



The Parish of Burchetts Green

St Mary the Virgin, Hurley
St John the Evangelist, Littlewick Green
St James the Less, Stubbings

Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 15th May 2022

at the Soltau Centre, at 12.00pm.

*Seeking to know Jesus
to share his love and make him known
in word and action.*

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1. Introduction from Rev'd Tom

Welcome to the reports for this year's APCM. This is a great opportunity to come together as a parish and to celebrate all that we are involved in and all the connections we have with our local communities. I'll let the reports speak for themselves so do take time to read them and see what is going on across the parish. We have a diversity of worship within our parish which has been wonderful to see but we can also come together to share ideas and resources and to work together to build God's kingdom in our little corner of England.

It has been wonderful to meet a number of people around the parish over the past few months and I look forward to meeting many more in the years to come. The combination of the global pandemic and an interregnum cannot have been an easy one to navigate and it is important to record in writing our thanks to Father John Ainslie for all he did during that time to support our churches. I know he has been a blessing to many of you and we wish him every blessing in his continued ministry as associate minister in Boyn Hill.

There is a great deal of communication within the villages and the parish, and this is something to be celebrated as we are all able to keep in touch with each other and what is going on. As we move forwards, I hope that we will continue to be able to share in such an open and invitational way which I know has made so many people (including us) welcome in the life of the parish.

Inevitably when I meet people at the moment, they ask how we are settling in, and the honest answer is that it feels like we have been here for ages already! We feel very settled and it is a joy to be ministering alongside you in our parish. One of the challenges we do face is that there are so many ideas of activities and groups to do or get involved with, which means it can sometimes be hard to know what to prioritise!

We will be having a Parish Vision Day later this year and I would encourage you all to keep an eye out for the date and more information on how you can contribute to that in the coming weeks and months. If you do have a gift which you feel God is calling you to use and you don't feel we are doing that in the parish then please let me know; it is wonderful to have so many gifted people across the parish.

We have returned to mostly normal physical worship with our services and Easter saw us reintroduce the sharing of wine again through intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine). I would like to personally extend my thanks to all of you as we navigate the balance between the best way to worship our Lord and keeping everyone as safe as we can.

Easter was a time of particular blessing for me, and I hope that you were able to join us for some of the services we had over the period. We had a variety of services available, and I would like to thank Dilys, Tina and Theresa for all their help and support in those services. I personally found Easter to be a refreshing time and I pray that this was the case for you as well as I got a real sense of joy across the parish following our Eastertide.

My desire is that we should not see our churches simply about maintaining our services on a Sunday morning and it has been great to see how much there is already during the week with various groups which meet across the parish. I hope that some of you have been able to join us for Morning Prayer on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday around the parish and that it has been a blessing for you.

We are fortunate to have appointed Claire Jackson as our new parish administrator and if you haven't met her yet do pop into the office and do so – she'll even make you a cup of tea! But we do also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Sue Wilkins for stepping in over the past few months and making the office run very smoothly; I know that I would not have settled into the parish so easily if it hadn't been for Sue!

As our country begins to open up following what seems to be the worst of the pandemic, it is a joy to journey with you as we seek to mirror that awakening in our church as well. While we have three church buildings, my



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We are fortunate with both of our locations as it enables us to get outside at every opportunity.

Camping is back, our Scout Troops recently had a joint weekend camp 22 of 27 hadn't camped before which was a great experience for them and prepares them for a longer summer Camp.

Scouting is so much fun for all leaders who enjoy seeing the children develop as well as having fun and new experiences themselves. We are looking for more adults to help at our various sections and also have spaces for more Scouts to join on a Friday.

Our Summer Fair in Pinkneys Green will be back this summer on Sunday 26th June. 2022 will be a good year for us.

Erica Hunter

Group Scout Leader, Pinkneys Green Scout Group

20. Report from Burchetts Green Infants School

For the last couple of months, we have very much enjoyed Reverend Tom coming to school to lead a weekly Collective Worship session with our children. They have listened well to his stories and continue to ask reflective and interesting questions. Before the Easter holiday, we also held a service in Stubbings Church. Each class performed a song and Reverend Tom talked to the children and their parents about the meaning of Easter.

