**St. Barnabas, Downham**

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**Annual Report and Accounts 2021**

**St. Barnabas, Catford (Southend) and Downham**

**St. Barnabas District Church Council.**

**VESTRY MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY 9th May 2021 at 10.45 a.m.**

**CHAIR: FR. STUART LECK**

**AGENDA**

**VESTRY MEETING**

1. **OPENING PRAYERS**
2. **MINUTES OF 2020 MEETING**
3. **MATTERS ARISING**
4. **ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS**

**ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **MINUTES OF AGM 2020**
3. **REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL**
4. **REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DCC**
5. **FINANCIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**
6. **CHURCH WARDENS REPORT**
7. **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**
8. **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**
9. **JUNIOR CHURCH REPORT AND UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS**
10. **SPA REPORT**
11. **HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**
12. **ELECTION OF DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES**
13. **ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS**
14. **ELECTION OF DCC MEMBERS**
15. **REPORT OF TEAM VICAR**
16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
17. **CLOSING PRAYERS**

**Agenda Item 2**

**TEAM PARISH OF CATFORD (SOUTHEND) AND DOWNHAM**

**THE DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST BARNABAS**

**VESTRY MEETING**

**HELD ON THE 15TH MARCH 2020**

**HELD IN CHURCH AT 11-15AM**

1. **OPENING PRAYERS**

The meeting opened with prayers.

1. **MINUTES OF 2019 MEETING**

The date on the minutes needs to be changed from April to March, once changed the minutes were agreed.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising

1. **ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS**

Fr. Stuart thanked Nicola Catlin and Ron Ferron for their services as church wardens. There were no nominations for churchwardens, so the posts are unfilled.

The vestry meeting was closed.

**Agenda Item 2**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING**

**HELD ON THE 15TH MARCH 2020**

**HELD IN CHURCH AT 11-20AM**

**PRESENT**

Fr. Stuart Leck (in the chair) plus 22 members.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mrs Jean and Mr Michael Hollingshead, Mrs Janet and Mr Roy Hayler. Mrs June Page.

1. **MINUTES OF AGM 2019**

The date on the minutes needs to be changed from April to March, once changed the minutes were agreed.

1. **REPORT OF THE ELECTROL ROLL**

There was a revision of the electoral roll this year. We have 63 members, 5 new members and one member who has moved away.

1. **REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DCC**

This was page 10 of the pack, the report was prepared by Miss Lindsay Cooke, DCC Secretary. Thanks, were given to Miss Lindsay Cooke and to the commitment of all the DCC.

There were no questions regarding the report, which was accepted.

1. **FINANCIAL REPOPRT AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

These were listed under the appendix section of the pack. Fr. Stuart spoke about the accounts and the income form the hall and explained that the accounts were subject to audit. The accounts are in a healthy state. Fr. Stuart spoke about upcoming projects - the hall roof needs to be repaired. Thanks, was given to Fr. Stuart for his work on the accounts and to Gloria Cox- Augustine and Joan Cooke for their work on the Gift Aid and Planned Giving Scheme.

1. **CHURCHWARDENS REPORT**

This was on pages 8-9 of the pack. The Report was delivered by Ron Ferron and Nicola Catlin, - this was a challenging year for the wardens. Thanks, was given to Mick Cooke, Hassan Johnson and Israel Abraham for their help in the Sunday service. No questions were asked.

1. **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

This was on pages 12-13 of the pack, the report was delivered by Miss Lindsay Cooke. Meetings have been held 3 times this year - our representatives were Miss Lindsay Cooke, Mrs Gladys Pittman and Mr Alan Williams, - this was their last year as Deanery synod reps thanks was given to them. There were no questions on the report.

1. **SAFRGUARDING REPORT**

This is pages 17-18 of the report. Thanks, was given to Ann Osbourne for her role as safeguarding officer. All DBS Checks are up to date. Safeguarding is an agenda item in all DCC Meetings and we also have information on the website. There was no questions on the report.

1. **JUNIOR CHURCH REPORT**

This is page 10-11 of the report. Thanks, was given to Isha Kabba and Lindsay Cooke. Support was asked from the congregation to be given when the children are feeding back. There were no questions on the report.

**SCOUTS REPORT**

Report is on page 11 of the pack, thanks were given to the Scouts on their works in the Church Garden.

**RAINBOWS REPORT**

This is on Page 12 of the pack, there were no questions on the report.

