

**St Wilfrid's, Calverton
Annual report 2021**

**Celebrating 2020
and
Planning 2021**

'See I am doing a new thing....'



We strive together....

to follow Jesus

**to care for one another, our community and
the world**

to grow in our Christian faith

Business information

Agenda

Sunday 25th April 2021

Meeting of parishioners

Welcome

Apologies

Minutes of 2020 meeting

Matters arising

Church Wardens report

Election of Church Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Apologies

Minutes of 2020 meeting

Matters arising

Electoral role report

Financial report and update

Appointment of independent examiner

PCC report

PCC membership proposal

Election of PCC members

Deanery Synod report

Vicar's report

Celebrating the year - Telling a story of God at work

Installing vision – what are our priorities for the next 18 months

Church reports

AOB (notified to the chair and secretariat least 3 days in advance of the meeting)

Minutes of meetings

ST WILFRID'S CHURCH CALVERTON MEETING OF PARISHIONERS Sunday 27th September 2020 at 6.00 p.m.

In Attendance: Revd Sam Hustwayte; Churchwardens: Allan Ball and Paul Morris; Secretary: Jackie Davies; Treasurer: Anne Wade; Kathy Ball; Matthew Hustwayte

Via Zoom Link: Margaret Bayes, Raymond Braddow, Valerie Braddow, Peter Cansfield, Rachel Cansfield, Kirsty Croft, Boyd Elliott, Kerry Elliott, Chris Hirst, Jim Johnson, Ashley Medley, Elaine Medley and Audrey Stocks

Revd Sam Hustwayte welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from: John Bayes, Carole Parke, Revd Michael Taylor and Mrs Valerie Taylor

Minutes of Meeting held Sunday 28th April 2019 were unanimously accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Church Wardens Report as printed in APCM 2019 booklet was received.

Revd Sam gave a huge thank you to Allan Ball who was leaving the parish to live in Yorkshire. Sam said he had been an amazing churchwarden and hugely supportive. Allan was presented with a framed picture of St Wilfrid's Church.

Election of Church Wardens

Nominations for Church Wardens had been received for:

Audrey Stocks, proposed by Allan Ball and seconded by Kathy Ball

Paul Morris, proposed by Rachel Cansfield and seconded by Peter Cansfield

There had been no other nominations and the Meeting of Parishioners were unanimous that they should be welcomed into these roles.

Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, there will not be a Visitation Service so Revd Sam Hustwayte will swear them in to office at St Wilfrid's Church Calverton in November 2020.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.

ST WILFRID'S CHURCH CALVERTON ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING Sunday 27th September 2020 at 6.10 p.m.

In Attendance: Revd Sam Hustwayte; Churchwardens: Allan Ball and Paul Morris; Secretary: Jackie Davies; Treasurer: Anne Wade; Kathy Ball; Matthew Hustwayte

Via Zoom Link: Margaret Bayes, Raymond Braddow, Valerie Braddow, Peter Cansfield, Rachel Cansfield, Kirsty Croft, Boyd Elliott, Kerry Elliott, Chris Hirst, Jim Johnson, Ashley Medley, Elaine Medley and Audrey Stocks

Revd Sam Hustwayte welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from: John Bayes, Carole Parke, Revd Michael Taylor and Mrs Valerie Taylor

Minutes of APCM held on 28th April 2019 were unanimously accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Electoral Roll stands at 146 as reported in the APCM 2019 booklet.

Financial Report and Update

The Church Accounts Year ending 2019 had been accepted by the PCC and presented in the APCM booklet. There were no questions from the floor and so were unanimously accepted.

Thanks were relayed to our Treasurer, Anne Wade, for her hard work throughout the year.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Anne Wade proposed we continue to invite Tom Sydney to be our Independent Examiner – unanimously agreed.

PCC Report as presented in the APCM booklet was received and unanimously accepted. There were no further questions.

Election of PCC Members

There are 7 vacancies on PCC and 7 nominations had been received:

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Kerry Elliott	Paul Morris	Jackie Davies
Christ Hirst	Ashley Medley	Rachel Cansfield
Paul Jackson	Kathy Ball	Allan Ball
Ashley Medley	Allan Ball	Kathy Ball
Elaine Medley	Allan Ball	Kathy Ball
Richard Mayne	Allan Ball	Kathy Ball
Laure Wilcock	Rachel Cansfield	Peter Cansfield

The meeting unanimously agreed these posts should be filled and those nominated duly elected to the PCC. There are 3 x 3-year terms, 3 x 2-year terms and 1 x 1-year term to fill. These would be agreed at the first PCC Meeting in October.