Prior to Tom's arrival, In October, we held a Harvest Festival service and in November, the children in our Year 2 class again created a wreath of hand sewn poppies which one of them laid on the memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

At Christmas, we were gifted a brilliant Advent wreath which we used in our advent assemblies. We had a family Christingle service in church, led by Fr John Ainslie.

We very much look forward to continuing our connection with the Church.

Rob Harris. Headteacher, Burchetts Green CE Infant School

final encouragement to all of us is that we see ourselves united as the Body of Christ in this place and that, while our worship styles might vary from building to building, we all gather to worship the same God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to him be glory and praise for ever. Amen!

Finally, on a personal note, I thank you all for your prayers and support for me and my family. We have felt very welcomed and are so pleased to have joined a community which opens its arms wide as Jesus himself did in an act of love.

My prayers and love go with you all as we head into whatever the rest of this year may bring.

Rev'd Tom Etherton

2. PCC Report

I am sure that the PCC would join me in expressing our thanks to both Ros Bentley and Father John Ainslie for co-ordinating the PCC over the past few months.

I approached the first PCC meeting we held with me in post in March with a sense of joyful expectation and even told the PCC I had been looking forward to the meeting! Whether they believed me or not, I am not sure, but I think we had a meeting which was both productive, efficient and enjoyable. Our meetings are an opportunity, as with the APCM, to gather together and share our journey with Christ with our fellow sisters and brothers and I feel confident that we can do that going forwards with a sense of joy.

The post of PCC secretary has not yet been filled officially but we are very grateful to David Gilbert who has been taking minutes for the meetings recently – do get in touch if you're interested in the role!

Since the last APCM, Jane Holmes has stepped in as our Safeguarding Officer and is co-ordinating all that we need to be aware of and involved in from a Safeguarding perspective in the parish. We have also appointed Crauford Hale to the role of Treasurer and we are grateful to Paul Fagan who provides us with the financial information we need across the parish.

As always, we would welcome new members on the PCC so if you feel called to join us as we try to navigate our parish through the coming year, do please let me know. I know that much of the PCC's time prior to my appointment was taken up with the application and appointment process but we now look forward to planning the life of our parish together moving forwards.

18. Hurley Pastoral Care

Hurley Pastoral Care is able to be part of a network of lovely village friends and neighbours and enabled people to be visited, cheered with get well messages, helped through bereavement. We are grateful for the care and support of our clergy during these past difficult months. We continue to organise and support Cameo (see 17. Cameo). The Hurley Village Association has been generous in its support of our annual Christmas lunch and Hurley Pastoral Care is represented on the HVA committee. Newcomers are welcomed with the Welcome Pack, organised by Barbara Norton. The support we have from our community is hugely valuable and I would like to thank all the members of the team for their quiet dedication and commitment.

Fiona Fieldhouse.

19. Report from Pinkneys Green Scouts

Scouting at Pinkneys Green Scout Group is now back in full operation. Programs back to pre-pandemic mode. Our leaders and members have showed a fabulous resilience during the pandemic still managing to earn badges and meet incorporating social distancing and extra procedures. Pinkneys Green Scout Group meets in 2 locations, at our HQ in Pinkneys Green (Winter Hill) and also at Littlewick Green in the Gilchrist Hall (Littlewick). We have Beavers aged 6 – 8 years and Cub 8 – 10.5 years that meet in both locations. Our 2 scout troops 10.5 to 14 years, both meet at our HQ due to equipment availability and activities. Our Beavers meet on Mondays, cubs on Wednesday and Scouts Monday or Friday. We have seen an increase in members in all sections, parents and children appreciating being able to get outside and explore. Scouting recently introduced a new section called Squirrels, this is for 4 and 5 year olds. We were very excited to be able to open our first Squirrels Drey early March. This has proved immensely popular, so much so we are hopeful we will be able to open second Drey in Littlewick as long as we can find enough leaders and helpers. Squirrels at our HQ meet on a Thursday and it is hoped Littlewick Squirrels will meet on a Monday before Beavers.

16. Parish Coffee Mornings

Our coffee morning started in August last year when Covid restrictions started to relax. It is held on the first Wednesday of every month in the Soltau Centre at 10.30am. It's well attended by people from all three churches and provides a relaxed opportunity to share fellowship together in the Parish. We would like to thank Sandra Moores, who always has a Traidcraft stall set up. A big thank you also, to the many volunteers for cakes and kitchen duties, who make this event so successful.

