

Annual Report for St. Edmund's with Tidmington, 2021

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St. Edmund's, with Tidmington: Agendas of the Annual Meetings for 2021, to be held on 15th May, 2022, after the 10.00 Service

Our Vision Statement We are here as God's Church to:

- Worship God
- Make New Disciples and
- Transform Communities.

- **Vestry Meeting**
Appointment of the Church Wardens

- **Annual Parochial Church Meeting Agenda**
 1. Apologies for Absence
 2. The minutes of 2020 APCMs
 3. Matters arising from 2020 APCMs
 4. Report from Rev. Sarah Edmonds
 5. The Wardens' Report
 6. The Treasurer's Report
 7. Tidmington Church
 8. Safeguarding
 9. Appointment of Independent Examiners
 10. Appointment of Deanery Synod Representatives
 11. Issues notified earlier

Elections: 4 PCC members for full 3 year term, co-optees if appropriate & Sidespeople, as a group.
Communion Assistants, as a group.
Notification of changes to the Electoral Roll

Meeting of the PCC - Agenda

1. To elect officers: Deputy Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Deputy Wardens
2. Set date for the next meetings of the PCC and Standing Committee

PCC Membership 2021

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rev'd. Sarah Edmonds | Rector |
| Elizabeth Foster | Church Warden |
| Hilary Kemp | Church Warden |
| Richard Adams | Deanery Synod Representative |
| Hilary Kelly | Deanery Synod Representative |
| Jo Barker | Deanery Synod Representative |
| Sue McFall | Year 3 |
| Sue Roark | Year 3 |
| Roger Hancox | Year 3 |
| Jo Barker | Year 3 |
| Rosemary Gibbins | Year 2 |
| Marion Jones | Year 2 |
| Lisa Blunt | Year 2 |
| Lady Min Willoughby de Broke | Year 2 |
| Christine Chatterley | Year 1 |
| Pam Harrison | Year 1 |
| Dick Harrison | Year 1 |

Deanery Synod Representatives: Richard Adams, Jo Barker and Hilary Kelly

Minutes of the Annual Meetings for 2020 for St Edmund's Parish Church, with Tidmington, on Sunday 23rd May 2021, following the 10:00am Service

Chair: Rev'd Sarah Edmonds Secretary: Lisa Blunt

24 people were present.

Annual Vestry Meeting

Rev'd Sarah registered her most grateful thanks to the Church Wardens, Pam Harrison and Hilary Kemp, for their wonderful response to the challenges and hard work demanded by the pandemic year. All present joyfully endorsed these thanks to Pam and Hilary. Pam Harrison retired after three years as Church Warden, to more thanks and admiration for her energetic fulfilment of the role. 'THANKS TO PAM IN LARGE LETTERS' Hilary Kemp is prepared to continue in her challenging role. Following Pam's retirement, there is one vacancy as Church Warden and one application, Elizabeth Foster, proposed by Lisa Blunt and seconded by Hilary Kemp. Elizabeth Foster was elected as Church Warden nem com.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Apologies for Absence: Min Willoughby de Broke, Alyson Spence, Roger Hancox, Hilary Kelly, Chris and Christine Skeath, David Rutherford

The Minutes of APCM of 2019 – The minutes were accepted as correct.

Matters Arising from the 2019 Minutes – No matters arising.

Reports from the Rev'd Sarah and Church Wardens – The Reports, which had been distributed previously, were accepted with no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report – Andy King, Treasurer, said that this had been a difficult year, yet instead of the deficit predicted mid-year, the year's end saw a small surplus. He expressed his great gratitude for the generosity of the congregation. Next year will see some increased costs but also more opportunities for fund raising.

Safeguarding – our Safeguarding Officer, Marion Jones, is maintaining our work to meet the requirements for safeguarding qualifications and support across the PCC and volunteers. The profile of safeguarding is being raised on the web-site.

