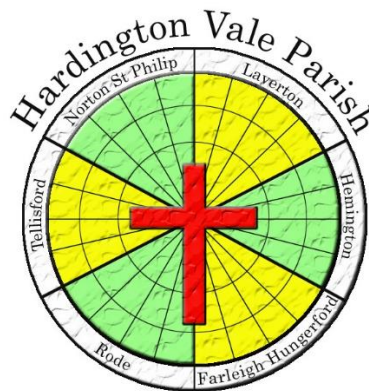


Spring 2019



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To follow under separate cover - Annual Report & Accounts

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

2018 saw comings and goings in the parish. A significant number of people who have moved into some of the new housing in our villages have also come to share with us in our church services bringing with them their talents and a wonderful sense of anticipation and energy for the way forward. Sadly, there have been goodbyes too. Not least of which has been Faith Butt moving closer to her son and his family to support them in his ongoing rehabilitation and also the departure of Andy and Ali Bowerman to serve as Missionaries with the Mission to Seafarers. Happily, we will continue our links with both, through correspondence and also with Andy and Ali being our link International Missionaries as we as a parish support the global work of Mission to Seafarers. We have a great deal to be thankful for in all that these folk have shared with us across the parish in the years that they have been with us.

Highlights for the year from my perspective include...

- LICC - Whole life Disciple Course
- HOPE - 40 stories of how faith transformed the lives of prisoners
- Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Initiative - Ecumenical
- Laughing Jesus Exhibition
- Oddments Theatre and 'The Hiding Place.'
- Visit by Stefan Buczacki 'Churchyards, Churchill and Chat.'

Prayer: This year we held 24 hours of prayer in the chapel at Rode during the 'Thy Kingdom Come,' prayer initiative. It is a privilege and joy to work with other Christians in our villages and this proved a huge success, so much so that we shall be repeating it again this year.

Leadership Team: The leadership team comprises the four parish wardens and we have continued to meet and pray together to discern the way forward for the parish. This has resulted in us as a parish embracing the Partnership in Missional Church (PMC) initiative that the Diocese offered to parishes. We are one of seven parishes to have embarked on this process which is a three year process. Year I, which we are now in is a year of listening. Listening to God, listening to one another and listening to our communities. To lead us forward in this, two teams have been appointed - A Steering Team and a Listening Team.

These teams are :

Steering Team

Susie Filkins
Barbara Day
Andrew Morrison
John Flindall
David Lockley
Fergus Stewart
Heidi Blanchett
Chris Todd

Listening Team

Rachel Feilden
John Kendall
Robin Campbell
Peter Yarker
Peter Stratford
Ros Lockley
Sally Pickett

with Susie Filkins heading up the Steering Team and Rachel Feilden heading up the Listening Team. Please pray for them as they lead us forward in this process.

Children and Family Worker: Sue Rodford has been working with us for nearly two years now. Links with the school are good and the connection from the Tot's coffee-drop in, through pre-school and school is developing well. The result was a good mixed range of children, parents, grandparents and carers flocking to the Crib services to see the Posada return ready for our Christmas Day celebrations.

Staycation: In October we welcomed Rob and Anna Richards back to lead our Staycation weekend. Teaching in the Chapel at Rode on the Saturday about being the Body of Christ and recognising the different gifts that we all have, was well received. The Barn Dance at Whatcombe Farm on the Saturday evening was cross generational fun and wonderfully hosted by Caroline Whitehead. Then the Sunday morning Celebration shared with the whole parish the 'treasures' of what we had learnt and felt God is calling us into. A good celebration and foundation to go forward from, into the challenges of 2019.

Service pattern: We have continued to alternate Holy Communion and the Informal Worship between Norton and Rode. The Informal service at Norton is growing as a place to be more creative and to enjoy being together. Breakfast church is popular in both villages across the age ranges with good and engaging discussions helping us to explore relating our faith to everyday issues more. It is also exciting that new people are getting involved in helping to lead worship and discussions. There is truly a growing understanding of working together to see the Kingdom of God flourish in our communities for which we are very thankful to all who make this possible.

PCC Away Day: This was held at Brewery House and the PCC started to practice Dwelling in the Word, one of the PMC six spiritual disciplines. A robust discussion was held reflecting on the year listening to the positives that have been good and those things that others have found challenging. As a group of people leading the spiritual direction of the church family we are growing in our trust of one another and willingness to share and be vulnerable. In all, a strong, prayerful team is developing that can together take the parish forward.