Sue Wilkins

17. Cameo

Come And Meet Each Other is an informal gathering of older people who meet in friendship in the Priory Room on the second Thursday of each month. We have tea, excellent homemade cakes and a much enjoyed quiz and some lively discussion about local and national issues.

We have marked the major events of the church calendar and there was enthusiastic Carol singing at Christmas. In Hurley where transport is not easy, this is a valued opportunity for people who have limited possibility of getting out and about to gather together, have a link with the church and talk to the Vicar.

Fiona Fieldhouse

3. PCC Membership

<u>Chair</u>	Rev Tom Etherton
<u>Churchwardens</u>	Mr Richard Moores Mrs Jenny Robinson Ms Jane Smith
<u>Deanery Synod</u>	Mr Tom Dobinson
<u>Elected Members</u>	Mrs Rosalind Bentley Mr Tim Bowler Mr Richard Curry Mrs Fiona Fieldhouse Mr John Johnston Mrs Joleen Newton Mrs Maria Quantrill
<u>Co-opted Members</u>	Rev Tina Molyneux

4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the APCM are available from the Parish Office.

5. Finance Report is available from the Parish Office.

6. Changes to the Electoral Roll 2021 since the last APCM

The figure reported last year was 161

Total number for this year 161

Roger Strike, Electoral Roll Officer

7. Report on proceedings of Deanery Synod

This Parish belongs to the Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery which is a collection of the Anglican parishes within Maidenhead and Windsor. The Deanery's Synod is a consultative body that usually meets once every three months and comprises the deanery clergy and representatives from each parish.

Consolidating and coordinating payment of the Diocesan share (approximately a million pounds per year) The Synod also consults upon changes to parish boundaries and the deployment of clergy as well as wider Deanery activities. One recent decision has been to reduce our Parish share from 2024.

It acts as both a window and a sounding board to the wider Church. As a window we listen to presentations on the work of the Church and the diocese but as a sounding board we are invited to address the major issues facing the Church, be they social or moral. It is an important means of informing Anglican policy on major faith and social challenges.

In common with much of the Country this last year has been different. All bar one meetings have been virtual Zoom meetings but among other things covered presentations upon the following topics:

- May 2021: As the Berkshire advisor for discipleship Ian Macdonald introduced the Synod to his work with young people
- September 2021: Revd Polly Falconer, Diocesan UK Minority Ethnic Discipleship Enabler, spoke upon race relations under the heading "From Lament to Action".
- February 2022: Bishop Olivia Graham, the Bishop reading, addressed the Synod upon the spiritual and practical Christian response to climate change, a key issue of our time

In a rare face to face meeting in December last we welcomed the Bishop Oxford, Dr Steven Croft, when he spent the day in the Deanery.

14. Traidcraft

Last year two coffee mornings were held at my home in Littlewick Green in early November to showcase Traidcraft Christmas cards, gifts and festive foods. Special Christmas brochures were also distributed to local Traidcraft supporters and both methods worked well. The dates this year will be Friday, 11th and Saturday 12th November between 10.30 and 1pm.

It is hoped that a cheque will be sent to Traidcraft Exchange again in June once the Traidcraft profits have been determined.

Recycling in aid of Traidcraft Exchange is ongoing and the latest sack was worth £28.30, bringing the total to approximately £150. Another sack is waiting to go but needs two more kilos. The items required are:

- Mobile phones, cameras & equipment, game consoles, laptops, tablets
- Jewellery, watches, foreign currency, and UK and foreign stamps.

The above can be left in a box in my porch at Oakleigh, Green Lane, Littlewick Green, SL6 3RH. Telephone Sandra on 01628 822282 for collection. A big 'thank you' to all Traidcraft supporters.

Sandra Moores

15. Oasis

We suspended meetings of Oasis for the whole of lockdown over 2 years but managed to share the writing of weekly reports which Sandra and I enjoyed doing. In those we tried to start with a reflection, then offer a piece of meditative music, and two readings. We very much tried to offer comfort and a way of achieving a period of calm in what was a very anxious time for us all.

Meetings have now resumed every fortnight, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 2.30pm. All are more than welcome!

Sandra Brooks and Pat Iles.

With the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions, the Snowdrop Tea was reinstated this year and many visitors have wandered through the churchyard during the Spring to admire the carpets of flowers and close-up inspection of the display in the woodland. One visitor was kind enough to compare our display favourably with that at Cliveden!

We would still welcome some additional help, especially some younger "Gnomes", so, if anyone reading this can spare a few hours on a Wednesday morning, even if it is not every week, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Tony Ruffell

13. Parish Craft Group (Knit and Natter)

The group was pleased to meet again once the Covid restrictions were lifted in the Autumn.

We meet in the Soltau Centre at Stubbings between 2 and 4 pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, apart from August, when we chat, have a cuppa and talk about our work. Despite not being able to meet formally for a long time, we were not idle!! We have been able to send 30 colourful knitted blankets to a Polish school to be distributed to Ukrainian refugees. We have also made many tiny Beanie Hats for premature babies in the maternity unit at the Royal Berks Hospital.

Sadly, we have lost 3 of our members this last year and one has moved away. New members are always very welcome and can be assured of enjoyable company.

Linda Ruffell

The next meeting is to take place at on 19th May at 7.30 pm at St Andrews, Clewer. It is open to the public. Please do come along.

Tom Dobinson

8. Report from St James the Less, Stubbings

Looking back, the past year has been busy as we have welcomed a return to some of the events we all love. Our churchwardens of many years, Sue Harrington Hill and Mary Cooper both stood down from office in January this year. Sue has now moved out of the area and we wish her and Tim well in their new life in Chichester! A few volunteers also stood down over the past year and we are very thankful to Sue, Mary and all of those people who have served the church well over many years.

Even with these changes, and since the last APCM in July 2021, we have managed to keep to the regular service pattern of 8am and 11am monthly BCP services. In addition, Fr John introduced a Choral Evensong in August 2021 and we have continued this on the first Sunday of each month. We are very grateful to Fr John for all his support towards Stubbings during 2021, to enable us to continue with our services.

As restrictions started to lift, we were also able to hold some of our traditional annual services. We celebrated Harvest Festival together in September. Our Commemoration of the Faithful Departed service was in October, allowing people to come and go freely, offering time for quiet prayer and reflection with peaceful background music and an opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones.

We also welcomed back wider groups from the community to worship with us. Pinkneys Green Scouts helped us honour the fallen at our Remembrance Day Service in November, gathering around the war memorial. This was followed by a smaller service inside the church. Claire's Court Boys and Girls Junior schools visited the church and war

memorial for Remembrance and Sue Harrington Hill gave them a talk and a tour.

We have also held Harvest, Christingle and Easter services for Burchetts Green CofE School. It has been so wonderful to see the church attended and enjoyed again by the younger generation. The Scouts also had their Christingle service here in December.

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold the popular Crib and Midnight service at Christmas due to Covid and needing to limit numbers, but it was a joy to open our Church for the 11.00am Christmas Day Service.

In December we welcomed Bishop Steven during part of a day he spent visiting Maidenhead and Windsor. He attended a Eucharist service with local clergy followed by lunch in the Soltau Centre.

A highlight for 2022 has of course been welcoming Rev Tom, Hannah, Alice and Robyn to our parish in February. Tom has been very busy looking after our services and we celebrated Easter with several wonderful services. The Good Friday service took us through the stations of the cross in a thought provoking and reflective way. Our Holy Saturday vigil was held outside around a firepit (thanks to Erica Hunter for the provision of this) whilst Tom shared Bible Stories and songs, followed by hot cross buns, of course! Our traditional BCP Holy Communion was very well attended and saw the return of wine at our Communion together.

We have also seen an increase in baptisms services this year. Our thanks go to Teresa for leading the organisation for these essential services.

The Soltau Centre has been reopened and many of our regular hirers are back to classes. We have also had piano concerts and one-off events at the weekends here. One of our regular hirers, the Renaissance Voices Choir also held a Christmas Concert in the church during December.

It was a delight to welcome back the Snowdrop tea on 19th February. This was very well attended and even a tree coming down in the storm in front of the church the day before didn't stop it going ahead this year!

11. Stubbings 200 Club

The Stubbings 200 Club, which is run to raise funds for capital projects at St James, attracted 70 members who bought 87 tokens last year and we raised £1044 to add to the kitty. None of the funds were utilised so there is some £10,000 available for enhancing our experience when this is deemed desirable. If anyone has any such ideas, please let me know and the matter will be put to the PCC.

Despite the reduced membership, the monthly prizes are set such that there is a better than one in four chance that you can recoup your investment and a one in seven chance of making a significant profit. New members will always be very welcome so please let me know if you would like to join.

Tony Ruffell

12. Stubbings Gardening Group

“The Gnomes” have undergone very significant changes since my last report. After 20 years of dedicated service, Sheila Lawton has moved away from Maidenhead and I have realised belatedly, what a remarkable contribution she made, not only on Wednesday mornings but during her daily walks through the churchyard. Almost immediately, Erica Hunter and Ros Chandler offered to help and so we have been able to keep the whole area clean and tidy. We are very grateful for the complements we continue to receive but, following my comments last year about our dilemma as regards the wild flowers in the late Spring, we left the wild flower areas uncut in May and June and I hope you will all agree that the result was quite spectacular and I have decided to do the same this year.

We have not been allowed to have the assistance of the “Community Payback” group of people for over two years now and we have missed their invaluable help once a month. We have continued to employ a professional gardening company to undertake the monthly grass-mowing and strimming during the growing season because this is the only available way to get this essential work done.

Report from Hurley Church Estates

The formal objectives of the Charity are “For defraying the cost of repairs, insurance, cleaning, warming and other expenses of Hurley Church”. The major Charity income derives from assets including rental properties and investments.

The Trustees are: Chris Gutch; David Burfitt; Jane Smith; Maria Foley & now we welcome our new vicar, Rev. Tom Etherton.

Our grateful thanks are due to Colin Evans who once again examined our books and produced the satisfactory Independent Examiner’s Report.

Grants to Hurley Church for fabric repairs were relatively quiet this year and were mainly for external repairs to complete non urgent work in the Quinquennial Report. Other grants (listed below) were for the annual expenditures on heating; cleaning, utilities and churchyard maintenance.

Income from Properties and Investment	<u>£33,562.00</u>
Expenditure on Estate Property	£ 3,912.00
Grants to BGPCC re Hurley Church	£11,602.00
Fabric & Churchyard costs paid direct by HCE	£ 2,640.00
	<u>£18,153.00</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>£15,409.00</u>

Grants concerning Hurley Church include: fabric £4241; Utilities 2168; Churchyard £2944; Cleaning £2224; Insurance £2560.

David Burfitt, Trustee

A big thank you also to our volunteers who have started back at many of the jobs required to keeping everything running smoothly; opening the church and centre, cleaning the church, washing the altar linen, banking the collections, arranging the flowers, kitchen duty etc! We are very grateful to all those that have come back on the rotas and welcome anyone who would like to join our merry band!

Tony Ruffell and team continue to tend to the churchyards and grounds every Wednesday morning throughout the year and we are very grateful and send many thanks to them. (See Tony’s separate report on the Gardening Group).

We have been saddened by the death of Andrea Burn this year and she will be very much missed. Her service to our Church over the years will be remembered by many. There were also memorial services for members of our congregation, Norah Skinner, Janet Houston and Brian Sanderson. Janet kindly left a donation for St James the Less which we used to buy new altar linen in her memory.

We look forward to getting to know Rev Tom and his family better during the coming months and more opportunities to worship and join together in fellowship as life starts to return to normal!

Fabric Report

The church has had no major repairs done this year. Following the quinquennial report in February 2021, there are still a few minor external maintenance jobs to be carried out now that the weather is improving. We continue to check the building regularly to ensure no problems occur.

Annual inspections for fire extinguishers and PAT check have been completed and our heaters will have their annual inspection this month.

We have noticed some damage to paintwork in the chancel and will look at this in the coming year.

It's become increasingly difficult to source the type of bulb used in our church lights. We are switching these over to LED presently which will bring both energy savings and environmental advantages.

Our sound system is now several years old and some of our wireless microphones have failed and can longer be easily replaced. Therefore, this would be a good time to have a complete review of the church's audio-visual system.

Sue Wilkins

Looking forward to the year ahead our priority is to continue to adapt in making the church a relevant and inclusive heart to the Hurley and Parish community, and especially to families and children across the village and neighbouring areas, as it has been for over 1000 years.

[Fabric report](#)

Within the church we have benefited this year from the uplifting sound of the newly refurbished Organ, which has brought true joy to our Services. Along with the upgraded Sound and Visual system the church is well equipped for the upcoming year. