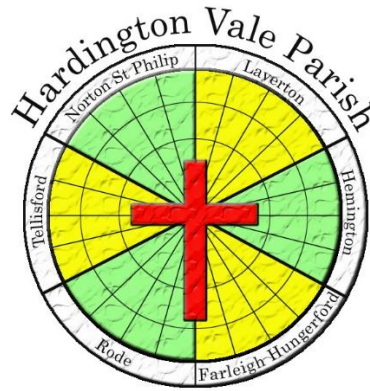


HARDINGTON VALE NEWS

Spring 2020



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To follow under separate cover - Annual Report & Accounts

**This booklet contains reports for the APCM
Please read before the meeting
see back page.**

Rector's Report

2019 should be seen as the year of team building. Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) has continued and has been refreshing and inspiring, whilst also being a large amount of work for several people who are heavily involved in the process. The Lord has continued to bless us with new people moving into the community who have come and joined the church and brought with them their personal gifts and expertise, for which we are very grateful. Notable amongst these has been the timely arrival of Michael Harrison serving the whole parish as a Lay Reader, alongside Barbara Day. We also have a growing number of Lay people involved in the leading of services, worship and pastoral work in the whole parish:

Lay Readers: Barbara Day & Michael Harrison

Lay Worship Leaders: Rachel Stewart & Michael Walker

Lay Pastoral Assistants: Ros Lockley, Mary Morrison, Sue Hill, Paul Shepherd & Vivienne Bolton

We are also excited to be preparing to welcome Jo Robinson as our Curate in July 2020.

Highlights for the year include...

- the unfolding PMC process which included the Time Line event. This was a very positive activity and the comments that were shared have all been collated and documented.
- the allocation of a Curate for 2020
- PCC Away Day and drawing up of our Missional Adaptive Challenge (MAC)

Prayer: Prayer continues to be a central bedrock to the everyday rhythm of parish life and is also becoming more embedded in all the PCC meetings. This leads us to a growing recognition of our total dependence on God to guide and lead us by His Holy Spirit in all the creative ways that we seek to share our faith in our communities.

Steering Team and a Mission Innovation Team (MIT)

These teams are

Steering Team

Susie Filkins

Barbara Day

Andrew Morrison

Fergus Stewart

Chris Todd

Mission Innovation Team (MIT)

David Lockley

Anne Harkness

Nicky Robinson-Moore

Sarah Todd

with Susie Filkins heading up the Steering Team and Anne Harkness heading up the Mission Innovation Team (MIT). Please pray for these folk as they lead us forward in this process.

Children and Family Worker: Sue Rodford has been working with us for nearly three years now. Links with the school are good and the connection from the Tot's coffee-drop in, through pre-school and school are very good. Events such as half term and holiday one off 'Pop Up' Events are very warmly received by families and their children and members of the extended church /village community enjoy helping Sue to facilitate these creative events. A highlight with the school was St Philip and St James and The Chapel at Rode hosting 'The Pentecost Experience.' All the pupils from both schools were able to attend this at one of the two sites. This was closely followed by a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection of the schools for which the schools received 'Excellent'.

Parish Weekend Away at Sidholme: was attended by 31 adults and eight young people. Andy Bowerman led the teaching side of the weekend. Sue and Tom Rodford, assisted by Elizabeth Walker, headed up the work with the youngsters. Dwelling in the Word brought us together in a very special way

on the first evening placing God and His word at the centre from the start. The whole weekend was a precious time of worshipping God together and simply slowing down and being together in the moment. At the end people expressed how the weekend had given them reason to 'go home and live' and 'renewed excitement about all that God is doing in our midst.' A number of people expressed that they had been blessed by the engagement and enthusiasm of the young people. For all who went, there was something to take home, and it was a deeply enriching time of fun and fellowship.

Service pattern: We have continued to alternate Holy Communion between Norton and Rode and the Informal Worship also alternating. The Informal service at Norton is flourishing and we are blessed to have Peter Hussein and Tim Bruce helping to lead in our worship. Breakfast church continues to thrive and numbers have proved such a challenge in the available space at Norton St Philip that we adjourned to the Palaiet Hall for the winter months. There is truly a growing understanding of working together to see the Kingdom of God grow in our communities for which we are very thankful to all who make this possible.

PCC Away Day: This was specifically focused on developing one Missional Adaptive Challenge (MAC). The day was led by Susie Filkins and facilitated by Revd Charlie Peer from the Diocese PMC team. It was an engaging day and by the end we had agreed our MAC which has been presented to the PCC and adopted. The MAC is **"We feel God is showing us that we share the value of hospitality with the pubs and cafes in our communities. How can we mutually support each other to create opportunities for people to be together?"**

Vesting of St Mary's Hemington took place on the 17th November. We are indebted to Peter Simper and his tireless work at Hemington over nearly 50 years and his courage to see through this handover. Evensong saw a full church gather for this bitter sweet celebration of the faithful witness of numerous people over hundreds of centuries. A good relationship is now in place with the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) and Peter is now working with them as ongoing custodian of St Mary's. Work to replace the whole roof will begin in May 2020.