'After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of Him in pairs to every town and place where He Himself intended to go.' Luke 10 v 1

Caroline
Rector

Electoral Roll Report

At the time of the last APCM in April 2018 there were 227 on the roll.

Additions – Helen Diggle, Nicholas Diggle, Brenda Graham, Anne Harkness, Fergus Stewart, Rachel Stewart and Peter Stratford

Deletions – Alison Blofeld, Colin Frayling, Steven Greenwood, David Hamp

The total on the roll now stands at 230.

Pat Banwell, Electoral Roll Officer

PCC Report

The annual report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31 December 2018.

Administrative information:

- The Parish of Hardington Vale in the Diocese of Bath & Wells includes the Churches of St Leonard (Farleigh Hungerford); St Mary the Virgin (Hemington); the Blessed Virgin Mary (Laverton); St Philip & St James (Norton St Philip); St Lawrence (Rode); and All Saints (Tellisford).
- 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)
Associate Priest	Revd. Andrew Bowerman	(until Sept 2018)

Reader	Barbara Day		
Secretary	Tony Day		
Parish Wardens	Geoff Banwell	(Rode)	(Chair Finance Committee)
	Christopher Todd	(Norton St Philip)	
	Faith Butt	(Norton St Philip)	
	John Flindall ²	(Rode)	
	Peter Simper	(Hemington)	
Chapel Wardens	John Davidson	(Farleigh Hungerford)	(until January 2019)
	Rachel Fielden 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		
Elected Members	Sue Beavan	Heidi Blanchett	Chris Blanchett
	Jo Ellis	Andy Filkins	Susie Filkins
	Brenda Graham ¹	David Lockley	Stephanie Fabre

1. (until June 2018) 2. Deanery Synod representative

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 2018/19 the PCC met on six occasions. Average attendance was 20 of a possible 27 with a minimum of 16. At each meeting the PCC received written report from Rector and from the Children's and family worker. Their content is summarised in their annual reports.

The meeting in **April 30 in Rode Memorial Hall** 20 of a possible 27 attended and new members were welcomed. Faith Butt report on delays to proposed purchase of furniture at NSP and on delays in the transfer of St Mary's Hemington to Churches Conservation Trust. Mary Morrison was appointed as Safeguarding Officer. Members of the PCC were asked to complete the C0 Safeguarding awareness course online. Sharman Flindall agreed to serve as Health & Safety Officer. The PCC agreed to allow the steering committee to handle most building issues, leaving time for the PCC to consider more strategic issues relating to mission, growth and the spiritual life of the church.

The requirements of the **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)** were considered. Water damage to the organ at Hemington was reported to the PCC.

At its meeting on 14th June held Norton St Philip School and following his appointment to a position with the Missions to Seamen, Andy Bowerman spoke of the opportunities for the parish. The PCC received a Report from Mary Morrison safeguarding Officer. Mary now has a DBS certificate from the Diocese. A comprehensive list of all office holders and people involved in all activities across the parish has been drawn up and people will then be helped to understand what further training they need to do.

The Rector brought the meetings attention to HOPE Frome. In particular the HOPE Van and “Street Pastor” like initiative in Frome. Hope was behind the “Jesus Laughing & Loving” exhibition displayed in NSP church. Positive feedback was received on the latest session of the LICC event in Twerton.

Geoff Banwell gave a brief financial update based on figures from the treasurer. They believe we are still on course for a small surplus this year although this will NOT clear the existing deficit on the general account. Bob Hill reported that the necessary PAT Portable Applicate Testing has been completed for all six churches.

The **meeting held on 17th September** discussed Partnership in Missional Church PMC and watched three videos expanding the concept. Given Andy Bowerman’s connection with Mission to the Seafarers the PCC adopted the mission as our overseas charity and Andy and Ali as our missionary link. The Rector proposed a vote of thanks to Andrew Bowerman for his support of and work in the parish. Andy reflected that since his arrival

We were more RELAXED and therefore more engaged. We had REFOCUSED and were more intentional.

We were READY to be more missionary nimble and to join God in what he is doing here in Hardington Vale.

The PCC discussed the progress of the LICC training sessions in Bath and proposals for a “Staycation” on the weekend of October 20 -21 (A Parish Weekend at home).