Those elected were welcomed and thanked for their willingness to stand.

Revd Sam thanked the outgoing PCC members, some of whom are leaving the parish.

Deanery Synod Report as presented in the APCM booklet was received and unanimously accepted. There were no further questions.

Election of Deanery Synod Members

This is a three-year term and outgoing members, Jackie Davies, Paul Howard and Paul Morris were thanked for representing St Wilfrid's at Deanery Synod.

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Boyd Elliott	Kathy Ball	Allan Ball
Paul Morris	Rachel Cansfield	Peter Cansfield
Audrey Stocks	Ashley Medley	Rachel Cansfield

The meeting unanimously accepted those proposed should be our representatives at Deanery Synod and were thanked for standing.

Appointment of Sidespeople was deferred to the first PCC meeting.

Vicar's Report

The meeting had received Sam's printed report.

Sam went on to say that we had so much to celebrate in 2019 – we were able to give to our chosen charities – give all the children in Year 6 a Bible – picnic in the park – Living with Loss Café. The pandemic had forced us to pause and, in pausing, reflect. To reflect on new things and relationships beyond our walls – we have been able to bless people with our love.

We cannot look forward with certainty as we don't know what will happen, but we can remind ourselves of who we are – we are the people of a God of hope and we trust God to get us through this.

Church Reports

Church Reports had been received in the APCM booklet. Sam thanked those who had provided these reports and for everyone in Church who play their part in so many ways and who support her.

The APCM closed at 6.25 p.m.

Electoral roll and Occasional offices

Funerals 35

Baptisms 2

Weddings 1

Renewal of wedding vows 1

Electoral roll 171

Church accounts Year ending 2020

Note to accounts

At the end of 2019, £10,044 was carried forward into 2020. However, the majority of this carry forward was designated for specific purposes or it was needed to cover the cost of known liabilities.

2020 brought many challenges for the church not only for mission and ministry but also financially. There were also opportunities and the generosity of many helped us through the difficult year.

At the end of 2020 the headline carry forward of £13,108 suggests that 2020 was a successful year financially and the church has a healthy surplus.

Because 2020 was an unprecedented year most of the carry is again designated for specific purposes or is required to cover the cost of known liabilities.

In laymans terms.....

It has cost approximately, £23,000 to maintain and run St Wilfrid's, we spent £49,000 on mission and ministry (including a parish share of £46,020) and gave away £1,000 (not including the donations towards Covid support which amounted to over £10,000) and invested £2,000 in our future.

We have been given £5,500 in grants for mission and ministry, received £3,000 from fundraising, £3,600 from occasional office fees and £11,000 in recoverable tax from gift aid. The rest comes from your regular giving and donations towards our activities, thank you.

Across the diocese the total cost of having a full time priest is £74,000

Our budget for 2021 is £7,000 in deficit, this has been agreed by PCC with due caution as we are currently unaware of how 2021 will bear out with regard to covid restrictions.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WILFRID, CALVERTON

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Gift Aid donations & pledges	45025	47116
Tax recoverable	10797	11826
Open plate	1762	4043
Donations	12000	7760
Grants	5553	2112
Charity collection	502	1102
Rent deposit	75	150
Bank interest	610	623
Legacy		40181
Church events	278	5218
Fees	3676	4899
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>80278</u>	<u>125030</u>
PAYMENTS		
Parish share	46020	44328
Donations	940	7834
Ministry expenses	3270	1949
Church expenses	22961	17473
Clergy expenses	449	586
Stationery & computer	2669	496
Independent examination	295	285
Church events		1088
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>76604</u>	<u>74039</u>
NET RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	<u>3674</u>	<u>50991</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WILFRID, CALVERTON

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Cash Funds	General Fund	Special Funds (note 1)	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
Bank and cash	15634	50093	65727	62053
	<u>15634</u>	<u>50093</u>	<u>65727</u>	<u>62053</u>
 Investment assets			2020	2019
			£	£
CBF Deposit account balances				
Chancel			3226	3969
Building fund			46867	48041
 CBF Share account at cost				
Chancel			475	475
Fabric			-	-
Fabric sustentaion			-	-
 Liabilities and accrued income			4368	1269
 Other Assets (not valued in this statement)				
 Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust				
Organ				
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment				