Appointment of an Auditor – Donald Steel's work was much appreciated. Andrew King proposed and Richard Adams seconded that Donald Steel should be appointed as auditor. It was carried nem con.

Appointment of Deanery Synod Representatives – this year there are elections to the Deanery Synod, the Diocesan Synod and the General Synod which face important decisions. St. Edmund's, with Tidmington, can have 4 representatives. Those in place were prepared to stand again and were elected unopposed.

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Richard Adams

Hilary Kelly

Jo Barker

Issues Notified Earlier – None notified

Elections

Four PCC members: Dick Harrison, Tony Cox, Chris Chatterley and Elizabeth Foster have completed their allocation. Tony Cox has resigned. Elizabeth Foster is now on the PCC as Church Warden. Pam Harrison has applied to be on the PCC, sponsored by Lisa Blunt and seconded by Hilary Kemp. These three were elected nem con.

Year 3 Sue Roark
Jo Barker

Roger Hancox
Sue McFall

Year 2 Rosemary Gibbins
Lisa Blunt

Marion Jones
Min Willoughby de Broke

Year 1 Dick Harrison
Christine Chatterley

Pam Harrison

Sidespeople were re-elected en masse

Richard Adams

David Kennett

James Law

Tony Cox

Julie Cox

Val Sluman

Pauline Morley

Jill Rowley

Patrick Rowley

Barbara Bean

Dick Harrison

Pam Harrison

Rosemary Gibbins

Hilary Kelly

Sue McFall

Pauline Stint

Jean Iley

Jenny Mezciems

Anne Hume

Richard Knights

Sue Roark

Nora Hardy

Chalice Bearers – were re-elected en masse

Richard Adams

Barbara Bean

Lisa Blunt

Chris Bourne

Anne Hume

Hilary Kemp

Steph Lovelock

Chris Skeath

Shirley Wynn

Hilary Kelly

David Kennett

Chris Bourne

Home Communicants

Michael Harris

Alyson Spence

Anne Hume

Pam Harrison

Lisa Blunt

Sue McFall

All those elected, affirmed and appointed were welcomed into their positions.

The new Electoral Roll, a basis for the next 6 years, had been prepared in 2018 with 102 names. By the end of 2019 the Electoral Roll comprised 97 persons. By the end of 2020, with one person leaving, four dying and seven being added, the Electoral Roll comprised 99 persons.

The Meeting closed with thanks to all.

PCC Meeting

Present: Rev'd Sarah Edmonds, Lisa Blunt, Andy King, Sue McFall, Sue Roark, Richard Adams, Jo Barker, Rosemary Gibbins, Pam Harrison, Dick Harrison, Marion Jones, Hilary Kemp, Elizabeth Foster

Election of Officers

The officers of the PCC were affirmed nem con as follows:

Deputy Chairman: Pam Harrison, proposed by Lisa Blunt, seconded by Andy King

Secretary: Lisa Blunt, proposed by Sue Roark, seconded by Hilary Kemp

Treasurer: Andy King, proposed by Hilary Kemp, seconded by Lisa Blunt

Deputy Church Wardens: Sue Roark, Sue McFall, proposed by Lisa Blunt, seconded by Richard Adams.

Dates of Meetings:

Standing Committee – Wednesday 2nd June, 7.30 on zoom

PCC – Thursday 10th June, 7.30 at St. Edmund's Church

Rector's report to APCM

Sarah Edmonds, May 2021

Secretary's Report on 2021

St. Edmund's Church, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire - Annual Report on the Work of the Parochial Church Council for the Year ending 31st December 2021

Administrative Information

St. Edmund's is the Parish Church of Shipston on Stour, within the Diocese of Coventry. The address for correspondence is: Rev'd Sarah Edmonds, The Rectory, Glen Close, Shipston on Stour, CV34 4ED.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is not a charity registered with the Charity Commission, but has HMRC charity status.

