

## Report of the PCC for the Annual Parochial Meeting (2021)

During the year 2020 to 2021 the Parochial Church Council of St. Leonard, Clent, Worcester, consisted of\_

### Officers:

Chairman: Revd. Richard Newton  
Wardens: Rosemarie Buchan, Dave Stokes,  
with Neill Robb (Proto-warden) & Anne Harris (Warden Emeritus)  
Curate: Kim Topham  
LLM: Alison Lewis  
ALM: Rose Padmore  
Treasurer: Jon Prior  
Electoral Roll Officer: Neill Robb  
Synod Representatives: Harry Grove & Dave Stokes  
Safeguarding Officer: Sarah Eagle

### Elected Members:

Louise McMichael, Janet Steele & Natalie Baker

### Co-Opted members:

Steve Eagle [Health & Safety] & Martin Whittaker [Bell Ringing]

The Council met on the following occasions:

|  |  |                                    |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2020      | <i>(with Zoom conferencing from this date)</i> |                                    |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July         | <i>Wardens and Officers meeting</i>            |                                    |
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> July           | Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October              | Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December     |  |                                    |
| Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 | <i>Extra-ordinary meeting</i>                  | Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April       |  |                                    |

### Planned meetings:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May | Annual Vestry and Parochial meetings     |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May  | Joint meeting of the Clent & Hagley PCCs |

The routine business of the Council included mapping-out the Ministry and Worship patterns for the coming seasons, reviewing what had been undertaken, as well as developing plans for Mission; reviewing the maintenance of the fabric and goods, maintaining adequate insurance, and finding adequate funds for projects; receiving reports of our financial status and the progress of our investments, and how we were achieving our contributions to Parish Share; and keeping a watchful eye on the security and safety of the church and its worshippers (particularly under the unique and stressful circumstances of this Pandemic period).

The PCC have been furthering projects some of which have been delayed through a barrage of bureaucracy – weatherproofing the tower roof, renewing the lightning conductor, re-pointing/replacing the churchyard wall and the trimming/felling of the Lime trees along Vine Lane.

Unique matters had to be considered during this year.

The closure of public buildings as part of a national 'lock-down' to contain the Covid-19 virus; the occasional ability to use the building for 'private prayer' but only under strict conditions of 'distancing', use of face masks, and 'sanitization' of both people and place; and then, again,

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their complete closure; conventional wedding ceremonies not being allowed and funeral services having the very minimum of family or friends: all placed terrible restrictions on the operation of the church and our worship.

The PCC made every effort to enable what was allowed to take place and gave complete support to Revd. Newton as he mastered the virtual world to bring us together for our meetings and also for weekly on-line worship.

The change of Deanery arrangements ordered by the Bishop required us to consider whether, given our geographical location at the “far corner” of several areas, to look towards Bromsgrove or Kidderminster or Dudley. There was much debate about how we faced the future and the Council made every effort to consult parishioners in the short period available and given the restrictions on public meetings. This resulted in the decision to ask the Bishop that we be part of both the Benefice of Clent and Hagley and part of the ‘Greater Dudley’ Deanery.

A consequence to these changes has been the transfer of our administration from the Belbroughton to the Hagley Offices.

Highlights of the year were to record the advancement of Kim Topham into the priesthood; Alison Lewis achieving her Licensed Lay Minister status; and Rose Padmore renewing her position as Authorised Lay Minister.

It was most unfortunate to lose the services of Dave Stokes as Warden following his tendering of his resignation and our thanks go to Neill Robb for immediately stepping into the breach to give able support to Rosemarie Buchan.

The minutes form a continuum of historic record of the church at Clent, of us, our affairs and how we have responded; which will make fascinating reading to future historians.

Harry Grove  
*PCC Secretary*