It is a joy and privilege to be part of this amazing team working in this beautiful area of Somerset and seeing God's Kingdom come into our communities. To God be the Glory!

'But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.'
2 Corinthians 4 v 7

Caroline
Rector

Electoral Roll Report

At the time of the last APCM in April 2019 there were 149 on the roll.

The Church Representation Rules require that every 6 years a completely new electoral roll should be prepared for each parish. This has now been completed and there are now currently a total of **163** on the new roll.

Ros Clarke, Electoral Roll Officer

PCC Report

The annual report of the Parochial Church Council for the year 2019/20.

Administrative information:

- The Parish of Hardington Vale in the Diocese of Bath & Wells includes the Churches of St Leonard (Farleigh Hungerford); St Mary's (Hemington); St Mary's (Laverton); St Philip & St James (Norton St Philip); St Lawrence (Rode); and All Saints (Tellisford).
- On November 18th 2019, St Mary's Hemington passed to the Churches Conservation Trust. The churchyard remains open and is under the care of the PCC.
- The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Hardington Vale is a charity registered with the Charity Commission Reg No. 1128078.
- The Parochial Church Council (PCC) Members (Trustees) who have served during the year are shown below:

Incumbent	Revd. Caroline Walker	(Chair)	
Reader	Barbara Day		
Reader	Michael Harrison ³		
Secretary	Tony Day		
Parish Wardens	Geoff Banwell	(Rode) (Chair Finance Committee)	
	Christopher Todd	(Norton St Philip)	
	David Lockley	(Norton St Philip)	
	John Flindall ²	(Rode)	
	Peter Simper ¹	(Hemington) Until November 2019	
Chapel Wardens	Guy Hungerford	(Farleigh Hungerford)	
	Rachel Feilden ²	(Tellisford)	
	Bob Hill	(Laverton)	
Deputy Wardens	Glenys Brown	(Norton St Philip)	
	Sally Pickett	(Rode)	
Deanery Synod	Andrew Morrison	(Vice Chair)	
	Mary Morrison	(Safeguarding)	
	Sharman Flindall	(Health & Safety)	
	Michael Walker		
	John Flindall and Rachel Feilden also served on Synod		
Elected Members	Sue Beavan	Heidi Blanchett	Chris Blanchett
	Jo Ellis ¹	Andy Filkins	Susie Filkins
	David Lockley	Ros Lockley	Anne Harkness
	Stephanie Fabre ¹		

1. resigned during the year 2. Deanery Synod representative 3. Appointed during year

Structure, governance & management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical throughout the Parish as well as the responsibility of the maintenance of the churches of the Parish.

In 2019/20 the PCC met on six occasions. Average attendance was 17 of a possible 24 with a minimum of 12. At each meeting, the PCC received written report from Rector and from the Children's and family worker. The PCC received an update at each of their meeting of progress with Partners in Mission Church (PMC). Their content is not reported here but summarised in their annual reports.

The meeting in **April 29 in Rode Memorial Hall** 12 of a possible 25 attended and new members were welcomed. A considerable number of members were undertaking Safeguarding training on the same evening resulting in the low numbers. Susie Filkins lead the PCC in "Dwelling in the Word" using Luke 10 v 1-12. This instructive practice was followed at all subsequent meetings of the council.

The Rector reported on a potential House for Duty Rural Pioneer Post and raised the possibility of training curate post. She received the meeting's wholehearted support. She drew attention to the Archbishops initiative "Thy Kingdom Come" a prayer initiative.

The PCC made the following appointments

Andrew Morrison	Vice-Chair
Tony Day	Secretary
Nick Brown	Treasurer
Geoff Banwell	Chair the Finance Committee
Mary Morrison	Safeguarding Officer
Sharman Flindall	Health & Safety Officer
Ros Clark	Electoral Roll Officer

The PCC approved a recommendation to the Bishop that the church plate associated with the Eucharist in St Mary's Hemington, on completion of the transfer of the building to Churches Conservation Trust, be moved to and kept in St Philip & St James Norton St Philip.

At its meeting on **27 June held the Palairt Hall**. 19 of a possible 25 attended.

Susie Filkins gave a verbal report and update on PMC progress, in-particular the Timeline event held on Sunday May 26th.

The Rector had good news as she has now been given the go ahead from the Archdeacon of Wells to advertise the House for Duty Rural Pioneer Post position.

The meeting started the practise of offering short prayers at appropriate intervals during its meeting. The service rota for the next period was agreed.

In response to a request a summary of the PCC decisions are now included in the Pew Sheets and the minutes are on the website.

Position of Chapel Warden for St Leonard's" was being shared, and a list showing who is undertaking the various tasks at their church was received.