PCC Officers as appointed at the Annual Vestry Meeting in October 2021:

Church Wardens: Elizabeth Foster, Hilary Kemp

Deputy Church Wardens: Sue Roark and Sue McFall

PCC Members, Deanery Synod Representatives, Sidespersons, Chalice Bearers and Home Communicants were appointed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for 2020, in October 2021, as listed in the Meeting's Minutes on earlier pages.

Appointed at the PCC Meeting in October 2021

Chairman: Rev'd Sarah Edmonds

Secretary: Lisa Blunt

Treasurer: Andy King

The PCC is responsible for:

Co-operating with the incumbent to promote in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

Co-operating with the Church Wardens to maintain the fabric of the building of St. Edmund's and Tidmington Churches.

Vision Statement

Since 2011 the PCC has adopted the Diocesan's three-part statement, working coherently with the other parishes in the Deanery and Diocese.

We are here as God's Church to:

Worship God;

Make new disciples and

Transform communities.

Review of the Year, 2021

2021 continued the Covid challenges for worship and pastoral care, with concern about the new strain. Shipston and Tidmington congregations are deeply grateful for the energy, innovation and technical courage of Rev'd Sarah and our ministry team. Special thanks must go to Rob Edmonds for his zoom control so the PCC could continue to meet at six weekly intervals. Plans to re-open at Easter were agreed by email and gradually coffee, cake and singing were re-established. There was a great team effort to meet the complexities of opening the church safely for services and private prayer.

The PCC oversaw the range of essential policies and regulations, including Health & Safety, Risk assessments, Lone Working, Fire Procedures and General Data Protection. New policies on Social Media and on Recruiting Ex-Offenders were

approved. We continue to be grateful for the work of Marion Jones who ensures the PCC meets its Safeguarding responsibilities. The PCC approved the development and formalisation of the relationship between the church and the Food Bank, so the Food Bank became an independent charity operating from the church.

The PCC supported the work of the Eco-Church Group, moving towards a target of net zero carbon emissions.

We are thankful for the wide-ranging contributions of all the PCC members and officers, but especially our Church Wardens who have worked tirelessly on the building maintenance issues and on ensuring the safety of the congregation. Details on their work and on finance, the issues and decisions which dominate the PCC meetings, are in the full reports of the Church Wardens and Treasurers. We are so grateful for the time and hard work they have generously given throughout this year.

Lisa Blunt, Secretary to the PCC

CHURCH WARDENS REPORT 2021

Hilary Kemp & Elizabeth Foster

2021 continued to be a 'behind-the-scenes' busy and productive one and the gradual opening of the Church building and services continued. It was often tricky because the official Covid guidelines were sketchy and vague at times. Despite COVID-19 and the closing, re-opening, closing, opening for private prayer in the Lady Chapel, then the latest re-opening, the clergy and the 'team' supporting them, have consciously sought to be more outgoing into the community and making the church more accessible for different purposes, using zoom, Shipston Church website, Shipston Town website and through the delivery of letters, 'Keeping in Touch', sometimes with gifts attached.

Pastoral:

- We said a fond farewell to Pam, who had completed her three years as Church Warden and we welcomed Elizabeth, who started her three-year tenure.
- We welcomed Rev Hannah and her family as she continued to develop her ministry with us. We have already seen some of her initiatives and look forward to more, especially as she returns from maternity leave.
- We have seen the growth of the Shipston Foodbank, hosted by St Edmunds, and are incredibly grateful for the support it has received – from volunteers from the local community to the very generous donations, again from the local community. It is becoming apparent that this is serving an increasing need in our community as the cost of living continues its steep rise.
- St. Edmund's opened its doors for the second year for an All Souls, 'In Loving Memory' open evening to allow Shipstonians to light a candle and sit quietly in church while the Rev 'ds Sarah, Jill and Hannah read names, followed by prayers. It was a very moving evening and well-supported.
- St. Edmund's opened its doors for an opportunity for the community to pray for the people of Ukraine.