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST WILFRID, CALVERTON

**NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF RESTRICTED FUNDS
AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	At 1 January	Receipts	Payments	At 31 December
	£	£	£	£
Chancel	3969	407	1150	3226
Building fund	48041	1442	2616	46867
	<u>52010</u>	<u>1849</u>	<u>3766</u>	<u>50093</u>

NOTE 2 BELL FUND

(This has not been included in the figures on page 1)

At 1 January 2020	2498
Donations	
Payments	75
At 31 December 2020	<u>2423</u>

NOTE 3 These accounts of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006

NOTE 4 No payments were made to PCC members in connection with

Signed on behalf of the PCC

Church reports

Office holders

Vicar

Oh my goodness – I am so proud of all of you and the way in which, together, we have followed, cared and grown in this past year...

When, in prayerful consideration, we used the passage in Isaiah 43 where God speaks of doing a new thing, little did we know the reality of what that passage might mean for us in the face of a global pandemic. Yet as we faced the desolation of all that we knew each day God's presence, peace and hope has been prevalent, as He equipped each and every one of us for such a time as this.

Below are some wonderful accounts of what has been happening which I don't need to duplicate, but perhaps I can just highlight a few things that for me have spoken of our mission and values as a church in 2020...

- The baptism and renewal of vows service at the beginning of March
- Creating a document for a 5 year vision and strategy and a mission statement that speaks of our purpose as the body of Christ in Calverton
- Sending out gifts for festivals
- The nativity service
- The sheer determination and resilience we have all shown
- Your generosity
- The engagement with the community beyond the walls and confines of the church building
- The angel bomb
- Gifts and skills developed and discovered
- Bronze Eco church award
- Paying our full parish share
- The photos of joy and hope
- The commitment to enabling all those who are part of our church community to continue to be part whether online or on paper

This year has been a transformational year! And so as we go into 2021 in anticipation of what is to come, an acknowledgement of the need to rebuild and enjoy being together once again (when the times comes that we will be enabled to do that) and the need for resilience to keep on going until that time comes.

“They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.....”

Deanery Synod report

Deanery Synod as with everything else has had an odd year. We have had a new Area Dean appointed (Rev John Allister), a new standing committee and a new synod as the triennium came to an end. As a deanery we have had discussions around parish share and agreed that Clergy chapter will have input into the discussion moving forward as to allocation of share amounts.

We have also shared stories of survival during covid and have begun to consider the formal purpose of Synod.

We thank those members of synod who stood down from office: Jackie Davies and Paul Howard and welcome Audrey Stocks, Boyd Elliott and Paul Morris into office.

PCC Secretary's Report

This last year has been difficult for everyone but the PCC has aimed to support Revd Sam Hustwayte and the Ministry Team in enabling the church of St Wilfrid's Calverton to be a place of support and hope within the community.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is usually held in April but, because of the pandemic and lockdown, this was delayed until 27th September 2020. Therefore the 2019/20 PCC members continued to operate until this time.

The Standing Committee comprises the Incumbent, Churchwardens, PCC Treasurer and PCC Secretary. This committee has the power to transact the business of the council between their meetings, subject to any directions given by the council. Up until the 2020 APCM the Standing Committee met on 20th April, 18th May, 6th July and 21st September 2020. The 2019/20 PCC also met on 15th June and 17th August 2020.

The Meeting of Parishioners and APCM both took place via Zoom on 27th September 2020 in accordance with Covid guidelines. The minutes of both are printed in the APCM booklet. Audrey Stocks and Paul Morris had been nominated to take up the roles of Churchwardens. As there were no other nominations, they were both welcomed into these roles. Allan Ball, retiring Churchwarden, was moving out of the parish and Revd Sam Hustwayte thanked him for the huge support he had given to her. Also, thanks to Kathy his wife, who had served on the PCC. Allan was presented with a framed picture of St Wilfrid's Church. The APCM followed. There were seven vacancies to PCC and 7 nominations had been received. The following were duly elected: Kerry Elliott, Chris Hirst, Paul Jackson, Ashley Medley, Elaine Medley, Richard Mayne and Laura Wilcock.

The new PCC has met on 12th October and 14th December 2020 and on 22nd February and 19th April 2021, with the Standing Committee has met on 16th November 2020 and 18th January and 15th March 2021.

The priority of the PCC is not only to support the practicalities of maintaining the fabric of St Wilfrid's Church and good stewardship, but also to support our incumbent and lay ministers as they live out the mission of our Church. In addition to the Standing Committee there are 3 other subgroups of PCC, namely Fabric, Finance and Strategy, the membership of these groups is made up of PCC members and other co-opted church members. From the PCC, a huge thank you to the generosity and support of all our parishioners.

Safeguarding Report

This has been a tricky year for safeguarding as we support the vulnerable in the community and make changes within our church community to sure up our safeguarding practices and policies.. Over the course of the year the Church Of England issued a report regarding the safeguarding inquiry and have also commissioned an independent inquiry that each diocese is responsible for providing information for (Known as PCR2). There have been four instances that have needed recording and reporting. We have also established a new safeguarding team for church, with Richard Mayne taking on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer. We thank Esther and Tracey and Jill for their work as they finish in their roles.

Church Wardens report (Finance and Fabric)

Finance

It is always important to start by expressing a huge thank you to Anne Wade our Treasurer and Lin Lewis our Planned Giving Secretary who both freely give of their time and without whom the finance of this church would not function. This year we also need to record our thanks to Ray Braddow, Carole Park and Peter Tatham who after many years of service stood down from the F&F subcommittee.

2020 brought many challenges for the church not only for mission and ministry but also financially. There were also opportunities and the generosity of many helped us through the difficult year.

Once again thank you to all our regular givers. Nearly 70% of our income came from regular giving and the associated tax refund from HMRC.

There were also over £8000 of donations and Sam successfully applied for over £5000 of grants.

Unfortunately, we were not able to organise the regular fundraising events. However, Ash Medley organised two very successful 'St. Wilfrid's chocolate bar' events which raised our spirits as well over £2500 for church funds.

At the end of 2020, the headline figures suggest that 2020 was a successful year financially and the church has a healthy surplus. Over £10,000 of this surplus is either already allocated for projects that couldn't be completed in 2020, are deposits we hold for weddings or events or has been reserved to cover known liabilities such as repairs & utility costs.

2021 will be a challenging year financially. Two key points that we are already aware of are;

- A 9.7% increase in parish share has been agreed which is equivalent to an increased cost of £4,484
- Due to changes of circumstance for regular givers, annualised regular giving and the associated Gift Aid will be down by £7,343. This is equivalent to a loss of 13% of our regular giving and associated Gift Aid in 2020

This combination means that any surplus we carry into 2021 is likely to be needed to cover regular expenditure whilst the church building remains closed.

Fabric

Having taken over from Allan Ball who has generously given me all the information I need and more I would like to thank the Fabric Committee members and others who have spent their time working in and around the church for their hard work and ingenuity during the last year. The Pandemic has stretched us in many different ways, I'm afraid chairing Zoom meetings is a new skill I have yet to master.

This year the projects completed have been the church lighting upgrade, the sheet on the church roof replaced, and the tower cross with lighting upgrade. The alarm system has been upgraded..... volunteers for the call out are always welcome.

A faculty for a new audio visual system including 3 TV screens has been opened and English Heritage is being consulted. A faculty for a new West Door has been submitted.

The planned maintenance continues weekly, there seems to have been a lot of leaves to clear this year and the new heating thermostat is working.

With God's will and the completion of the vaccination programme this coming year should be more settled to enable us to develop in an ordinary way.

Audrey Stocks and Paul Morris

Church life

Mission and Ministry

Devoted Learning

At the beginning of this year, we surveyed church members about how we were doing in relation to the six areas of our vision statement. We had nearly 100 responses. Encouragingly, there was a strong expressed desire (82%) to learn more about the Christian faith and the Bible. However, of those who responded, only 57%, (representing a much smaller fraction of our membership) had engaged in GIF Groups (Growing in Faith home groups) or other church-affiliated courses. Typical barriers included time and circumstances. These results seemed to support our strategy of incorporating teaching series through the year in both our Sunday Worship and GIF material to give as many people as possible chance to learn together, but with scope for looking at other possible opportunities.

This year, however, our GIF home groups and meetings have been significantly affected by the Covid pandemic. Most have continued in various forms at different stages of lockdown either on-line or in socially distanced formats. Whilst meeting up has proved difficult, the groups have formed a valuable network for mutual support. The necessary adoption of new technologies has opened up new opportunities for some, taking up on-line courses or replaying the Sunday service at a more convenient time. But many have felt the loss of face-to-face meeting.

During the year we completed two **teaching series**: *Good News, People!* looking at how, in living the good news, we can be good news for others; and during Lent, a series on *Living in faith*. Michael Taylor has also run a course for those wishing to know more about the Bible and six people have taken up the (Diocesan) **Real Life** Course. We continued with our Explored evenings on a Monday and used **The Bible Course**, this was attended by around 20 people.

We started the year using Nooma DVD's with **G1** at the vicarage, where we were able to have fun, deep discussion and pray for one another. We have managed an occasional get together as restrictions allowed, including a fun Christmas evening when we were able to record the music for the online nativity service. We said a sad farewell to Tracye and Jonathan in October and welcomed Chris and Ashley onto the team.

Adventurers, Climbers and Explorers, in normal times, runs during the 10.30am service on Sundays during term time, except first Sunday of the month and fifth Sunday of the month (if there is one).

We did run a few, socially distanced, children's sessions in November and December 2020 in Church during the 10.30am Sunday service which were by invite only so that numbers could be monitored. These sessions were attended by some Climbers and Explorers, but they were also opened up to Adventurers (pre-school aged children). Parents and carers were also in attendance.

Enthusiastic Witness

St Wilfrid's CE Primary School Throughout the year there have been comings and goings, with some pupils leaving in the summer and new Reception year starting in September. Some of the teaching staff have changed roles and a new member of staff was appointed, along with Ian Bullock's announcement that he will be retiring at the end of the academic year 20/21 and Chris Hirst's retirement at the end of 2020. The school has remained open to children throughout the year. During the mandated closures, attendance by 'key worker' and vulnerable children averaged at 109. Parents evening were conducted virtually along with governors meetings and trips and visitors were unfortunately cancelled, with assemblies and other services being recorded and sent out on a regular basis. Thank you to our governors, especially those foundation governors who serve the school on behalf of the church. Gemma Berry and Margaret Bayes.

We continue to have links with all the **schools** in the village, this year has seen the beginning of new ways of enabling groups of children along to take part, with recorded assemblies, services and lessons. We managed to hold visits in church for all of year 7 in November as restrictions allowed. We have also been supporting the schools with regular food donations for families who are struggling financially during this time and a gift of laptops for home learning.

We are a growing church and have welcomed more **families** over the last year. **Little Wilf's** runs every Tuesday 9:15-10:45 in term time from birth to school age. It is well attended as we welcome around 60 each week. They enjoy songs, a Christian story, snacks and play. Messy Church continues to run on the 2nd Saturday of every month 4-6pm. Moving it to a Saturday has enabled more whole families to attend. All of this is not possible without the help and support of volunteers for drinks, crafts, food and their time. Thank you to those that already help in any aspect of our family ministry and we welcome any new volunteers in the coming year.

From March 2020 to present we have continued **Messy Church** through the various lockdown measures with 'Messy Church at Home'. This has involved coming up with ideas that the children can manage in their own home environment. We have supplied crafts and colouring in bags which have been put together and left outside the vicarage door for families to collect during their daily exercise. There has been a great uptake to these and at present we are making enough bags for 60 children each month. Sam has been telling the story and singing songs over Facebook Live, continuing on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 4pm. We did have a short period of time when we were able to socially distance sat at tables in church, however this limited the numbers. We also had a few months during the summer when we were able to sit outside in the vicarage garden in socially distanced household bubbles. This was lovely to actually be able to see our Messy Church family and have our individual picnics! We look forward to when we can see everyone again in person. Little Wilf's has also continued with an online version each Tuesday morning

Extravagant generosity

Through your generosity in time and finance we have been able to pay our bills and continue our ministry and mission (in different ways than had been planned) and be able to plan for 2021 as we continue in this time of uncertainty.

Despite the events of 2020 we have been able to support local **charities** in different ways, foodbank and framework for example have benefited from our giving both financially and in food and other items. At the end of the year we were able to give a small gift to Bangalore and Burundi to support their ministry. Whilst we haven't had opportunity to hold collections for other charities over the course of the year, your generosity in giving to the community in time and money has been something we give thanks for. Over the course of the year we have supported over 200 people in **Calverton** with regular gifts of food, delivered 100's of prescriptions and supported those struggling emotionally, giving them all courage to get through.

VOW was going great guns we had picked up awareness group as well as Monday lunch, men in sheds, Wednesday bus trip, Thursday afternoon tea, Friday trips out for Calverton. Then coffee mornings in Sutton in Ashfield and Mansfield plus trips out, lunches and picture morning.

Then Covid happened. We shut everything down to protect our members and ourselves.

In August we started men in sheds on the allotment at Carlton but had to stop just before Christmas. We are still in touch with everybody and Richard rings around every week we have sent out letters and quizzes. We wish to thank Tony Burroughs for his many years of service as Chairman of our board and thank Sam (the vicar) for stepping into his shoes. Tony has decided that his health and mobility are such that he had to stop.

The Jane Pepper Trust have had a quiet year and due to the pandemic, effecting investments, we have a reduced income. We have made a few donations to people in need in the village and have fed children during school holidays in a covid safe way. We are very sad to report Dave Musson death this year he and hard work is missed on our board of trustees.

Compassionate fellowship

We have strived to continue in **fellowship** throughout this difficult year, through conversations, letters, phone calls, emails, quiz nights and gifts, becoming creative in the way we create and continue **community** as we recognise the importance of this for us as a church family.

The pandemic has had halted most of our **face-to-face support** for the bereaved, sick and lonely since March 2020. Many have found this past year hard, as they cannot see their family and friends, some have expressed the view that 'life was not worth living.'

Families coping with bereavement have been unable to meet and comfort each other, or to say a 'proper Goodbye' at the restricted funeral. Many have been unable to find any kind of 'closure'. Those leading funerals have been unable to meet families face to face, which has made the offering of comfort and support very difficult.

In 'normal' years, support to the bereaved, lonely and elderly is offered through home visits / communion, but also through groups, such as 'Afternoon Tea', 'Living with Loss Café', social events, and outings through 'V.O.W' and their minibus. During the pandemic, this face-to-face care has mostly been paused, but God has shown St Wilfrid's new ways to help people through both the practical difficulties of lockdowns, and for those who are shielding.

Many church members have been part of this support network for a year now - fetching shopping, delivering prescriptions from Boots, taking people to medical appointments, delivering Sam's newsletters and her 'surprise gifts', and making regular phone calls to the isolated and sick.

Although most people are longing for the opportunity to socialise, some are anxious about going out and meeting people again, despite their loneliness. As we look forward to limitations being lifted, we pray for God's guidance in reviewing how our Pastoral Team can best support people to safely re-build a social life and friendships in the coming year.

The **Christians Together in Calverton** have worked together on a couple of events throughout the year, namely Lent lunches (as we were able) and an Advent prayer time. We have welcomed Father Simon and Rev Yanyan Case and said goodbye to Rev Mike Arnold.

Dynamic Prayer

As we reflect on a year which has been like no other, I am reminded how important and central prayer has been for us all as we have cried out to the Lord lamenting for ourselves, community, nation and world. How the prayer and action of church has supported and comforted us and how we have been encouraged to seek strength and hope through **prayers of thanksgiving** and praise during Lent.

Where we have been unable to pray face to face, **prayer ministry** has been offered over the phone. The confidential prayer chain continues to minister to those in need and is greatly valued. We have had opportunities to pray corporately via video technology in Facebook live services, as house groups and **Growing in Faith Together evenings**. We have been encouraged in prayer as families and individuals through the themed gifts popped through our letterboxes.

Transformative Worship

This year has seen the development of our worship in more ways than one. Many new people have joined the team (from those offering a reading or response to those taking responsibility of leading an act of worship) and we thank everyone for their ministry in leading the **church worship**, whether that is sung or said, from those who have a licensed ministry to those who are part of the team on an occasional basis thank you.

Our services have seen a change in pattern as we have moved online and developed the ability to produce good quality worship from our own homes that have enabled not only the church community but also the wider community in Calverton and the world to be part of our worship. We have overcome the fear of the screen as we have grown in and learnt new ways to worship as a church family.

Through our the year we have enabled worship at home, whether that is joining with one of the local services online our a more national service on Television or radio. We have also been encouraging families to worship through Messy Church activity bags the gifts that have gone out throughout the year, challenges to praise, and focal points outside the church building or Vicarage front garden at Easter and Christmas. It has been a year of developing our understanding of worship as being 'beyond what happens in church on a Sunday' into our everyday lives, the way we care, the way we act, the words we use in our everyday lives are even more understood to be an act of worship as we have discovered a deeper dependence on God.

Generous God,

May your Spirit continue to transform our lives and this church.

Holy Spirit would you

Guide us as we strive together to follow Jesus

**Help us as we strive together to care for one another, our community
and the world**

Teach us as we strive together to grow in our faith

In Jesus' name we pray

Amen