The PCC approved a new "Hardington Vale Parish Safeguarding Policy" and adopted a new policy on the delegation by the PCC members in respect of: "Reporting serious incidents to the charity commission"

The **meeting held on 16 September** was attended by 18 members.

Stéphanie Fabre had submitted her resignation.

Progress was being made on the pioneer post the Rector was delighted to report Joanne Robinson has been offered and accepted the offer to join us as an Associate Priest Aug/Sept 2020.

The meeting considered funding options from Easter 2020, to make it possible to extend Sue Rodford's contract.

The Service Pattern for the period after Christmas was agreed.

The meeting received an interim financial report from the Chair of the Finance committee.

An Away Day was held on Saturday 2 November 2018 at Palairt Hall

The meeting focused on discussing and praying about the Partners in Missional Church process.

Understanding Technical –v- Adaptive challenge

Understanding criteria for a Missional Challenge and explaining the Missional Innovation process

The PCC looked at summaries of Year 1 findings and our Missional Challenge

It sought to understand what the Missional Innovation Team do and suggested potential members.

The transfer of St Marys Hemington had taken place, Peter Simper stood down from the PCC.

CW reported that a repeat advert was being placed in Dec for House for Duty Rural Pioneer Post

Geoff Banwell presented a short written report. As a result of the stewardship letter there may be a small surplus in 2019.

He and the PCC agreed we had a sufficient response (£7812) to allow us to proceed with funding Sue Rodford for another year.

Approval was requested for permission to proceed with repairs to the outside wall at All Saints Tellisford. Progress was reported on arranging fire drills in each church and the updating of Health & Safety manuals.

The final meeting on 2nd March 2020 in Rode Memorial Hall
16 members attended. Jo Ellis had resigned from the PCC

The PCC was asked and agreed to adopt the Mission Challenge.

“We feel God is showing us that we share the value of hospitality with the pubs and cafes in our communities. How can we mutually support each other to create opportunities for people to be together.”

The Strategy paper update HV Visions 3rd revision was discussed. Chris Todd presented a review of progress. More progress has been made than expected.

A balance between giving to specific activities and being committed to regular giving was considered.

The PCC agreed several appointments and resolved that the PCC wholeheartedly supports and welcomes public ministry in all the churches across the benefice of Hardington Vale” of:-

- Fergus Stewart in training for and undertaking reader ministry
- Rachel Stewart & Michael Walker appointment and development as Lay Worship Leaders
- Ros Lockley, Mary Morrison, Sue Hill, Paul Shepherd & Vivienne Bolton appointment and development as Lay Pastoral Assistants.

The service pattern to the end of August was discussed and approved.

The meeting approved a Statement of Significance and Need for the removal of the central pews in NSP church.

Geoff Banwell presented the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019. His comments are in a separate report.

The meeting approved the adoption of the Annual Accounts as presented subject to audit.

The PCC adopted a recommendation of the finance committee that the parish should remain in socio economic band C for 2020/21

The meeting agreed that issues relating to the Hemington churchyard should be referred to the lead on the PCC of each matter rather than one point of contact. E.g. Health & Safety. However the default contact will be the PCC secretary

Our National Charity, Mercy UK has come to the end of the three year period of support, and needs to be changed. It was agreed to bring this matter at the first PCC meeting after the APCM
The NSP Health & Safety policy has finally been signed off, but a fire drill still needs to be done.

Tony Day
Secretary Hardington Vale PCC
13/03/2020

Church Wardens' Reports

St. Leonard's Church, Farleigh Hungerford



Throughout the year a service has been held on the third Sunday of each month alternating between a BCP Communion Service and a lay led Matins, both of which are well attended

Condition of the Church

The Chancel has remained closed throughout the year owing to the unsafe condition of two of the Houlton family monuments. The Friends of St. Leonard's, with the help of two grants, has managed to fund the restoration of these Monuments; specialist restoration work is in progress and will be completed by Easter, which will enable the Chancel to be re-opened and the entire church to be returned to use.

A quinquennial inspection was carried out in October 2019 by the Church Architect, John Beauchamp, and his report, received in January, notes that the church is well kept and in generally sound condition, subject to some particular maintenance requirements and renovations which are being addressed. Recent improvements include the replacement of shingles on the tower and safety handrails and netting to the boiler room steps

The Terrier and Log Book are up to date. No assets were disposed of or acquired

I would like to thank Mike Smith, John Davidson, Rex Eastment, Sue Bevan, Clare Covill, Robin and Deborah Allen for the great contribution they have made to the maintenance of the church and its grounds and for the preparation for services.

All who attend services are grateful to Deborah Allen, Dilys Mackechnie and Vicky Bunn for providing and arranging flowers.

Guy Hungerford, Chapel Warden

St Mary the Virgin, Hemington



Members of the special choir rehearse

for St Marys.

On Sunday 17 November 2019 a service was held to celebrate all the faithful years of ministry in St Mary's Church Hemington.