The PCC noted that a Parish Weekend AWAY has been booked for 27-29th September 2019 at Sidholme

The meeting considered the latest revision of a proposed vision document and agreed that the document needs graphics and images to make it more appealing.

The Service Pattern to December was agreed. Geoff Banwell (Chair of Finance Committee) presented the half years accounts to June 30th 2018 and his report.

Peter Simper and Chris Todd reported that considerable damage has been caused to Hemington Church following a break in. Thanks were expressed to Chris and Sarah Todd for tackling the initial clear up and to Peter Simper for securing the South door with John Simms, and his ongoing attention to this matter. It was agreed that permission be sought to formally close the church temporarily for up to six month or until is it safe once again.

The PCC heard a report on vehicle damage to the wall approx. 5 metres to the west of the entranceway to St Lawrence Rode and the arrangements to have repairs carried and paid for by the driver’s insurer.

An Away Day was held on Saturday 3rd November 2018 at Brewery Barn NSP. The Rector gave an update on the Partners in Missional Church process. We are one of seven parishes in B&W who have signed up for the partnership.

The Rector reported that whilst there were rumours about the Rode HFD post ending, she and Chris Todd had met with the Bishop and there is a large amount of consensus on using the house for the base for a new Rural Pioneer post.

Positive comments were made about the Saturday Staycation session. There was a range of comment around the style of worship at the Sunday service.

On 29th November Susie Filkins gave a detailed update on Partners in Missional Church (PMC) and the Rector gave an update on House for Duty Rural Pioneer Post.

She also drew attention to work in the school and in particular to a meeting with the Head Teacher, Head of RE, Sue Rodford and Pauline Dodds (Diocesan Schools Adviser) There was evident trust and delight in the contribution Sue is making to the school.

The PCC agreed the Service Pattern from after Christmas until Easter.

The meeting agreed to the appointment of Mary Morrison, Susan Hill, Rosamund Lockley, Paul Shepherd and Viv Bolton as Pastoral Assistants following teaching last year.

Geoff Banwell reported on the latest financial position.

Peter Simper submitted a written report on the progress of St Mary’s Hemington repairs.

The PCC was advised that on 14th November the Closed Churches Committee of the Church Commissioners approved the closure of St Mary's Hemington. The building will be vested in the Churches Conservation Trust.

Attention was drawn to the need for churchwardens to sign the front page of their Health & Safety manual and that a fire drill needs to be carried out, and recorded, in each church at an appropriate time.

The final meeting on 4th March 2018 in Rode "Dwelt in the Word" using Luke 10 v 1-12.

The meeting noted with regret that Faith Butt had written regarding her decision not to stand again as Parish Warden due to her family circumstances and recent move. The PCC recognised the huge contribution Faith has made to the life of the parish and expressed its gratitude. The PCC also noted that John Davidson had resigned as chapel warden for Farleigh Hungerford due to family business commitments.

Susie Filkins presented her written report on **PMC**

And announced a timeline event will be held on Sunday May 26 at Norton St Philip

The rector reported some progress on the **House for Duty Rural Pioneer Post** and that she and the rural Dean had met with the archdeacon again on Feb 14th

The PCC noted that Robin Hungerford has Permission to Officiate (PTO) - in Bath and Wells

PCC was asked to support renewal of Barbara Day's licence as Reader and the appointment of Michael Harrison as Reader in Hardington Vale.

The PCC was asked to support an eight week course of lay worship leader training for Rachel Stewart and Michael Walker

The schedule for Easter services and schedule of service from May to August was agreed

It was agreed to refer the allocation of service between Rode and Norton St Philip to Leadership Team to review the balance and seek a sensible and sustainable way forward.

The PCC noted with sadness passing of **David Hamp** and expressed gratitude for his many contributions to our worship and how he had given great support not just to NSP but to all the other churches.

The PCC agreed to appoint Ros Clarke as Electoral Roll officer and to undertake a completely new role as required.

Geoff Banwell presented his report on the annual Report and Accounts for 2019 both of which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The PCC accepted and approved the annual accounts.

The PCC adopted a recommendation of the finance committee that the parish should remain in socio economic category C for 2019.

The PCC agreed that events **such as Parish Weekends** should generally be self-financing.

Expenditure on accommodation, travel and expenses of any visiting speaker and materials purchased for the event, should be budgeted and added as a surcharge to the basic adult charge made for the weekend.