1. **ELECTION OF DEANEY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES**

There were no nominations for the Deanery synod, the post are unfilled.

1. **ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS**

There was one nomination for PCC, Miss Lindsay Cooke. The Churchwardens and SPA are also on the PCC along with Fr. Stuart.

1. **ELECTION OF DCC MEMBERS**

There were 5 Nominations for the DCC:

Adjoa Serwaa, Gloria Cox- Augustine, Alan Williams , Bert Muckley, Don McLaren. All were agreed.

1. **REPORT OF TEAM VICAR**

Report is on pages 7-8 of the report. Fr. Stuart spoke of a challenging year, highlights included 90th celebrations and Bishop Christopher visit in Holy Week. Thanks was given to Carol Bates and her family for the help they gave in the 2 years while they were here. Fr. Stuart thanked everyone for their support.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

This is on page 14-16 of the pack, thank were given to Bert Muckley and Don McLaren for their work in the church. There were no questions on the report.

**SPA REPORT**

This is on page 14 of the pack, thanks were given to Joan Cooke for all her work, there were no questions on the report.

**MOTHERS UNION REPORT**

This is on pages 13-14 of the pack, thanks was given to Gloria Cox- Augustine. There were no questions on the report.

1. **CLOSING PRAYERS**

The meeting closed in prayer.

**Agenda Item 3**

**Report of the Electoral Roll.**

The Electoral Roll stands at 58 members, a net reduction of 5 from 2020.

**Agenda item 4**

**Report on the work of the DCC for the Year 2020/2021**

**Presented by Lindsay Cooke**

The DCC has been limited in the times we have been able to meet over the past 12 months, however despite this we have still been able to get many things done.

The church has been re-organised so in the times we have been able to meet for public worship we have been able to do safely and able to arrange the seating so people can safely socially distance and keep family together.

The DCC Agreed for Wi-Fi to be installed in the church so we are now able to stream service from the church and before this form the vicarage for those members who have been unable to come to church during in last year.

A new cooker has been installed in the hall and a number of other works have also taken place in the hall, to maintain a safe environment for the use of the hall.

Unfortunately, some of the other works that we would have liked to be completed have had to be put on hold due to the COVID pandemic but we hope that with the next twelve months we will be able to move forward with these projects this include the damp that occurs in the lady chapel in the church.

The reports and minutes of each DCC meeting are displayed the Narthex.

Thank you to all the DCC Members for your time and dedication throughout the year.

**Agenda Item 5**

**Treasurer’s Report – Annual Meeting 2021**

**Revd Stuart Leck - Team Vicar**

I have pleasure in presenting the Treasurer’s Report for the year ended 31st December 2020.

2020 was a year unprecedented in recent times and the impact of the pandemic and lockdowns affected all aspects of our life together, including our finances.

However our God is a great God and we were truly blessed by the on-going generosity of the congregation and the wider community.

Overall there was a net outflow of £3,509.21 from unrestricted Church funds, but this masks a number of one-off exceptional payments for both the Church and Hall.

If these are written back into the accounts, on a day-to-day basis there was a net inflow of £272.39. Given that the lockdown and the restrictions meant that we were unable to hold our regular Fayres and the Hall lets were restricted to the Pre-School only, this is a positive end of year position.

**Church**

Due to the restrictions and closure of the Church there was a reduction in some of our income streams e.g. loose collections although our planned giving levels were slightly higher than 2019.

I am grateful for those members who switched their giving to standing order and I would encourage everyone who can do so to tithe in this manner as it helps with our cash flow.

As a consequence of the reduction of some of our income streams, the monies received from Gift Aid were also reduced.

In respect of our expenditure, naturally the cost of services was considerably reduced and we were able to meet our responsibilities to the Diocese in the payment of our Parish Support Fund and loan repayments.

During the year we were able to pay the retention monies on the North-East parapet repairs and replace the photocopier.

**Hall**

Due to the restrictions, the majority of the year the Hall was closed to exterior lets apart from the Pre-School and we worked closely with the Pre-School to enable them to continue to meet.

During the year we were able to upgrade the Hall cooker to ensure that it meets current Health and Safety requirements.

It is hoped that in 2021 the level of lettings will return to the pre-pandemic levels to both meet our community missional aims but also to provide funds to the Church.

