



Churchwardens report November 2020 – April 2021

Church life

November 2020 saw the commencement of the second national lockdown and the decision of the PCC to cease in-person services as a result. Nonetheless, services continued through streaming on the Church's Facebook site and were supported by very healthy numbers of on-line attendees.

We were able, briefly, to return to in-person worship during December 2020, which included the well attended Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services. These would not have been possible without the efforts of Phil and the Safety Advisory Group, which met regularly to provide safety advice to the PCC and developed risk assessments and procedures to keep us all safe. Many thanks to all of them for their hard work. Thanks also to Cynthia who has organized Stewards for every service and to the stewards.

The imposition of the third national lockdown at the beginning of January 2021 meant a resumption of on-line services. Due to the likely ongoing need to stream services, St John's invested in a dedicated audio-visual system to improve the quality of broadcasts, which has proved to be very successful. Thanks to Peter Artis who put considerable effort into identifying a suitable system and arranging its installation. Peter has also been responsible for managing the systems during services and organizing the inclusion of video contributions from the congregation – and we are grateful for his creative efforts!

Throughout this period, we have been conscious of the impact of the lockdowns on vulnerable groups and have been pleased to have been able to accommodate the continued use of our facilities by a drug dependency support group so they can continue with their essential work. In addition, the foodbank has continued to operate thanks to Susi's efforts and thus maintains the provision of a much needed service to the community.

Cynthia has also continued with her community activities and maintained the links and relationships with community groups that will be essential to ensure St John's has relevance to Carrington and the surrounds when we return to some sense of normality.

Despite the challenges this last year has offered, we have also been able to hold regular monthly bible studies which have been enjoyed and appreciated. Many thanks to Muriel, John and Denis for organizing these evenings.

In February 2021, Reverend James Pacey stepped down having served for 2 years as our vicar. It is fair to say that James will be sorely missed and in his time at St John's, he helped



to develop a culture that bodes well for the future. We are very grateful for all he did for St John's.

Since then, the Ministry Team has done a fantastic job in continuing to provide services and particular thanks must go to Susi who has ensured that visiting vicars are arranged, pew sheets are prepared and distributed and the congregation can participate through video contributions such that the transition from James has been seamless. This is on top of her sterling work in managing the foodbank.

Fabrics and fittings

The upkeep of the building has continued in this period and we are very grateful for all the work Peter Artis has carried out in ensuring the lights are kept on.

Progress is also being made with regard to the installation of a new gate on Church Drive and an area of focus in the next year will be the upkeep of the grounds. One thing the lockdowns have shown is the importance of public open spaces for people's mental wellbeing and our grounds have proved to be a valuable asset to the local community.

Interregnum

We are now in a period of interregnum and we have the task of finding a replacement for James. The work begins now and we are in the process of developing our plan for St John's for 2021/22, which will then inform the Parish Profile. The Profile is the key document in outlining the kind of church we are and the kind of vicar we need to join us on our journey.

We are keen to get a new vicar as soon as possible but acknowledge the importance of taking time to develop a plan that is truly reflective of St John's in order to ensure we find the person best suited to the role. This requires us to consult widely and ensure we have given everyone the opportunity to have their voice heard.

Whilst we have yet to fully develop our process, we are targeting September 2021 as the month when we will have completed our Profile. Throughout, we will communicate to ensure transparency of the process and full participation is afforded to all.

Asela Premachandra
Churchwarden
April 2021