Where the parish wishes to assist someone financially to attend an event, the PCC agreed there should either be provision made by adding sufficient money to each person attending, or by concerned individuals being approached to make a donation to a temporary bursary fund for the event.

The PCC agreed an annual discretionary budget of up to £250 for the Rector to purchase suitable promotional materials.

The PCC noted contents of letter from Peter Evans Diocese Secretary dated 29 January regarding St Mary's Hemington. Specifically; the summary of the main proposals regarding closure for regular public worship. The PCC agreed with the closure as set out in the letter. John Flindall reported on work being done as a result of the last quinquennial inspections and when the next inspections are due for each church.

Church Wardens' Reports

St. Leonard's Church, Farleigh Hungerford

Summary

The new service pattern of alternated monthly Holy Communion and Morning Worship has been well attended over the year. Services have continued to be carried out in the main body of the church while funds are raised to for the chancel monuments restoration. A further grant from The William & Jane Morris Fund of £3000 was received in the year, towards the monument restoration.



Work carried out in the period

19-Jan-18	Rebuild churchyard rear boundary wall List B matter (reference 2017-016160)	£1550	Repair
16-Mar-18	Boiler service and new oil pump	£145	Annual & Repair
16-Jun-18	Fire Extinguisher test	£36.00	Annual
8-Aug-18	Gravel to re-gravel paths	£325.94	Repair
31-Oct-18	Organ tune	£70.83	Annual

Once again the Chapel Warden would like to express his gratitude to Robin and Deborah Allen, Lin and Rex Eastment and Mike Smith for their generosity in time, money and effort in maintaining the Church and churchyard. Thanks is also extended to Deborah Allen, Dilys McKechnie and Vicky Bunn for doing the church flowers throughout the year.

John Davidson, Chapel Warden

St Mary the Virgin, Hemington

This is the Report I never thought I would have to write; the last Churchwarden's Report for St. Mary, Hemington. There has been a Christian church in Hemington since Saxon times, 1300 years ago. There is a fragment of Saxon carving in the nave and the chancel arch is Norman from about 1100. The church has pews for 140. When I first became Churchwarden in 2000 the regular congregation for Communion or Matins was 26. Since then it had shrunk to only three who attended regularly. This was plainly unsustainable so the PCC took the painful decision to ask that the church be declared closed for regular worship. It was hoped that the future of the building would be assured by offering it to the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT, a Church of England charity). Thus much of 2018 was taken up with discussions with CCT who commissioned detailed surveys of every element of the church; exterior, interior and contents. A beneficial side effect of this is that we were spared the cost of the Quinquennial Inspection which was due. Our Inspecting Architect (acting for CCT) prepared a worst-case estimate of the cost of maintaining the building for the next thirty years — including £140K to re-lead the roof. This was accepted by CCT and late in the year we were advised that we were one of only two churches they accepted in 2018.



2018 was traumatic in other respects. As a result of the 'Beast From The East' In late February- early March, melting snow got inside the wall above the organ and partially filled the sound box of the twelve large Bourdon pipes at the back of the instrument. By God's grace it failed to get further in on to the bellows. If it had, the repair bill would have been £40K. We made a claim to Ecclesiastical Insurance who could not have been more helpful. The Organ Adviser to the Diocese visited on a number of occasions and the organ builder instructed to carry out the repair went way beyond that which was necessary, restoring and

repainting all the Bourdon pipes in the process. Our organ is now in as good a condition as when it was renovated in 1996. It is 150 years old this year. The bill was just over £2.3 K and the £500 excess was covered by a generous donation. On the night of August Bank Holiday Sunday we were broken into with considerable force by professional thieves who were seeking the copper piping from the heating system. In the process of cutting out the pipes from the system, they released all the oxide-laden water from the pipes, radiators and header tank which ruined the carpets. They also broke the door of the wall safe and damaged the sound system. They stole the amplifier and hearing loop driver and broke into the equipment shed stealing the strimmer, blower and ride-on mower batteries. Thus, another insurance claim with all concerned being totally helpful. After discussion with CCT it was decided not to replace the carpets so as to reveal the floor monuments which lay beneath them. Everything else was repaired or replaced on a new for old basis which means that the Inventory is complete except for the carpets. The total bill came to more than £4K (the carpets would have been more than £5K). Our insurers paid in full and a generous benefactor paid the £500 excess. The Terrier is complete although there do not appear to be Deeds covering the Bier House, which is also being vested in CCT, together with the outside lavatory. There is a long evidential history confirming the Church's ownership of the Bier House and I will be attending the office of the Diocesan Solicitors to make a Statutory Declaration to this effect. The churchyard, which will continue to be an open churchyard in the care of the PCC, is in good order. I would like to close by thanking all those who have given me such unstinting help and support during the nearly twenty years that I have been Churchwarden. It has been my joy and a privilege to have the care of such an ancient, lovely and sacred place.

