

## **Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council 2021 (for the year 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020)**

### **Background**

St Michael & All Angels, Newnham is part of the United Benefice of Badby with Newnham and Charwelton with Fawsley and Preston Capes.

### **Membership of PCC**

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC

### **Incumbent**

Interregnum until 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 when Rev Malcolm Ingham was installed by way of a "zoom" Service.

### **Churchwardens**

Mr J Lawrence

Mrs Wood

### **Deanery Synod Representative**

Mrs M Sinclair

### **Elected Members**

Mr A Banks

Mr N Beer

Mrs I Cooke

Mr L Pierpoint

Mr B Price (Lay Chair)

Mrs J Rees (Secretary)

Mr J Wood (Treasurer)

### **Church Attendance**

There are 35 people on the electoral roll 31 of whom are resident in the Parish. Due to Covid restrictions there were only 7 Services possible in Church. The average attendance at these Services was 17. During the year there was one Funeral Service.

### **Review of the Year from January 2019 - December 2019**

The year 2020 was a very unusual and challenging year due to the Covid 19 pandemic for it has restricted both Services within Church and fund raising activities outside Church. The year began with the Church still in the period of interregnum, however, in April it was announced that following an interview, the Rev Malcolm Ingham had accepted the post of interim Rector. Rev Malcolm was installed on 28<sup>th</sup> October via a "Zoom" Service.

Due to the restrictions of the pandemic the PCC met only 3 times during the year, one of which was via zoom and there was an average attendance of 87%.

During the year members of the PCC discussed a number of issues including Services, routine maintenance of the church and churchyard, the financial state of the church, health and safety issues, safeguarding and fund-raising.

The other main topics discussed included the repair of the Chancel roof, the decoration of the Chancel and vestry, the installation of the new heating system, the repair to the crack above the

south window, the Parish share and the new requirements regarding safeguarding training for PCC members.

Due to Covid restrictions the Church was locked for much of the year, however the porch remained open for food donations to the Food Bank in Daventry which supports the homeless and families in crisis through job loss or illness.

86.95% of the Parish Share was paid, amounting to £13263. The Church's Annual Accounts were prepared by Mr J Wood and reviewed by the Independent Examiner, Mr R Baker FCA.

The fund raising events organised by the Church were severely restricted and the only event organised prior to the restrictions imposed by Covid 19 was Snowdrop Sunday at the beginning of the year, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Banks.

Again, due to the pandemic restrictions, floral decorations and Church cleaning were carried out as and when possible and the Benefice magazine was distributed monthly to every household in the Parish by a team of volunteers.

#### Rector's Report 2020

Normally in a Rector's Report I would look back over the previous twelve months as well as looking ahead – it is slightly difficult for me to do that this year as I was only licenced by Bishop Donald to serve in the Knightley Benefice on the 28<sup>th</sup> October.

That means that really, much of my reflection on 2020 must be to thank deeply and sincerely everyone, from Church Wardens and PCC members to those members of each church's fellowships who simply but powerfully prayed as everyone pulled together to maintain an authentic Christian presence and witness in our villages through the most difficult and trying time since the Second World War.

The community and passion of the church fellowships meant that when we arrived, our welcome was warm and sincere and although we moved home in difficult circumstances, we felt welcomed into these communities from day one. Thank you. It also meant that as we began to meet again in our buildings and then alternated between in person and online services there were still worshipping communities and worship centres (trendy modern speak for church buildings!) that were in good heart and good repair.

In the last couple of months of 2020, we were able to launch a new website which could host online services and this proved to be very timely as we have since been notified that our old website will no longer be hosted by BT after May therefore we were fortunately ahead of the curve. As a benefice, we were able to hold Carol and Christmas services in our church buildings as well as Christingle and Carol Services online.

2020 was a year of upheaval and lockdown, of abnormal life and learning to adapt to the "new normal" and I suspect that 2021 will contain much of the unknown and unplannable nature of its predecessor. However, it is my hope and prayer that nevertheless we can continue to grow as God's people in the unpredictable world in which we now live.

My hope and prayer is that we will become excited about God's Word as we open it together, that we will see the amazing Good News that it reveals to us in Jesus and that we will become excited about throwing open the doors of our churches; buildings, people and virtual presence, to welcome in new enquirers so that they may discover along with us what an amazing, holy, loving God we have.

I know that as a benefice we face many difficulties and that there are challenges ahead of us, but also, as rural fellowships in villages with a strong sense of community we have many strengths, advantages and opportunities that we should celebrate and build upon. There is much work for us to do together, but there is also much for us to be thankful for and we have a God who is Lord and Sovereign over everything and everyone. That's an exciting reality to lead us into 2021 and beyond, isn't it?

## **St. Michael and All Angles**

### **Newnham**

#### **Churchwardens' Report 2020**

We entered 2020 still in interregnum although a Benefice Profile had been produced and the vacancy advertised. We were unsure about the response but in the fullness of time it became clear that a likely candidate had been forthcoming. On April 26<sup>th</sup>. it was announced that following interview and with the agreement of Bishop Donald and parish representatives the Reverend Malcolm Ingham had accepted the appointment of Interim Rector. Malcolm was subsequently installed on 28<sup>th</sup>. October via "Zoom".

As a result of Covid 19 the Church of England initially instructed us to restrict attendance and subsequently shut and lock the building until further notice. We did however open the porch gate each day to allow parishioners to donate items for the Daventry foodbank and allow access to a small book/cd library and prayer notice board.

Since his installation Rev. Malcolm has prepared an "on-line" service each week, plus special services at Christmas in the church building. It was a great shame that after so much preparatory work, we were unable to host Father Christmas, however the Christmas lights competition was much appreciated.

Following the completion of the roof replacement the Chancel has now been decorated and thanks to Jim Wood the Vestry has been updated and painted and the wardrobes in the ladies' vestry repaired.

We have undertaken a much needed clear out in the church and disposed of a number of items, including the display cabinet, tables and chairs

The new electric heating system has now been installed although we have had little opportunity to use it!

The rotten roof timber above the Chancel steps is being dealt with and estimates for tackling the crack in the south wall and decoration of the entire church have been received and are pending a decision.

A quinquennial inspection has been arranged for later in 2021.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic we only had one fund raising event "Snowdrop Sunday" which due to poor weather took place over two Sundays.

We would once again like to acknowledge and thank the small but loyal group of parishioners who help us with cleaning (especially during Covid) flower arranging and the many other tasks.

To the best of our knowledge and belief all goods and chattels are in good order although some, are in need of 'tlc'.

Churchwardens

Jeff Lawrence and Mary Wood