As highlighted last year the Hall requires major investment to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

**Summary and looking ahead**

Overall 2020 was a satisfactory year given the exceptional circumstances that we were faced with.

We have just over £33.000 of free-reserves but, again, this should not lead to complacency and as indicated above we are faced with some major expenditure over the coming year.

I am grateful to all those who assist with the financial management of the Church, in particular Joan Cooke and Gloria Cox-Augustine who oversee the Planned Giving Scheme and Gift Aid claims.

Moving forward Isha Kabba has kindly agreed to oversee the finances as your Treasurer and I am grateful for her support.

**Agenda item 6**

**Churchwardens Report**

No report as roles vacant

**Agenda Item 7**

**Deanery Synod Report**

No report as there are no representatives from St. Barnabas on the Deanery Synod.

**Agenda Item 8**

**Safeguarding Report**

**Presented by Ann Osborne – Parish Safeguarding Officer.**

There have been no updates or news regarding safeguarding for the past year. We continue to follow the Diocesan Safeguarding Policies. There is a copy of “A Safe Church” available in the Narthex.

**Agenda Item 9**

**Junior Church Report**

**Presented by Isha Kabba and Lindsay Cooke**

The past year has brought many challenges for Junior church when the church closed in March 2020 in the first national lockdown, so saw the closure of Junior church and with the limited space we have upstairs and social distancing rules in place since then we havebeen unable to meet in person.

But thankfully through the power for technology we have been able to meet virtually through Google Hangouts with the children since last year, maintaining contact with them on a weekly or 2 weekly basis.

We continue to share the Bible verses each week and creating a space for them to talk about how they have found these times, what they have been up to and sharing what has been happening at school.

For the both of us, this has been a real joy and brought real laughter to us in the most difficult of times.

We hope that once our roadmap from the government has lifted all contacts on social distancing, we will be able to meet once again in church and with the Wi-Fi being installed also be able to maintain contact with children who are unable to get to church. We will also look to possibly restart some of the messy saints’ workshops.

We are also thankful to the parents of Junior Church’s children who have been a real support in setting up our virtual meetings and continue to support them.

We hope the next 12 months we see us all meet again.

# 12th Lewisham South Scouts For the Year 2020/2021

**Presented by Bill Compton**

Sadly, we have not been able to do any face to face scouting, but the good news is that we have done over 130 meetings with over 900 people attending on Zoom. In these meeting we have had many guest speakers, talking on the stars, Police, martial arts. During the meetings we have managed to complete over 100 badges, & 2 virtual camps.

In between lockdowns we managed some work on the garden and planted some more bulbs.

My thanks to St Barnabas for their support in this difficult year.

**Rainbows and Brownies - For the Year 2020/2021**

**Presented by** **Nicola Catlin**

Unfortunately Rainbows and Brownies have not met since the first Lockdown in March 2020, but are hoping to do so soon once the rules have been relaxed.

**Agenda Item 10**

**SPA Report**

**Presented by Joan Cooke**

It goes without saying that carrying my SPA ministry in 2020 proved very challenging due to COVID 19.

My focus in 2020 and continuing on into 2021 is to continue supporting the congregation and Father Stuart as much as possible.

I have not been able to carry my role as volunteer with the Chaplaincy Dept at Lewisham Hospital and likewise The Tea @2 Group have not been able to meet up since the start of the pandemic last March.

I am not sure when I will be able to go back as a volunteer at the hospital or when The Tea @ 2 Group will resume, but I hope it will not be too long for I really miss the interaction with people that both these roles bring.

I have been in contact with some members of our congregation since the beginning of the pandemic, mostly via telephone calls, but during in the summer I was able to talk to people face to face either at their door or in their gardens.

I am also responsible for the rota for readers and intercessors and I keep the weekly intercessions list up to date.

I look forward to continuing as a SPA and would like to thank everyone for their support. I would also like to thank Father Stuart for being so committed to my SPA role and so supportive.

**Agenda Item 11**

**Health and Safety Report**

**Presented by Don McLaren and Bert Muckley**

During the first lockdown the south side hedge was taken out a new hedge was planted after taking out **stumps**

Don made crosses for the north garden area; started stripping south porch door ready to paint; stripping and dismantled cage on double gates ready to paint; sweeping stones and bagging moving out way of preschool; making appointment for fire extinguishers inspection contact PAT tester.