The service was led by Caroline Walker and the sermon was given by Ven Anne Gell, Archdeacon of Wells. The Patron Rev Peter Owen-Jones spoke of his family's long history and of growing up in the Rectory. Peter Simper can now finally retire from his long years of service as churchwarden. A framed set of sketches of the church, by Alan Carter, were presented to Peter as an expression of everyone thanks for all he has done

After a long period of consultation, from Monday 18th November the building will be vested in (taken over) by the Churches Conservation Trust. (CCT).

The churchyard will remain open under the control of the Rector of Hardington Vale parish but with, it is hoped, a local team of volunteers to take care of its upkeep. The CCT will now take care of the building but are keen that it is used for occasional events and services.



Helen Booker of CCT, Ven Anne Gell, Archdeacon of Wells, Rev Peter Owen-Jones, Rev Caroline Walker, Peter Simper

You can find out more about the Churches Conservation Trust at www.visitchurches.org.uk



Peter receiving his framed print

Peter Simper, Churchwarden

St Mary's, Laverton



Services

Services continued as formerly with Holy Communion once a month, a healing service once a quarter, HV combined services on every 5th Sunday, and lay led Morning Service on all other Sundays. Five people took lay led services. It was decided that going forward, the quarterly healing service would be replaced by Evensong. On 19 June 2019, Holly Snook was christened.

Quinquennial

The Quinquennial Inspection by John Beauchamp was duly held on 4 June. The report listed a fairly large number of relatively straightforward repairs but also two items likely to be expensive, namely the rebuilding of a section of the churchyard boundary wall and the conservation of a large internal wall monument and 2 external chest tombs

Wall Monument and 2 Chest Tombs

A condition assessment with conservation recommendations was conducted by Lynne Humphries in 2018. She estimated costs of £4231 for the chest tombs and £10,745 for the wall monument making a total of £15,000, say. Applications for funds have been made to the Church Building Council, the St Andrews Conservation Trust, the Leche Conservation Trust and the David Medlock Trust (which has kindly contributed £1000). Only if and when sufficient funds are promised will applications for Faculties be made.

Fundraising

Successful bring & buy bazaars were held in July and November. In March, Andrew Campbell gave a talk describing Charles II's escape to France after his father was beheaded. In June, Legh and Di Walker provided the answers in our very own Gardeners' Question Time and in October, Sally Helvey gave a talk on Bath's Cleveland Pools project. All 3 events were followed by supper in the egg house

Bats

During the 2019 summer, the church was one of 47 in Britain taking part in a Bats in Churches survey. A bat detector was placed in the tower and droppings were collected for DNA analysis. The DNA analysis revealed that Serotine bats had been above the ceiling over the nave and Brown Long-Eared bats in the tower. Sound analysis revealed the presence of Soprano and Common pipistrelles. These were the most recorded species in the 24 churches out of the 47 (51%) that were surveyed.

Sir Robert Hill, Chapel Warden

St Philip & St James, Norton St Philip



Our church has continued to be open daily from 9.00 a.m. and closed at 6.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. during the winter months. This is owing to the team of volunteers who open and close the church each day.

Our Quinquennial work for the following five year period has begun with the help of Michael Walker and Joe Leber being involved with the masonry.

We formed a new committee of The Rector, Two Churchwardens, two community representatives and two church representatives.

They are planning to take forward the re-ordering of the church and fund raising will continue for the foreseeable future to bring in the funds required.

After last year's visit by Lynne Humphries we have not received a quote for the work to be done and have decided not to pursue this.

We have had a year of fund raising which has included many of the village people who have enjoyed being involved. This fund raising culminated in numerous Christmas time events. This year instead of singing in the George we went to the Fleur De Lis and this was an open event and well attended. We also sang at the Red Lion.

A team of parishioners have gathered to spring clean the church before Easter and also to clean and decorate the church for the Christmas services.

The inventory has been completed and we have neither gained nor lost any of the items listed.

Our adopt a grave scheme continues to flourish and our churchyard is looking very smart for the beginning of the next year.

Once again we give our thanks to the people of the village willing to give up time to keep the graves looking tidy.

Our services have been well supported with offers of help with Welcome, Readings, Intercessions, Lay Administration and Refreshments.

We continue to celebrate weddings, baptisms and hold funeral services.

Particularly our breakfast service on the first Sunday has become extremely well supported. Also after the combined fifth service four times a year we organise a Sunday lunch at one of our village pubs.

Without offers of help many of the services would not flow as neatly as they do. Therefore, our rota of help continues to work satisfactorily.

The Wardens thank all those who have contributed in any way to the running of the church both inside and outside this includes:

Musicians, Bell ringers, Brass cleaners, Clock winders, Church openers and volunteers who help with the on-going events both weekly and monthly in the church and our cleaners who come in regularly to keep the building looking clean and tidy for services and visitors, which we receive a large number.

Our visitor book is regularly updated.

I do need to mention that each month on the first Saturday we have a coffee morning which is well supported both by those who give produce and cakes for sale and those who regularly attend and join with the others enjoying a morning with friends they do not often have a chance to chat to.