- It was a joy to be able to offer the community some of the traditional services at Christmas, which helped us to believe that we are emerging from the Covid shadow.
- Unfortunately, the following still have not been able to happen this year: the Shipston Rotary Club Victorian Fair, Shipston Primary School have not been able to access the church for their usual Festival celebrations, including their Christmas Nativity Service, Carol-singing at Rosedale, Churches Together could not run the annual Children's Holiday Club and Messy Church, hosted by St Edmunds and the Crib Service had to be cancelled for the second year running.
- The Town Remembrance Service was very well attended, with the names of the fallen being read outside the church and near to where the wreaths were laid. A service followed, in the church, with the Town Band accompanying the singing.
- However, Little Church made a tentative start, with, on average, two plus carers attending-it seems as though the two years of Covid restrictions has put a stop to little ones going out with their parents/carers mid-morning, so, sadly, this may not continue.
- Zoom services were able to be broadcast: The Town Remembrance Service and Sunday Services, (using the projector and screen when the church was open). We have got to know each other better, becoming more friendly since the introduction of the Breakout Rooms after a Sunday Service on zoom!
- Before she went on maternity leave, Rev Hannah organised an outdoor Muddy Church activity, based in the churchyard, during half term, which was very well appreciated, with a one-way system for families and individuals to follow. This has been followed up by an Easter Muddy Church.
- With thanks to Elizabeth, Tony, Hilary Kelly and the Town Council, we had the return of the silhouette of the Nativity scene outside the church, carefully lit by spotlights. This helped keep the focus on the real meaning of Christmas and helped pass the time while queuing for fish and chips! Some good conversations were overheard during this time.
- A Track and Trace system continued to be used together with several policies that either had to be introduced or needed updating.
- Making sure the pews were cleaned, stickers showing the regulatory distancing between worshippers, whether single or a couple, preparing family bays, handles wiped down and plenty of hand sanitizer available to all who come to church and following correct procedures continued to become the priority each time the church has re-opened. If the church was to be used between the Wednesday and Sunday services, the pews, etc, had to be cleaned before and after use. A one-way system for the congregation to receive communion continues to be implemented and this is working. Leaving the church has also had to be co-ordinated with the clergy going outside to say their farewells to stop there being a snarl-up as people were walking out of church.
- Through zoom, Ministry Team meetings and PCC meetings continued, but, eventually, the PCC met in church.

Fabric:

Improvements to the fabric of the church are as follows:

- We finally received the faculty to remove seven worm-infested pews and this job was done immediately! It's incredible to see how the re-arranged remaining pews have allowed the tables to be set up for coffee at the back of the church. This initiative has certainly improved the well-being of the church.
- We applied to the Town Council for a grant to repair the church clock which has not worked since we went into Covid lockdown in 2020! Rumour has it we have been successful, but as yet no amount has been given.
- With grateful thanks to Rosemary Gibbins, Kreative Kitchens, Des at MKM, Rob Oakey and Noel Aird, we are slowly improving the drinks kitchen. We now have a dishwasher installed (already used weekly), a microwave situated above it and, in time, a new work surface and cupboards to complete the renovation.
- An old downpipe, highlighted in the quinquennial, has been repaired and a water butt has been installed.
- The lead flashing in the gullies on both roofs have been repaired (a quinquennial hi-light).
- The broken panes of glass in the window in the Foodbank area has been repaired by Ben Sinclair of Norgrove Studios. He also checked our stained-glass windows as they had been mentioned in the quinquennial inspection.
- The debris has been removed from the outside electric house, with grateful thanks to Andy.
- We have applied for a Faculty to remove the Mouseman table.
- The faculty approved to replace the boiler house door is on-going. Chris Skeath had agreed to replace it. Due to COVID-19 this is still waiting to be completed
- The Extinguishers have been tested, updated, the Fire Blanket was removed (as we have no cooker), the electrics have been Pat tested, the windows cleaned, and the gutters and drains have all been cleared and repaired in places
- Extra fabric screens have been made to cover the Foodbank racking, thank you Elizabeth

Moving forward:

- We are still working through the Quinquennial Report. We have contacted several stone masons and are awaiting all their completed estimates, including the cost of scaffolding, before we can start applying for grants, etc, etc. Due to Covid, these quotes are taking some time to come in...

We do thank all the members of our congregation for their continued support, encouragement, and willingness to help where and when it is needed.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2021

Report on Tidmington Church in 2021

Tidmington Church flourishes with the support of a loyal core congregation and energetic, committed ministry team. In practical terms, much of 2021 has been spent responding to the Quinquennial Report on the inspection of 2020. The Report recognised that Tidmington is 'well looked after'.

Nevertheless, urgent electrical work was identified and time was spent chasing specialists for church window and stonework, with little progress. Tests for death watch beetle and woodworm were thankfully negative. Possibly for the first time, Tidmington is fully fire safe following new fire extinguishers, notices and fire drill. Moving the account from HSBC has been delayed as Lloyds was deluged by charities fleeing the fees being charged.

Candle-lit services are a part of the special spiritual atmosphere of Tidmington and the year ended with the highlight of a candle-lit service on Christmas Eve: midnight mass at the practical earlier time of 9pm. Soul Space services on the third Sunday of each month are also candle-lit. They provide reflection and insight in a most peaceful setting. Tidmington shows what even a tiny unheated church in the middle of a field can offer.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2021

ST EDMUNDS FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2021

Following a review of how we do our accounts by an Independent Examiner the recommendation is to move to a pure Receipts & Payments format rather than the mixture of accruals and receipts & accounts we currently use (See the Independent Examiners Report at the end of this report). Consequently this is the last year in which the accounts will appear in the current form. I will circulate the new format to the PCC in due course.

I have however made a few changes to the Balance section of this report on the recommendation of the Examiner to make things a little clearer to understand.

- a. The underwriting of the joint churches (Initially £7000) is invested in a CBF Deposited account and is shown as an investment in the cash balance – currently £7856.91
- b. The original Symons-Bosely investment of £3500 is not included in the balance and is now shown as a separate line giving the current value of the investment. This investment is a 'restricted' asset currently worth £68,062.36 and provided a yearly income of £2171 in 2021.
- c. I have also included a summary of the World Vision account.

General Account

Receipts

St Edmunds continues to emerge from the Pandemic but we have lost a number of dear friends from the Congregation and this has seen a fall in planned Giving as well as Gift Aid. However, Cash Giving has risen by £2144. Overall, Giving was down by £212 from 2020.

General Fund-raising was up by £1850 but this was mainly due to a transfer of funds from the Friends of St Edmunds account to help with roof repairs. Income remained close to the 2020 figure and this reflects the effect of the pandemic on St Edmunds.

Payments

The Parish share remains the single most expensive item for payment (£52582). The figure shown for 2020 is the Combined St Edmunds/Tidmington figure but this Year Tidmington paid directly to the CDBF and is not included in the 2021 figure. The figure for 2022 has only increased by £100. Church running expenses have only increased by £71 which is a very good result. Secretarial fees have increased to £1334 but have been offset by a CDF Rural Dean payment of £850. Rector and Curate expenses have reduced still further. Insurance has risen a little but will now be fixed for 3 years. Utility bills have risen by £1344 but this figure is still well below the 2019 figure when the Church was in constant use. Outside of the Parish Share the biggest payments were for building work and repairs and renewals. Overall, payments increased by £5580 from last year.

General Account Deficit

The deficit for 2021 was **£5744.31**, a much better result than we were expecting and again due to good housing keeping and some generous donations.

Building Account

The Building Account balance at the end of 2021 is £00.00 and this account will be closed once Standing Orders have been transferred to the General Account.

