

Heath and Reach Parish Council Annual Meeting 12th April 2021

Report from St. Leonard's Church

As it was for everyone, the Pandemic was the story of the last year and the consequent lockdown brought all church and social activities to a halt. Revd Noel McGeeney, our Vicar, has gone above and beyond to ensure that we could continue to worship together and stay in touch with each other by instigating daily Morning Worship, Holy Communion services on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, all broadcast electronically via Zoom. These services have been tremendously well received and more than 50 people attend the Sunday morning service and 18 to 25 each morning service. In July for a while the church was open for private prayer and it was possible to hold services with suitable safeguards in place. Then we went into lockdown again; the church re-opened for private prayer. Only in the last few weeks have we been able to hold the Communion services in church (again with all safeguards in place.) These services are also zoomed and reach many, many people. We are very grateful to Noel for all he is doing and to the numerous others who also make this form of worship and fellowship possible. Electronic means of holding services might become an integral part of future patterns of worship.

Sadly we have not been able to use the hall which leaves us short of revenue, not only from hirers but also by curtailing our fund raising activities. We have been unable to put on our Seasonal Lunches, Coffee Mornings, Men's Breakfasts or run Little Fishes, all of which we hope to bring back as soon as we are able. We have been able to keep the church grounds tidy and the church clean. Plans are afoot to make St. Leonard's an eco-friendly church and to reduce our carbon footprint. We hope to involve the Parish Council and the local community in joining these initiatives.

We held our Annual Parish Meeting late in October 2020 and were delighted to elect two new church wardens to replace Br Bede, who died at the beginning of last year, and Val Cooper whose term of office came to an end. Jane Dempster Morgan and Richard Page have made an excellent start, showing great enthusiasm and a capacity for hard work which is an inspiration to us all.

This year our Annual Meeting of Parishioners and our Annual Parochial Church Meetings are to be held on 16th May. The former is open to all who live in the civil parish of Heath and Reach and is for the sole purpose of electing Church Wardens. The APCM is an open meeting but only those on the church's Electoral Roll may vote.

Ann Gomersall, PCC Secretary.