The Tots and Toys session has continued and has been very popular. We continue to welcome mums Dad grandparents and carers. We have a thriving group each week and the children learn how to interact with other children and adults.

Thanks also to those who support these events.

Your church wardens, *Muriel Duckett and Glenys Brown*

St Lawrence, Rode



The Church Building and Churchyard

St Lawrence Church is Grade 1 listed. The last quinquennial inspection took place in July 2017. Many of the recommended actions have been carried out, but the extensive roof repairs recommended remain outstanding. During the year, repairs were carried out to the cracking of the Chancel step. More recently the problem of water ingress in two places on the South Aisle appears to have been resolved following a

further visit from West Country Tiling. The cause of the problem had previously defeated all of those who had tried to determine it!

The Churchyard

The Churchyard is regularly mown by Paul Jones and we are grateful for the excellent and reliable service he provides. We are also grateful to Rode Parish Council for making a grant each year towards the cost. Thanks are also due to Peter Harris who has continued to donate his time to the maintenance of the churchyard which is in excellent condition. At the start of the year the roadside churchyard wall, which had been demolished by a car, was rebuilt. We are pleased to say that the cost has been borne by the motorist's insurance company.

Terrier and Log Book

The Terrier and Log Book are up to date. No assets were sold or acquired during the year.

Fund Raising

Apart from regular and other donations, funds to pay for maintenance and insurance of St Lawrence are raised by the Heart of Rode committee. The events included a Murder Mystery evening, a Wine Safari and a wonderful piano concert thanks to the exceptional talent of Stephen Marquiss. From October to April, the Heart of Rode committee run the Rode Roxy on a monthly basis. Thanks go to Adam Harris who leads on these film shows. Thanks also go to Alex at Rode PO who kindly provides a ticket office for all of the Heart events.

Occasional Offices

During the year there were no baptisms, no marriages, four funerals/thanksgiving services and one burial of ashes.

Geoff Banwell and Sally Pickett, Churchwardens

All Saints Tellisford



Following the change of status from Parish Church to Chapel of Ease on 1st June 2017, All Saints' Church has a Chapel Warden, a Deputy Warden and a Fabric Committee. The Fabric Committee has reappointed Rachel Feilden as Chapel Warden for 2019, and Helen Curwen as Deputy Warden.

The churchyard plan is up to date. We had a helpful visit from a volunteer working on Bath Burial Registers, from which he was able to answer a query about a burial in 1951.

In June Dr Stefan Buczacki visited before his evening talk at Norton St Philip. In August, the width and height of the yew hedge was reduced, with help from members of the Fabric Committee and residents. Fred Porter continues to mow the grass and sweep the church path, paid for by Tellisford's village charity. We thank all those village residents who donate to this charity and who give their time to maintenance and flower arranging.

All Saints' Church is open during daylight hours, and thanks to the Visitors' Book we met a musician who has played the organ on several occasions.

The porch door was repaired, and minor works were completed on the heating controller and chancel lighting. We confirm that we have inspected the Terrier, and all church goods and chattels therein are in place. The Register of Services is up to date and the amount of money from each collection is recorded there.

The church is equipped with a First Aid Kit and a torch; electrical appliances were tested in 2018 on a schedule in accordance with Health and Safety Regulations. Fire extinguishers were inspected on schedule.

Regular services

The schedule for regular services is lay-led Matins at 9am on the second Sunday of the month, Holy Communion at 9am on the fourth Sunday, and Evening Prayer every Wednesday fortnight at 6pm.

Occasional Offices

Interment of Ashes - Monday 26th March (Daphne Butler)

All Day Prayers - Wednesday 28th March - ending with Compline at 9pm

All Saints Day service - Thursday 1st November, 6pm (33 people)

After the Armistice, Peace? - Sunday 18th November, 16:00 (33 people)

Christingle Service - Sunday 23rd December, 5pm (48 people)

Rachel Feilden and Helen Curwen, Churchwardens

Health & Safety Report

Each church's Health and Safety report was brought up to date 2018-19 so the process was much simpler this year. Most Church wardens were able to check and confirm that the condition of the building and the activities taking place were largely uncharged so the risks remain the same. Where there had been changes it was largely related to the roles people were undertaking and I was able to amend information and adjust the index at the front. All five churches have up-to date fully signed policies for 2020.

Almost all churches have undertaken a timed fire evacuation procedure to confirm that in the unlikely event of a fire during a service all could safely leave the building in a minimum of time. Hopefully Norton Church will complete their test shortly as the warmer Spring weather arrives.

In September 2019 Hemington Church passed from Hardington Vale PCC to the Churches Conservation Trust. Although this means we are no longer responsible for the Health and Safety of the church building, the churchyard is still the responsibility of Hardington Vale PCC. I am currently trying to draft a policy to reflect this but there are a number of areas where responsibility is unclear. Also, who would sign the policy as there are no longer any parish wardens and an effective policy relies on those who regularly visit or maintain the site reporting any observations or concerns.