Peter Simper, Churchwarden

St Mary's, Laverton

1. Throughout the year, the typical month's Sunday service order comprised one Holy Communion, two lay-led Morning Prayers and an evening Healing Service

Terrier & Log Book

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



Quinquennial Work

3. The church porch ceiling was completely re-plastered with 3 coats of lime plaster. No paint coating was required.
4. This porch work completed all the repairs arising from the 2014 Quinquennial and electrical inspections, except for conservation of the c17 Yerbury Wall Monument.
5. John Beauchamp of Beauchamp & Beauchamp will undertake the 2019 Quinquennial on 4 June 2019

Conservation of the c17 Yerbury Wall Monument

6. No action on this had been intended. However, St Mary's Laverton was visited by a representative of the Church Conservation Trust as part of the assessment of local churches

affected by the closure of St Mary's Hemington. During the visit, advice was provided on how to apply for a grant to conserve the c17 Yerbury wall monument. This was duly pursued and a Condition and Conservation report has been received from Lynne Humphries, the chosen conservator, covering not just the Yerbury Monument but also two other wall monuments and the two listed chest tombs in the churchyard.

7. The next stage will be for the Hardington Vale PCC to apply for a grant for the recommended work to be undertaken

Fundraising

8. Bring & Buy events were held in July and December
9. The series of illustrated talks followed by supper in the egg house continued with "Napoleon after Waterloo" by Andrew Campbell in March and "The Bloomsbury Group at Charleston" by Pauline Scott-Garrett in October.

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 Report was completed by spring 2018.

The PCC elected to employ Michael Walker on a self-employed basis to oversee any remedial work to be completed and take responsibility to make good most of the work listed in the report.

Outside contractors would be sought for outside masonry work, with the help and knowledge of John Flindall the buildings warden.

John would continue to keep in touch with Michael during the time.

Lynne Humphries of the Diocesan Conservation Trust was invited to quote for restoration of our memorial tomb plinths in the west porch. Owing to her extended list of work we have not had an opportunity to follow this up yet.

The PCC was unable to obtain a faculty to purchase a new lectern and altar table.

We have had a year of fund raising which has included many of the village people who have enjoyed being involved. This fund raising culminating in numerous Christmas time events.

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 has flourished further this year with more people being prepared to take on the upkeep of a particular grave or graves.

Thanks are given to these people from the Friends of the Church.

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

Without these offers 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 with 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.

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.

Every Wednesday morning since spring 2015 there has been a Tots and Toys session. This has seen changes in the children who have come regularly with their mother, father or grandparent as the child

moves on to school. 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



This beautiful Grade One listed church continues to be maintained in good condition subject to the roof mentioned in the next paragraph.

A Quinquennial inspection was undertaken by the Church Architect in 2017 and there are some significant roof repairs that will need to be made during the next five years. Considerable fund raising will need to be undertaken to meet the cost of these repairs.

The churchyard continues to be mown regularly and is very well maintained. Repairs have been carried out to the churchyard wall which was partially demolished by a car accident. The cost should be covered by the insurance company of the car owner.

In March 2018 a quarter peal was rung in memory of David Chiles. The bells continue to attract regular visits from bands of ringers. On the 30th September the whole parish came together for Harvest Festival and the Clypping of the church. During the year there were three baptisms, one marriage and three funerals.

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

I was elected Health & Safety Officer at the first PCC meeting at the end of April last year. Heather Du Plessis, the previous Health & Safety Officer had done a huge amount of work establishing an appropriate and relevant policy for Hardington Vale Churches in 2015. Since things had been ticking over with little updating, other than regular PAT testing by Bob Hill.

During this year I have met with the chapel wardens of every church individually and we have gone through amending their Policy to ensure it reflects current practice, changes in job roles and equipment in the church. We have recorded these changes, ensured that all risk assessments are up to date and the completed file signed for every church, except Hemington, where some details still need to be provided. I have also checked with our insurers that there has been no new legislation or advice that we were required to implement.

There have been no recorded accidents in any of our churches and PAT records are up-to-date for all churches.

We are currently agreeing a date for fire extinguisher training for all chapel wardens with Dean Stannard, who provides and maintains our fire extinguishers. Farleigh Hungerford Church have completed an evacuation during a service and proved it can be done safely within a very short time. Once the weather is a little calmer and warmer this Spring the other churches will also do this.

Looking forward this process will be quicker and smoother and we will be able to ensure our Health and Safety procedures are effective.

Sarman Flindall

Safeguarding Report

A total of 11 DBS applications have been completed using the new on-line process 3 of these were new applications, the remainder were renewals of existing DBS certificates.

The audit for safeguarding training within the parish was completed earlier in the year. As a result, the relevant opportunities for the various training courses have been made available and a significant number of parishioners have made use of these courses. Safeguarding training has been taking place throughout the year. Some of the basic training has been completed by parishioners on-line but other training courses have been attended at various venues around the Diocese. The Parish is currently waiting for the availability of further training courses and also for some members to complete the appropriate level of training required which is on-going.



Ros Clarke, Safeguarding Officer (Administrative)

Charities and Community Focus Group



Update - Mission to Seafarers in the Middle East and South Asia

Since Revd Canon Andy Bowerman's relocation to the United Arab Emirates in November to take up his post as Regional Director, Middle East and South Asia, I have had the opportunity to visit him and Ali twice, the first

coinciding with being able to attend his Licensing service in Abu Dhabi. It has been a roller coaster start for both Andy and Ali, primarily due to a series of painful family events including the early and traumatic arrival of their first grandchild – Alexander.

Much of the early months for Andy has involved visiting the current Chaplains and centres of work across the region. The Mission has Chaplains and/or family centres in Bahrain, Aqaba, Dubai, Jebel Ali, Ras-Al-Khamiah, Abu Dhabi, Mumbai, Chennai, Tuticorin, Mangalore, Colombo and Galle. All at various stages of development.

Andy reports that the Mission has invitations to explore new possibilities in some 'old' places where they used to be present - Port Said, Egypt. Basra, Iraq. Jaffa, Israel and Beirut in Lebanon. In each of these the Mission would be working with the church to also provide training and equipping to local church leaders. This needs to be done with sensitivity and care as well as maintaining good relations with the authorities in UAE, where they are very dependent on the authorities giving them the space and opportunity to operate.

The Mission supports a number of abandoned seafarers in the anchorage in the Gulf which is an on-going issue. There are as many as 80 at one time waiting for on average two years for payment of salary and repatriation.

Andy has told us that both he and Ali have enjoyed making home in another new location and reconnecting into a Muslim nation – all be it a very different one to Pakistan. They are meeting many from the majority population who come from across the Middle East and South Asia and are learning some Arabic and re-learning some Urdu/Pashto.

They welcome all our continued prayers for the work of the Mission and for them and their family.

Thank you to those of you who are supporting the work of the Mission to Seafarers financially. If you want those donations to support our region more specifically please send them direct to.

Account Name :	THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS
Bank Name :	NATIONAL BANK OF FUJAIRAH PSC, P.O. Box 17676, DUBAI, U.A.E.
Account Number :	012000797257
IBAN Number :	AE380380000012000797257
Swift Code :	NBFUAEAFDXB

Andy Filkins

Pastoral & Outreach Focus Group

DISCIPLESHIP SUB-COMMITTEE Annual Report 2018 - 2019

Our aim is to go beyond our Sunday worship services and to weave into our lives a deeper understanding of, and faith in, Jesus Christ. It is possible to worship God on our own, but the encouragement of others helps us to widen and deepen our own faith. We believe that learning about God is best done with others: a process whereby we can share our own thoughts and insights, receive and give encouragement, and at the same time enjoy one another's company and hospitality.

Our **vision** for the growth and development of current Groups has been blessed over the past year as the number of Groups and attending members has increased from 5 to 8 overall with some 55 attendees. Two of these Groups are ecumenically led and attended which is huge encouragement for corporate Christian work across the Parish.

Current Home Groups are:

- 3 in Rode – one men's, one women's, and a Lent course led by Mike Evans in the Chapel.
- 5 Home Groups in Norton St Philip.

In addition to Home Groups the following projects continue to form part of our work over the past year:

Men's Breakfasts are managed by Fred du Plessis on a quarterly basis and attract regular attendances of 15-22. Topics and speakers have been varied and included: Fergus Stuart's *Down with Skool*; Andy Bowerman on *The crossroads of Life*, Paul Burden's *"Vicars-an endangered Species?"* and Andy Yorke speaking on his missionary experience in the Arctic.

Men are also invited to participate in activities organised by the ecumenical groups with which we are closely linked: namely the "Blokes' Club" and (FACT) Frome Area Christians Together.

- **Library:** The lending library in St Philip and St James is open every day of the week.
- **Free Literature:** In those churches which remain open during the week we continue to place booklets free to the public and it has been encouraging to see these removed on a regular basis.

Current Discipleship Sub-Group Members:

Membership of the group includes all those who currently lead Home Groups: Caroline Walker, Barbara Day, Robin Campbell, Susie Filkins, Heather du Plessis (NSP) and Mike Evans (Rode).

The Group values parishioners' thoughts on how we can best carry out our work and welcomes any ideas on how the Parish Plan vision might be achieved across the whole of the Parish. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time.

Heather du Plessis, Chair
on behalf of the members above, March 2019

Children and Families Worker Report

I am now in my second year as Children and Families worker and since Andy's departure Caroline has kindly taken over the role of my line manager. Ros Lockley and Sharman Flindall have been invaluable in their supportive roles and Cheryl Govier is my Go Team adviser from the Diocese. The Go Team support children and youth workers across the Diocese of Bath and Wells with one to one regular meetings, arranging small group get togethers of children and youth workers to pray and share expertise and they also arrange training events such as the recent 'Inspire' evening at Holy Trinity Church in Frome. I continue to have the support of Susie Filkins with the 'Open the Book' worship programme which we take to Hemington school every Tuesday afternoon and the O.T.B team has two new members since my last AGPM report, Sharman Flindall and Anne Simms from Hemington. So, we now have 6 in our team but would welcome more as we would like to share O.T.B with Rode and Norton St. Philip First Schools. I have been helping with Eco Church initiatives with help and advice from Barbara Day the latest event occurring at February half term when I organised a successful 'seed bomb' workshop for families. My thanks also to Muriel Duckett and Glenys Brown as we continue to offer parents and carers a welcoming 'Tots and Toys' group which meets every Wednesday morning and this is unique as other groups in the area close for the holidays. For some parents and carers, the chance to meet up once a week and just chat while the children play is a life line especially to first time parents as they adjust to parenthood and the joys and tribulations it can bring! Some of our 'Tots and Toys' parents now regularly attend Breakfast church at NSP. I would like to say a big thank you to the whole community in Hardington Vale as I have had a very interesting, enjoyable two years (come May 2019) and I have felt the love, trust and respect

from everyone I have had the pleasure to work with. I will now list some of the other activities that I have been involved with since last year's AGPM.

- I am very pleased to tell you that I now run a scripture-based lunch time club on a Monday at Rode for the Year 2 children. I have 24 out of a class of 30 attending on a regular basis.
- I work with Year 1 in NSP School on a Wednesday afternoon and support their class teacher with religious education following the Awareness, Mystery and Value Agreed Religious Education Syllabus. I help with the Christianity and Judaism units of work.
- As NSP and Rode First school can expect a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) visit. I have been able to attend training from the Diocese on the updated SIAMS framework and I have been involved in staff meetings.
- Caroline and I share weekly collective worship with NSP and Rode First School on a Monday morning. The children and staff really enjoy these (the staff have commented that they have learnt as much as the children from our visits) and this is why we would like to extend our collective worship by offering the 'Open the Book' programme on a different day of the week.
- NSP Pre School visit the church once a month for a themed session with story, songs and a making activity. These young children (the youngest is only 2 years old) now confidently come into church and join in with the activities I have planned.



- We have seen an increase in the use of NSP church by both NSP First School and Pre -school. Their nativity plays are now held in the church and the school has been visiting to learn about the church building and how it is used.
- Caroline and I are planning an 'Easter Celebration' service for NSP First School and we will also invite parents and carers.
- I have been invited to take part in an Easter Saturday Extravaganza hosted by NSP Pre -school and NSP School. This is a good chance for me to meet children, parents/carers and members of the community and

share what we can offer as a parish.