Pat test ok gas supply turned off for safety making arrangement for new oven install. Moved plug off floor to contact fridge with double wall socket; had electrician cover trunking in bell chamber; also new light in boiler room.

New lights put in hall and hall kitchen; tidy wires in committee room put into metal box this meets code.

Clear flat roofs by sweeping and clearing hoppers; next cleared block toilet in hall; repaired lock on south porch door; fitted new lock on hall side door new keys to people using hall at present; new thermometers and hygrometer put round church checking for temperature and humidity.

New hedge was planted north side of church after ground had been prepared.

Had repairs to north side of hall roof.

Church was deep cleaned twice in December further repairs to south side of hall roof covering between the five gables Church also cleaned January –February then after a funeral service; started clearing blocked drain a run off from church toilet more work still needed second look at blocked drain outlet from toilet has not been used it looks if main sewer is blocked drain cleared by water board.

Re-laid new lead to take power to piano and lap top covering wire with black and yellow marking tape three people striating hedges north and south side of church also weeding north side garden area

**Agenda Item 15**

**Team Vicar Report - 2020**

*Fr. Stuart writes…*

The past year has been a year like no other globally and the impact of the pandemic will be felt for many years to come and in some respects the world will not be the same.

The pandemic impacted on the life of St. Barnabas, as along with all church and other faith communities, we responded to the various lockdowns and restrictions placed on us and found new ways “to be church” and to continue to serve the people of Downham.

Sadly we experienced the loss of members of the congregation and from the wider community and the restrictions placed on funerals meant that many of the normal customs of grief were suspended and we need to ensure that we are available to support people in the months and years ahead through our presence and our prayers.

During the past year our worshipping life has changed, with the streaming of services from the Vicarage and, when open, restrictions placed on our worship in Church and we all look to the day when these are lifted and we can all meet together to sing God’s praises and share bread and wine.

As ever, the community at St. Barnabas responded to the challenges that the restrictions brought through maintaining phone contact with each other, practical support with shopping, maintaining the on-line presence and praying for each other and the wider community.

We also discovered new ways of witnessing to the community through the use of outside displays and these will form a regular feature of our life moving forward – the three crosses in the quadrant at Easter, poppies on the fence and trees for Remembrance and the Nativity story displayed on the fence.

I am grateful for all who helped with these displays and particularly Don and Bert for the practical tasks in preparing the Church in a safe manner for worship and carrying out various maintenance tasks on the Church and Hall.

Our children were ministered to by Lindsay and Isha who maintained regular contact through on-line lessons and again, we look to the day when Junior Church can meet together in person.

In the wider community, contact was maintained with Downderry and Rangefield Schools and their Harvest and Christmas assemblies were undertaken via Zoom and Google teams and again we look forward to welcoming the schools back into the Church later this year.

We continued to support the Whitefoot and Downham Community Food Plus Project and I am grateful to all those who continued to donate to the Project which has seen a three-fold increase in visitors since the start of the pandemic.

Sadly demand is likely to continue to rise as the economic impact of the pandemic will continue for many months, even when the restrictions are lifted.

Many of our normal activities could not happen in 2020 such as our Fayres and “Tea @ 2” only managed one meeting before we faced restrictions and we need to ensure that when we can re-open fully and welcome the wider community back into our buildings we are ready to do so.

Despite the challenges we were able to provide support through officiating at a number of funerals in the Church and joyfully celebrating the marriage of Ray and Susan.

Our Hall users were particularly hard hit by the restrictions and I am pleased that we were able to support the Pre-School to stay open to provide a much needed resource for local families.

As I mention with the Treasurer’s Report our finances were impacted by last year’s context.

As we know our God is a great God and I am truly grateful for the generosity of everyone who was able to maintain their tithe to the Church and those who were able to make additional contributions. We were truly blessed and our finances remain healthy but we should not be complacent.

As your priest I do not operate in isolation and I am grateful for all who have supported me over this challenging year, in particular Revd Sheila, Joan Cooke, your SPA and the members of the DCC. Across the wider team my clergy colleagues and the PCC who also faced the added burden of an interregnum at St. John’s following Fr. Martin’s move.

Looking ahead, as I write there is a road map in place to restore our lives to “normality”, whatever that may now look like, and as a Church we have to ensure that we are ready for the challenges that this will bring as we seek to rebuild our life together and continue to serve the people of Downham.

I am confident that we will do so, looking to God for our inspiration and strength.