Sharman Flindall
Health & Safety Officer

Safeguarding Report



Since the previous report compiled a year ago, Hardington Vale parish has made very good progress in ensuring that their various members with voluntary or official involvement or responsibilities have received training from the Bath and Wells Safeguarding Trainer (or national on-line training) to the appropriate level. In this, we have to particularly thank Ros Clarke, Parish Administrator for keeping an efficient eye on the lists of roles and responsibilities with their respective safeguarding requirements and those taking on those responsibilities. During 2019 a

total of 4 DBS applications were completed using the new on-line process all of which were new applications. Two DBS certificates will require updating during 2020. The majority of the training has now been completed, with only three individuals not having completed the correct level of training. We are now at a point where those who completed safeguarding training a few years ago are due to update this.

On a wider level, there have been some changes in the Bath and Wells team with Vicky Christophers who previously held the role of Safeguarding Trainer for the Diocese being appointed to a new role. Having very much appreciated Vicky's excellent delivery of courses, we now look forward to getting to know her replacement, Suzanne Disney, who has been busy setting things up in preparation and forming her new team. This has also coincided with some national changes to the way in which the training requirements are structured which should make the process more streamlined. We have made contact with Suzanne who is keen to ensure that some training is brought to more local parishes rather than individuals generally having to travel to venues quite far afield.

Nationally, our own Bishop Peter has held responsibility for looking into Safeguarding issues within the church in recent and more distant past. He has now passed this responsibility on and we must feel some sympathy for him in having had to perform this very difficult role in such challenging times. Those of us who have not had to suffer the effects of abuse might find it difficult to understand how such acts and behaviour could possibly take place, particularly within Christian communities and by those who seemed to have dedicated their lives to the service of Jesus Christ and committed to abide by His teaching. However, there is a perversity in human nature that allows for such things to happen and it is for this reason that we all have a responsibility to be aware of and vigilant to the possibilities of such abuse happening even within our own communities. This is where Safeguarding training becomes so important, tiresome though this seemed when first introduced and it is to their credit that those for whom this has been required have accepted and even embraced this process.

Mary Morrison
Safeguarding Officer

Charities and Community Focus Group

This year we have continued to support:-

The Mission to Seafarers

Mercy UK

Active and In Touch.

We have had speakers come to the main Sunday services over the course of the year and all the collections from all the Christmas services which reached a total of £1,697.38 were divided across these three charities. Thank you for your ongoing generous support of their work.

Pastoral & Outreach Focus Group

We now have 5 Lay Pastoral Assistants; Sue Hill, Ros Lockley, Vivienne Bolton, Paul Shepherd and Mary Morrison. We meet every six months to support one another and pray together. David Lockley the Parish Warden has oversight of the lay pastoral assistants with overall pastoral responsibility lying with Caroline Walker the rector. If you would like a visit from a member of this group or know someone that would please contact Caroline and she will link people up.

Children and Families Worker Report

This has been another very busy but very enjoyable year and hard to believe that my three-year contract which started on 1st May 2017 comes to an end on 30th April 2020. I have received the good news from Caroline that Hardington Vale PCC will be able to support my work in the parish beyond April 2020. As I am involved with quite a number of organisations and events in the parish, I have listed them for the purpose of this report in four categories (but in truth they do all overlap and /or dovetail together very well).

PARISH

- Breakfast Church Norton St. Philip and St. Lawrence Rode- prepare children/teenager activities and sometimes lead the service at Rode.
- The Meeting Place Rode – I have attended two over the past year as it is good to meet other members of the local community and the Methodist ministers.
- Crib Service NSP and The Chapel Rode- with Caroline I helped organise, resource and lead both. The two Posada's made their way around the villages and formed part of the crib services.
- Palm Sunday NSP and Outdoor Nativity Rode – an extra pair of hands.
- Mothering Sunday 2019- I helped prepare posies and lead the informal service with Barbara Day.
- Baptism Service – prepare activities for children and work with them whilst the service is taking place.
- Harvest Festival – I liaised with NSP and Rode schools and took their harvest produce to the Frome Food Bank along with harvest produce from NSP and Rode Church. This has led to a link with the Food Bank with which I am helping Ros Lockley.
- Shrove Tuesday- both this year and last, we have welcomed parents/carers and children into NSP church for pancakes after school followed by traditional pancake races. The NSP Co-op have kindly supported us with pancake mix yet again.
- Shrove Tuesday assembly and Lent workshops- Caroline and myself were asked to lead an assembly for both schools on the Rode site followed by workshops. The art work produced by our workshop is on display in NSP Church.
- Pentecost NSP and Rode 2019 – this was well received and although a lot of hard work to run two Pentecost workshops on two sites we were able to invite the whole parish to visit either St. Philip and St. James Church or The Chapel at Rode. I was ably helped by many volunteers as we welcomed every class in both schools to join us in our Pentecost Experience.
- Sidmouth – I organised and led activities for the teenagers attending based on labyrinth activities and the gospel of John.
- Christingle at Tellisford – I again in conjunction with Caroline and Rachel led a family activity to explain the meaning of the Christingle. We had more families with young children attend this year.
- Tots and Toys plus pop up workshops – Tots and Toys runs throughout the year except for Christmas week. This is well attended and I provide messy activities with stories and songs. During school holidays older siblings are invited to attend and there are activities provided for them linked to a church theme.

