schools with termly plans for the Bible Stories, including the links to the videos, so that the schools could share them with the children. I know that these have been shared in schools, but also on their 'Home Learning' platforms for the children to watch and engage with at home.

We pray that in 2021 we will be able to return to schools and interact with the children as we share the Good News, but in the meantime we will continue to share with the resources available to us and keep in touch with the schools and pray for them during these difficult times.

Jackie Lambert – Open the Book Coordinator

YOUTH MINISTRY

At the start of this year, Owen, Chris, Pete, Jen and Collin made up the core youth team. Owen is continuing his Theology degree at St Mellitus and his placement with us. Pete was doing the internship year with us until July, and Jen and Collin were employed as Junior Church Pastors. At that time we were running a small group for KS3 youth and another for KS4/5, and a Social evening for all youth on Tuesdays at the PC, as well as sessions on Sunday mornings at the Beacon. Owen was heading up the KS4 work and Jen KS3.

In February we had our youth residential trip that consisted of the core youth team (as well as Johnny and Alice) and 23 young people. The weekend was a great opportunity to gather together to pray, worship, share teachings and play games away from the normalities of Chesham Bois. Highlights from this weekend included testimonies shared by the team at the evening meetings, praying for each other and receiving words of prophecy for each other, the football match in the sports hall and the water balloon wide game (that essentially turned into an all out water fight). These weekends away are vital in bringing the ages of the whole youth together and creating moments and memories that will hopefully not be forgotten.

Soon after this weekend away, lockdown forced us to stop all in person youth sessions. However, in this time of lockdown, we looked to our social media platforms as a means of contact. Pete set up a Youtube channel where we posted weekly worship sessions, throwback videos of past youth events and the Owen and Pete Podcast. On Instagram we started daily devotionals from the core youth team and filmed a live stream on Tuesday nights that had one on the youth team being questioned



on a certain topic. Jen and Colin continued with home visits throughout this time and the Thursday KS4 group also started on zoom. Though we could not resume our normal activities at this time, it gave us the chance to improve our online presence and we now have options for social media that we did not have before.

During the relaxation of Lockdown rules in August, although all the youth summer festivals had been cancelled, we were able to join the “Limitless” On-line Festival. A small group of young people, with Chris, Jonny and Alice, camped for 1 night at Restore Hope and we joined in the on-line worship and teaching in their Open Barn. For those there it was an encouraging opportunity, but by no means the same as a “normal” summer festival experience. Pray for next summer!

Pete finished his internship in July and Jonny and Alice joined the youth team. As soon as we were allowed to form bubbles in an ‘out of school’ setting, we were able to start the older and younger groups with a maximum of 15. We resumed Thursday nights at church and began a new Friday night group for KS3 on Fridays at the Parish Centre. Though things were not completely normal as we had to follow Covid guidelines in order to do these groups, we were able to get back into a rhythm of meeting each week and explored the theme of leadership with the older group.

From January to December the team, structure and pattern of youth has changed completely, and continues to do so. Though we long for a time where pizza nights, bring a friend night and usual youth chaos can resume, this year has yet continued to bring blessings and encouragements to the young people and their leaders. We have met in person when allowed, and maintained contact when not allowed. Many thanks to the team, both with us and departed, who have made all this possible.

Chris Clare and Owen Melville-Thomas – Youth Ministers

MAD

MAD (Make A Difference) About Friday’s Children’s Club and Youth Café

MAD is a Friday evening club for Year 3 to Year 6 pupils, which up to the pandemic was held at Woodside School. The evening is run by teenagers, most of whom were once in the club themselves, and overseen by adults, led by the Silleys and the Baldwins, with support from Alison Naisby, Collin and Jen Wallace, along with some non-St Leonard’s leaders Alan Bath and Will Thornton. The children pay £1 each to cover costs, and take part in games and craft activities, and there is a short talk based on a bible verse or story, and refreshments.