World Vision Account

The World Vision Account balance at the end of the Year was £330.60 and this will be transferred to the General Account and the World Vision Account closed.

HSBC Bank

The HSBC bank has now started charging fees for their Charity Accounts and the PCC has taken the decision to close all accounts with the HSBC and transfer our business to another bank pending investigation.

Andrew king

Andrew King
St Edmunds Treasurer

Tidmington Church – Balance Sheet

Receipts and Payments – Rector and Churchwardens' Account For the 12 months ending 31st December 2021

| Receipts | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Giving Planned | 2125 | 3840 | 3592.00 |
| Giving – Cash | 1855.91 | 1583.30 | 1359.72 |
| HMRC Refund | * | 1540 | 1285.13 |
| Interest | 0.74 | 0.56 | 0.11 |
| Special Collections & Fees | - 508 | 150 | 166.00 |
| Total income | 4489.65 | 7114.00 | 6402.96 |
| Payments | | | |
| Parish Share | 2550.00 | 2590 | 2678.00 |
| Insurance | 697.31 | 709.05 | 710.64 |
| Grass cutting & Cleaning | 360.00 | 280.00 | 360.00 |
| Clergy's expenses | 333.07 | 107.51 | 110.38 |
| Maintenance | 0 | 90.00 | 561.58* |
| Sundries | 194.55 | 106.00 | 864.00** |
| Total Payments | 4134.93 | 3882.56 | 5284.60 |
| Surplus | 354.72 | 3231.44 | 1118.36 |
| FUNDS | HSBC Bank | | £ |
| | - Balance at 1 st January 2021 | 16078.46 | |
| | - Receipts for the year | 6402.96 | |
| | - Expenditure for the year | 5284.60 | |
| | - Balance at 31 st December 2021 | 17196.82 | |
| | CCLA | | |
| | - Balance at 31 st December 2021 | 103.00 | |
| | TOTAL FUNDS | 17299.82 | |

Report

* The increase is due to the purchase of fire equipment (£261.58) and an electrical inspection (£300), after the Quinquennial.

**This increase reflects the fee (862.00) for the architect to conduct the Quinquennial inspection.

The essential costs of the Parish Share, maintenance and the insurance are a challenge, exacerbated by the cost of just having the Quinquennial inspection, plus its recommended work. Covid appeared to continue to add to these financial problems, but the response of the congregation has been most generous.

Lisa Blunt, Treasurer

BELLRINGERS REPORT

The Shipston bells were silent for 12 months when lockdown prevented any sort of ringing in the tower. Instead our Saturday morning practice continued via Zoom as a means of keeping everyone connected, we used a “ringing app” overcame issues of internet fading and eventually became quite good ringing some simple methods.

However getting ringers back into the tower when guidelines eased required some lateral thinking. Our first difficulty was the lack of ventilation in the tower since the windows cannot be opened. This was solved by installing a simple ventilation system drawing air up through the Ringing Chamber into the Clock Room above, utilising the redundant clock weight shaft. At the same time the screen behind the organ was removed to provide more space for ringers whilst also aiding air flow.

When ringing was permitted, initially guidelines stated that ringers had to be 2 meters apart from each other thereby limiting the number of bells that could be rung. We also discovered that having not rung, in some cases, for well over a year there were confidence issues to be overcome and sadly some ringers didn't feel able to continue.

In 2021 some of the Shipston ringers assisted with the refurbishment of the Honington bells, as a consequence instead of practicing every Saturday in Shipston, these practices now alternate with Honington.

More recently new ringers from neighbouring villages have been receiving training at Shipston, (our bells are very suitable for this), two Shipston residents are also being trained but because the majority of the Shipston ringers are over 70, more recruitment is necessary if we wish to keep ringing alive in the future. At present we still depend on ringers from neighbouring villages for certain services and public events where bells are requested. Anyone wishing to know more about how Church bells work and/or would like to learn please contact the Tower Captain, the minimum age is 10, there is no upper age limit.