We are only one of two churches in the Diocese that offer such support to our young families in this way.

Some of the Tots and Toys mums helped me with children's activities at the NSP Church Christmas Fair for the first time this Christmas.

- Morning Prayer rota – I am on the rota for leading morning prayer at NSP when it is not my assembly morning.

SCHOOLS: NORTON ST. PHILIP & RODE FIRST SCHOOLS and HEMINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

- SIAMS (Statutory Inspection Of Anglican and Methodist Schools)- both NSP and Rode First Schools were inspected recently and Caroline and myself offered our help and support to the staff to help plan and prepare for this inspection.
- School Assemblies – with Caroline and Mike Evans (Midsomer Norton Methodist Church) we plan together and visit NSP and Rode schools weekly on a Monday morning to deliver the Gospel differentiated to the age of the children on each school site.
- Open the Book assemblies – we now have two teams and weekly visit Hemington school and fortnightly visit Rode First School. I am organising training in the summer term for both teams following new safeguarding guidelines from The Bible Society.
- The BIF Club Rode - (The Bible is Fun Club) continues on a weekly basis with Year 2 and is well supported with 22 children regularly attending during their Monday lunch hour.
- Elmer Class- I have helped 'bed in' the new Religious Education Agreed Syllabus for Somerset. Every Wednesday afternoon I work with Year 1 at NSP and take a different Bible story each week which we explore and discuss and reflect on.
- School Fund Raising Events – I offer my help at all three school events. I could be serving refreshments and washing up or leading art/craft activities or marshalling (as the Santa Dash). Or by simply attending a concert or play by the children.
- Easter service & Christmas service 2019 – Caroline and myself welcomed NSP First school to both an Easter service and Christmas carol service in St.Philip and St.James Church.
- NSP Pre -school – I visit weekly to share stories and songs with a Christian Value usually aided by one of my many puppets which the children adore. They visit NSP Church on a monthly basis and I organise a game followed by a story and song in the Lady Chapel.

LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Drop in coffee/Christmas Lunch/Spring lunch – I pop in to see and chat with the senior citizens and enjoy the wonderful scones and meals prepared! I feel it is important in my role that I can meet with all ages in the parish as everyone has something to offer.
- Christmas Angels- the knitting group in NSP plus individuals across the parish knitted 210 angels to support the www.christmasangel.net programme. I collected and labelled with help these angels ready for distribution at the carol singing events across the parish.
- NSP Co-op – I regularly shop at the Co-op especially for items I am using in my parish work. They kindly provide provisions free of charge such as at pancake time!
- Rode Beavers- I attend three times a year (autumn, spring and summer) and either offer activities to support their Faith Badge or their Environmental Badge in an Eco Church capacity.

DIOCESE

- Training day/evenings - I attend a free training day once a year for paid children and youth workers in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Also, I attend their evening training sessions that occur twice a year.
- Borrowing resources – the Diocese has a badge machine and labyrinth which can be borrowed. I have made good use of these and the badge machine will be making an appearance again this summer!

Whilst writing my report I am repercussions of Corvid 19 activities may be put on hold Assemblies in all three schools have been suspended until the reports to the PCC will detail effects.



very aware of the and that some of the above for the fore see able future. and my visits to the pre-school Easter holidays. My future what has been decided and the

Sue Rodford. Children & Families Worker

Music

Music in the various churches is provided by a number of people and groups. These include several organists, pianists and more informal instrumental groups.

At the Informal Worship services and Breakfast Church held at Rode and Norton St Philip once a month, more contemporary songs and music are used. We have a Worship Book with 138 songs that we mainly use for these services as well as some songs from Hymns Old and New. Music is mainly piano and guitar led with some extra support from flute, recorder and violin, when people are available.



We were very sorry to lose our resident organist, Fred Du Plessis, in Norton St Philip this last year, whose musical commitment for many years playing for most Sunday morning services (not to mention weddings and funerals), was much appreciated by all. Andrew Morrison, however, has very kindly stepped in to play the organ for the Holy Communion services, and, together with Caroline Whitehead, who generally plays two of the more modern hymns/songs on the piano at the same service, meets the musical needs for those services.

Nick Edwards, a fine, professional, local organist has been available to play at weddings and funerals and continues to be a great resource for the parish.