The teenage helpers, joined by some of their friends then have their own Youth Café with their own biblical input, although the focus has mostly been on building relationships. None of these young people is connected to St Leonard’s although a couple are Christians. Up to the pandemic this was held at Café Africa although that venue would seem to be unavailable for future use, when we are able to return.

Both elements were going well up to the point last year that the schools closed. Since then we have been unable to run MAD at all, because schools have not been allowing external hires. Sadly this means that the connections we have had with the children has been broken. Some of the teenagers have stayed in touch through a WhatsApp group. At first we tried to connect with them on Zoom but few joined us because after a day online for schooling they did not want to go online again in the



evening. In the summer we met twice, once on Chesham Moor and once on Chesham Bois common. At Christmas, Judy Silley sent cards to all the teenagers and Alan Bath sent an email via mailchimp to all the families of children who attended MAD, to wish them a happy Christmas and to let them know we are praying for them. However, it has been very difficult to maintain regular contact with them, particularly as many are now in Year 11 doing their GCSEs.

We are looking forward to reconnecting with these children and young people as soon as we are able.

Cathy and Neil Baldwin and Judy and Andrew Silley – MAD Leaders

TRANSFORMING LIVES for GOOD (TLG)

St Leonard's has been working with the charity TLG for over two years now. We have had three coaches visiting children at Chesham Bois school as part of the charity's Early Intervention Programme. The coaches are trained by TLG and commit to seeing their pupil for one hour every week for a year and support them with emotional and behavioural difficulties. TLG trains superbly and the fun materials are all compiled by Educational Psychologists.

Carrying on the coaching relationship during lockdown initially proved a challenge but immediately TLG compiled policies for the work to carry on safely and reasonably either via doorstep visits, phone/video or post. Our coaches just simply and brilliantly 'got on with it' and continued to support their young person. Two of our coached children are now at local senior schools where the contact remained until they had settled in. It has been very exciting that St Leonard's together with King's church are now known in this capacity to these senior schools.

I report the same as last year in that we are aware of other schools who would welcome TLG Early Intervention. However, we need to recruit and train more coaches. Please contact me (denise@stleonardscb.org.uk) to hear more and find out if this might be right for you.

"I have found TLG is a great programme and coaches are supported and well-resourced to engage with an individual student in a way that is entirely adaptable to their specific needs. We play games and make things that the student chooses and along the way we have the opportunity to talk and discuss the deeper issues of life. Oh, and we laugh! A lot!!" By IC

"I'm really enjoying being part of TLG; it is lovely to see my student have fun with our projects and grow in confidence over the weeks." By MC

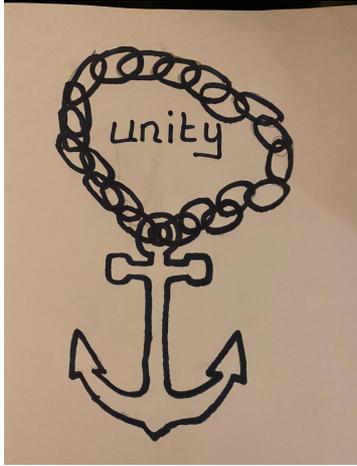
Denise Kolb – TLG Coordinator

HOMEGROUPS

It's been a year now since the new homegroups were formed. When as leaders, we met for the first time, we were sceptical and anxious if the mix of our group would work - a big range of ages and from all different services. We made a prayerful commitment to each other that day to trust Father and therefore, Laurie and Vicky in the revelation and vision for homegroups.



It felt like we hardly had time to get to know each other before Covid hit. Never-the-less, in this past year we have been a source of blessing and support for one another. We have practically, pastoral and prayerfully looked out for each other during zoom meetings and in between. We have sorely missed those who have been unable to join us on zoom and rejoiced when we did have the opportunity to meet at church face-to-face. Cake is always key!