- We are also planning an 'Experience Pentecost' event at NSP church and in the Chapel in Rode for Rode First School as it is too difficult to get the children to St. Lawrence Church unfortunately.
- We ran a very successful Shrove Tuesday event after school and NSP Church was filled with children and parents/carers from Pre-school, First School, Middle School and even Frome College.
- I have had permission to set up a Children's area behind the font after the 'Band in the Barn' committee generously paid for two folding tables and 10 chairs that are the right height for the children. This cost them approximately £350 and is most appreciated.
- I have been able to help with safeguarding training and advice for the parish (I am the Safeguarding Officer in my own parish).
- Hemington School generously paid for me to attend a two-day first aid training course with their staff as my first aid training needed updating.
- Thinking ahead to Christmas 2019 I have organised with the help of a group of knitters 'Christmas Angels' that will be distributed around the parish.
- We now also have two fully equipped Posada boxes for NSP and Rode families to share in the travels of the Holy Family at Christmas time.

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 service and Breakfast Church each held at Rode and Norton St Philip once a month, more contemporary songs

and music is used. We have a Worship Book with 138 songs that we are mainly using 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 are grateful to have some good musicians to help with this.

A choir comprising singers mainly from NSP but includes several members from our other churches sings on special occasions at NSP or sometimes at one of the others churches. The NSP Candlelight Christmas Carol Service has been popular in the past with about 35 singers taking part. Fred du Plessis keeps a list of about 50 potential choir singers across the parish. He organizes, arranges rehearsals and sends out audio recordings to all those who prefer to learn their music by ear. New recruits to swell the current choir list are always welcome - contact Fred at 01373 834090, or email: jfhadup@aol.com for further information or if you wish to have your name added to the list of singers.



Norton St Philip School Report



RODE AND NORTON ST. PHILIP FIRST SCHOOL FEDERATION Small Schools, Big Learners



2018 Update

We are a Federation of two First schools offering engaging, child-led, creative learning opportunities for children aged between 4 and 9 years. We had a very busy and successful year in 2018 – our first full year as a Federation when we were able to offer single year group classes across both sites. And our results speak for themselves. EYFS Maths performance was excellent with 89.7% of children achieving good or better progress and attainment in Maths was up 6% across all year groups. Literacy in EYFS was amazing with 100% of children making good or better than expected progress. Average performance over all the year groups was also up by 10% in Reading and 9% in Writing. Indeed, 2018 was our year of writing and, working with Paper Nation and Bath Spa University, we focused on developing helicopter stories with author and writer Trisha Lee.



We have also been embedding our creative curriculum in all areas of school life. This is based on our Vision and Philosophy for Learning. Last year we spent a lot of time with senior teachers and governors developing our Faith Strategy, and our Vision and Values.

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 a 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.

A review of 2018 wouldn’t be complete without mention of the superb Big Top Scrap Book performance at Writhlington School last summer. This production was written and choreographed by our children and was the culmination of a year’s focus on circus life sparked off by a visit at the start of the academic



year. We were fortunate to have the support of a Media Artist and our Performing Arts teacher throughout the preparations for this fantastic show.

Finally, we are indebted to the Friends of Norton and Rode Schools (FRANS) for their fundraising efforts, which has resulted in, amongst many other things, a total revamp of our library.

We face this academic year with energy and enthusiasm despite some very tight budgetary restraints and remain totally committed to the best learning opportunities possible for the children in our care.

Contact Details

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

Email: rodeandnortoninfo@educ.somerset.gov.

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 Meetings

Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held on Monday 8 April 2019 at 19:30 in St Lawrence Church Rode. Come along and hear what has happened over the past year and our plans for the coming year. The meeting will include the MEETING OF PARISHIONERS to elect our churchwardens (*note: All residents of the Parish of Hardington Vale and all those on the Electoral Roll may vote*) immediately followed by the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (*where only those on the Electoral Roll may vote*).

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

PCC Dates for 2019-20

Dates for PCC meetings next year are:-

Mon 29 April 2019	19:30	PCC
Thurs 27 June 2019		PCC
Monday 16 September 2019		PCC
Saturday 2 November 2019		PCC Away Day
Thursday 28 November 2019		PCC
Monday 2 March 2020		PCC
Monday 30 March 2020		APCM