For the Christmas carol service in Norton St Philip the parish was fortunate enough to secure another superb professional organist, Bernard Newman. He accompanied a choir comprising singers from around the parish who were well rehearsed beforehand by Caroline Whitehead. Unfortunately due to a prior commitment Caroline was unable to conduct the choir on the day so Ros Clarke stepped in to conduct. Anyone wishing to join this "occasional" choir should contact Caroline Whitehead (caroline@whatcombefarm.com) as new recruits are always welcome.

Anyone who would like to be involved with helping lead music and worship at any of these services should get in touch with Michael Walker mbpwalker@btinternet.com Tel: 01373 834258.

Norton St Philip School Report



RODE AND NORTON ST. PHILIP FIRST SCHOOL FEDERATION

Small Schools, Big Learners

2019-2020 Update

We are a Federation of two First schools offering engaging, child-led, creative learning opportunities for children aged between 4 and 9 years. Since Federating our schools continue to go from strength to strength. We had another very busy and successful year in 2019 and were delighted to be rated 'outstanding' in our SIAMS inspection. (Statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools)



justice and taught them

they talk with huge empathy of the needs of others.”

Innovative, inspiring, creative, inclusive, ambitious and exceptional are just some of the words the inspector used to describe our Federation. “The schools take one innovative step after another” and as a result “pupils and adults flourish exceptionally well.” “The rich and inspiring curriculum, which is innovative and an outstanding model, cultivates a deep curiosity about the world because it is truly child-led.” Particularly noteworthy for the inspector was that, “Pupils have high aspirations for themselves and for others and are equipped with the skills and motivation to transform the lives of others as well as their own. Impressively, experience has already given them a passion for to consider ethical issues of exploitation and deprivation which is as

Our vision is to ignite a creative spark; illuminating new possibilities, hidden potential and big dreams, enabling each and every child to embark on a unique adventure towards life in all its fullness.

“15 things to try before you’re 9 ¾” is our unique programme that explores the essential elements of a playful childhood, making memories that will last well into adulthood. It is being woven into the whole school curriculum and our children love the possibilities that it opens up for them to try new things.

This year we focused on three of them: #Dance Like Everyone’s Watching, #Learn to Play an Instrument and #Be in the Movies.

For ten weeks every class in school was lucky enough to have samba drumming lessons from Bath’s very own Jamma de Samba. Even the staff joined in! In class we learnt about Brazil and created our own fabulous costumes to link with our ‘Under the Sea’ topic. Our summer term was rounded off with the spectacular sight of the whole school carnival samba band dancing through the streets of Rode whilst the residents lined the streets applauding ecstatically!

Finally, we ended the year with the children writing and producing their own movie ‘To Nativity and Beyond’ which premiered at the Merlin Theatre in Frome in front of three full houses, all dressed in tuxedos and sparkles! We are indebted to a Frome media artist and a parent film-maker for their help with this ambitious project.



In 2020 we will be working towards the gold Artsmark award and further developing our STEAM provision. The staff will be training to introduce Philosophy for Children (P4C) and subject leaders will be tweaking our curriculum maps to fully embed our vision and values. We will also be using all our ‘in-house’ expertise to develop our ‘Become the Expert’ staff training programme, learning from each other using a coaching model. These developments will

further enhance our creative curriculum and ensure that we continue to offer a fantastic learning adventure for our children.

Contact Details

Tel: 01373 830523 (Rode School) 01373 834327 (Norton School)

Email: rodeandnortoninfo@educ.somerset.gov.

Website: www.rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk



Eco church a survey devised by the Christian environmental charity A Rocha UK. Its purpose is to raise awareness in church congregations as to how to lessen their negative impact on God's beautiful creation as a group and also as individuals. It looks at five areas; worship and teaching, buildings, use of land, community and global engagement, and lifestyle. Six of the congregation at Norton St Philip have embarked on this project (there is always room for more) and so far we have surveyed and taken some action on our lighting and heating. We are currently looking at the churchyard with a view to introducing more bio diversity.

An easy result was toilet twinning - see the toilets in Norton and Rode churches. We were pleased to hear that we have achieved a gold award in our worship and teaching, but as we are called to be "doers of the word and not hearers only", there is plenty more to tackle. This is a project we recommend to all our churches. For more information contact Beth Harrison or Barbara Day.



Parish Clergy Contacts

RECTOR

Rev Caroline Walker, The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Norton St Philip, BA2 7LY
Tel: 01373 834258 Email: carolinehwalker@btinternet.com
(day off normally Friday)

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Administrator, Ros Clarke, Office Opening Times: Mon-Wed 8.30 am – 12.30 pm
Tel: 01373-834488 Email: admin@hardingtonvale.org.uk

Notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting

As a consequence of the Coronavirus,
the Bishop has issued an extension of the time limit for holding
the **Meeting of Parishioners**

and the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

This will now be until 31 October 2020.

We will reconvene the meeting once it is considered safe to cease social distancing.

All the annual reports can be found in the latest copy of Hardington Vale News
which are available at the back of each church.

Tony Day, Secretary to the Parochial Church Council
Hardington Vale