Another huge blessing has been learning The Word through the bible studies. Our different gifts have enabled us to come together and learn from one another. None of us are experts and yet together we have learnt so much. We have come to a place where we can openly share our thoughts and concerns without fear or judgement. The wisdom, experience and encouragement from the older members of our group has been tremendous. Every contribution is so valued.

This is a beautiful picture we recently received of unity with God being our anchor and we, a strong chain linked together. This is at the centre of what we do in smaller groups and as a church family.

Denise Kolb and Sam McEwen – Homegroup Leaders

SENIORS' MINISTRY

Covid 19 may have prevented us from running any Seniors' Events this year, but it has not stopped us from keeping in touch!

We sent out invitations to our Easter Celebration to those on our mailing list - around 80 seniors - in the hope that this event would take place, but unfortunately had to cancel at the start of lockdown. However, this did provide an opportunity to speak with nearly all of our seniors over the phone and check on how they were coping.

The core team (Andrea Hayers, Angela Standing, Jill Hale and ourselves) thereafter sent out a letter card around the time when normally we would have been running our annual Summer Holiday Club. On this occasion we all included our personal contact details, encouraging seniors to get in touch with any of us.

In December, instead of our Carols and Readings service, we delivered Christmas cards together with a chocolate and a copy of 'Why Christmas?' by Nicky Gumbel.

The team have kept in touch with each other via WhatsApp, the occasional meeting on Zoom and once, when able, in Jo's garden. We have communicated individually with seniors throughout the year as we have been led, and helping where and when we can: from providing cream teas or meals to picking up prescriptions, or being available for a chat or to pray.

Sadly for us, over the year we have lost a few of our friends, including the wonderful Barbara Lilley at the end of March. Barbara ran the Holiday Club for a number of years and was still on team until quite recently. We give thanks for her life and witness.



We also give thanks to our great Heavenly Father for holding us together during these unprecedented times - may we keep our eyes fixed on Him. We hope and pray that there will be opportunities to meet physically with one another again in the coming year.

Jo Jennings and Barbara Williams – Seniors’ Leaders

PARISH WEEKEND AWAY

Our St Leonard's Family weekend at Wokefield Park near Reading was awesome. The timing was perfect and the sense of togetherness was palpable. The teaching was designed to enable us to explore what it meant to be family. Thank you to Laurie, Wendy, Chris, Vicky and Martyn for their teaching and to all those who gave testimony and shared their experiences and revelation over the weekend. Jonny led worship beautifully and many were so blessed at the Saturday evening Encounter. We took the decision to continue with the weekend and we are so glad we did as we were able to return from it equipped and encouraged for all that followed. God is good. He shares His plans with His friends and always protects us as we come obediently under His hand. Everyone pitched in wonderfully - Simon Parry & All Star Kids were awesome, Kirsten Clow blessed our littlest kids in creche and babysitting and Alice did a great job with the admin.

Let's do it again soon to reinforce the lessons as we come out of the effects of the pandemic - Maybe Spring/Summer 2022? Let's see what the Lord is saying!

Laurie Clow – Retor

KINGDOM PARTNERS

The Mission committee continues to be responsible for recommending to the PCC how to distribute the funds (10% of income) that we as a Church give to mission work. As you will see from the financial report for the year, income has fallen slightly this year, but the PCC has managed to keep our commitments to our partners at the same level as last year. This has been especially encouraging to some of the organisations that we support where not all their supporters have been able to sustain their giving. We have also been able to give some financial support to Restore Hope for their work.

The committee is also charged with fostering the wider involvement of the Church in Mission work. The list of our Kingdom Partners has remained stable this year. For reference these are listed below - but I hope all reading this will know them, and will be praying for, at least, some of them:

Kingdom Partners	
Horizons	Jack & Claire Bonham-Cozens
Horizons	Jonathan and Helen Mason
CMS 1	Tom and Verity Clare (Uganda)
CMS 2	Steve Poulson (Honduras)
Tree of Life	Pete & Sarah Portal (South Africa)
Lunchbowl network	Kenya



Oak Church	Adam Prior (Stevenage)
Restore Hope	

One of the joys of lockdown(s) this past year has been the ability to have prayer meetings with some (at least) of our Kingdom partners joining us on-line in person. We have managed 3 of these in the year, and also achieved a Mission Sunday with a number of our partners joining us live on-line. This has been a delight and has meant that the number of people attending mission prayer meetings has grown massively during the past, difficult year.

Also this past year we have, not surprisingly, had no requests for one-off donations to young (or not so young!) people for individual mission trips, or organised youth trips. It is to be hoped that this will re-start some time in the future!

Chris Clare – Chair Mission Committee

MARYLAND PRE SCHOOL NURSERY

Maryland started 2020 full of enthusiasm and with a full register, and in quite a healthy financial situation.

Early in the year we welcomed Lucy Hussey to the committee to replace Jo Pearce and our task of updating policies was completed. Thanks to all the committee and staff that facilitated this quite difficult task! Little did we know that Covid 19 would spell an outpouring of yet more policies and risk assessments!

As ever Maryland flourished with Pam and our talented staff and the arrival of a new computer for Pam revolutionised her life(her words).

Plans were made for parents evening and Easter activities when the news of the first lockdown came. We closed and prepared for new challenges.....

Fiona Smith, our longstanding (22 years) and excellent deputy manager decided to resign as of July 2020 and she is/was a hard act to follow. Following advertisements and interview carried out on Zoom (surely one of the great tech innovations during this hard year?) We were delighted to welcome Rebecca Flory as our new Deputy. She brings a wealth of experience as well as genuine care and love for the children and has started this new role with verve.

Easter plans, village fete, sports days and other normal summer activities were cancelled due to the virus but in June we reopened armed with cleaning regulations, hand washing procedures and bubbles! The staff that were able to attend and work at this time were utterly brilliant and we could not have managed without Pam, Coralie, Henny, Dawn, Orfana, Eleanor (our student who was amazing), Sally and later on Bekki and Jane. New policies were hastily written and the children quickly adapted to new regimes. Several parents thanked us for opening and said that they had anxieties at first but realised that it was great for the children and themselves when we went back, and were full of praise.



Henny even managed to do some forest school skills and gardening so a sense of normality returned.

We even managed a socially distanced garden farewell to Fiona as a thankyou for her commitment and hard work for Maryland.

September seemed a much brighter prospect and we returned to an Autumn term with a few new children but a good number of 'older' ones. Michelle and Sue (who has now retired after 24 years) felt unable to return to work but we managed to staff the setting as well as cleaning everything as we went along. As in June the children rose to any challenge and we were blessed to have no cases of Covid in our community.

Pam continued to manage us with constant changes in government regulations and staff changes and must be commended for her unflappable and conscientious work.

With committee meetings continuing on zoom, the committee fully endorsed the idea of a nativity event, despite not being able to stage it in church or invite parents. So, on December 17th under the leadership of Henny and the staff a lovely production, with songs and costumes took place and Daniel Stocker, our committee photographer, produced a lovely video that was put on the website and appreciated by parents.

Another initiative, started last year, was the donations of items for the families in need in the community and identified by Jo Clare at Restore Hope. Despite several of our own families finding this present situation financially difficult, we were able to collect enough shampoo, baby bath, chocolates and other goodies for about 20 deserving families, so a huge thankyou to all who kindly donated!

In a most challenging year for us all, I'm proud to continue to be involved with this excellent pre-school and hope and pray that 2021 will be good despite the obvious challenges we still face. Please continue to pray for all at Maryland.

Andrea Hayers – Chair Maryland Committee

CHESHAM BOIS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

"Believing, Achieving and Caring Together

As a Church of England School we place the child at the centre of all we do. We welcome children and families of all faiths and of none. Our work is motivated and inspired by our core Christian values (love, thankfulness, faith, integrity, respect, and resilience) which are lived out on a daily basis by children and adults in the school. We provide a caring, nurturing learning environment in which all children can achieve and grow together."

2020 saw our school continue to develop as an academy within the Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust (ODBST) in the most challenging circumstances any of us have experienced. We reported last year that our Head Teacher, Mrs Quirk, had become Executive Headteacher at both a large Milton Keynes primary school in Special Measures and CBS, working most of the week in Milton Keynes,



whilst our Assistant Head, Ms Sara Tilby, became Head of School. This arrangement began in September 2019 but by the start of 2020 it was clear that despite the huge commitment and immense professionalism of all concerned, it was not ideal for either school. When the post of Head Teacher for the MK school was advertised, Mrs Quirk applied for it and was appointed. We agreed that, in the exceptional circumstances of the existing Executive Head structure, she should take up the post after February half-term and that Ms Tilbey should be appointed Acting Head at Chesham Bois School.

Shortly afterwards, the country went into national lockdown and schools were closed except to the children of key workers and vulnerable children. The senior leadership team had prepared for closure and were quickly able to begin online learning via Google Classroom. You will appreciate from national press coverage, that government guidance and instructions have changed frequently and at very short notice. We have been enormously impressed by the way that this situation has been handled by the Senior Leadership Team and by the professionalism, thoughtfulness and kindness that has been apparent in everything Ms Tilbey and her staff have done. Parents and children feel supported and cared for and staff morale and wellbeing has remained high. Ms Tilbey was appointed Head Teacher in April after a virtual recruitment process and has fully justified that decision. When children returned in September, the age of our buildings and lack of space everywhere presented particular challenges in terms of distancing, bubbles and sanitising. We were very pleased that a random inspection by the Health and Safety Executive found that they could not improve on what had been put in place.

A school Prayer Day was organised to coincide with World Prayer Day just before the closure of schools. Once again, it was a privilege to see the way in which each class engaged with the activities and to watch the expressions on the children's faces as they were thinking and processing their thoughts. Throughout the year the children have been encouraged to record their thoughts in each class's Big Book of Thought and time for reflection and prayer has been important in helping to build resilience in the school community.

Zoom classroom assemblies have taken place regularly and Laurie and Open the Book have been involved in delivering virtual collective worship. We have been able to join some of these assemblies online. Some have been extremely effective, others less so. As with the St Leonards congregation, online or socially-distanced works for some of us, some of the time and children are no different. Prayers are regularly included in Ms Tilbey's weekly newsletter but children have missed meeting as a whole school, being in church, singing and celebrations such as Harvest and Christmas.

Nevertheless, the whole school community has drawn together amazingly during 2020. All of the staff have worked extremely hard to create a supportive atmosphere in which high quality learning can take place. Families have been encouraged to share worries with the school and have been helped with practical and emotional support. When the children came back to school in the autumn, they did so eagerly and caught up well. We have no doubt that the same will be true in 2021.

On a personal note, this will be the last report I, Jenny, contribute to as I have decided not to seek a further nomination when my term of office ends in July. I will have done 12 years as a foundation governor and I feel that it is time for a new face on the Governing Body. I have enjoyed being a governor enormously and hope to find a continuing role in governance with the Trust. Please



consider whether you could be a foundation governor at our church school and speak to Peter or Jackie if you would like to know more about what is involved.

Jenny Faulkner, Peter Flory, Jackie Lambert – Foundation Governors

DEANERY SYNOD

Amersham Deanery Synod, a group of representatives from Church of England churches in an area extending beyond Amersham itself which meets four times a year. St Leonard's elected lay members have been Monica Bartlett, Peter Flory and Noel Meredith. The clergy are automatically members.

There are two working sub-committees, the standing committee and the Mission and Pastoral committee which Peter sits on. This gathers and prays for each parish and its current needs and ensures parishes are supported during interregnums. Full details are available on the Amersham Deanery website: <https://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk/>

Our March meeting was cancelled but was due to hear presentations on "Making your Church Net Zero" and "Why churches are best placed to respond to the environmental crisis". An important matter for churches and we trust it will be rescheduled.

The rest of the year we met virtually and in June we shared and considered "Church Next - Emerging from Lockdown" led by Martin Williams. Some interesting solutions were shared and the creativity of churches very impressive along with what we should continue to do post covid.

September saw us looking at education with a presentation on the subject of "Church Schools – a view from the frontline" and then we spent some time thinking about the concept of "The Scattered Church" by Martin Williams relating that the church today was now scattered rather than gathered just as the early church did in its early days.

At our November meeting we heard from our Diocesan Synod members, Bishop Stephen's material "Living well through the next 6 months". We met in groups and discussed the themes of: a) Rebuilding ministry with children and b) Working with adults coming to faith.

Needless to say we received our usual regular Area Dean's reports, the financial accounts, Parish Share allocation and budgets throughout the year.

Peter Flory – Deanery Synod Representative

PARISH CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

As we move towards Christmas, St Leonard's are reflecting on just how much energy and focus has been given this year towards realising planning permission for the new Parish Centre project. Here are some of the key stages in relation to the planning process which we have been through, or which we anticipate before Christmas, one for each month of the year!



- January** – Final reports and drawing amendments made following the Open Community Event (3rd Nov 2019)
- February** – Full plans application completed and submitted with Chiltern District Council (10th Feb 2020)
- March** – 1st Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting to review Planning Application (11th Mar 2020) – voted against
- April** – Chiltern District Council becomes part of Buckinghamshire Council (1st Apr 2020)
- May** – Formal positive feedback from Planning officers with some areas for further focus (parking/drainage/security)
- June** – St Leonard’s PCC agree the scope and budget for the further work needed from consultants
- July** – New additional information is prepared for landscaping, parking, drainage and security
- August** – Addendum information is formally submitted to Buckinghamshire Council (11th Aug 2020)
- September** – Neighbour and public consultation commenced on Addendum information (18th Sept 2020)
- October** – 2nd Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting to review Addendum information (5th Oct 2020) – voted in favour
- November** – Final comments from Highways, Drainage and Security (Police) being reviewed and responded to
- December** – Potential month for Planning Committee (or it could slip into January 2021)

We were especially encouraged by the formal comments from the Urban Design Officer at the council, who said:

“On a more personal note, I would observe that in the course of my local authority practice very few applications have ‘stood out’ during over well over a decade of professional practice. All too often, the design process behind planning applications is rushed with the resultant design proposals poorly considered, half-hearted and indifferent to the places where they are proposed. This application is noticeably different. Considerable thought and effort has gone into developing the proposals so far with an impressive degree of effort expended on involving stakeholders. But this is potentially just the start.

Subject to the application being approved, further careful thought and even greater effort has to be expended on the design details of these proposals (which in turn, needs to follow through to the construction and finishing stages). If the positive momentum is not lost a future Listed Building may well be in the making. Surely a new development such as this will serve to not only enhance a Conservation Area but keep it living and relevant to the community but also society as a whole. Conservation Areas cannot be kept as museum pieces – fixed and unchanging. They must be allowed to grow and change - sensitively and in a carefully considered way. I believe that the evidence presented in the planning application demonstrates this sensitivity and care. I therefore offer my support for this application.”

Further to all the planning processes listed above, we have had the extra challenges of COVID-19 and lockdowns to contend with. We have seen some fantastic community response during the year and



are grateful for all those within our church fellowship, and in the wider community, who have been involved with volunteering and supporting others through this difficult time.

We hope that by Christmas, the planning committee will have been able to reach a decision about the project, and that it will be a favourable one. If so, we will be able to raise a glass of bubbly, in whatever 'bubble' we find ourselves, to celebrate what has been a long and meaningful process of design and collaboration towards what we believe will be a new Parish Centre fit for the 21st Century.

David Clare – Project Manager for Habitat for Humanity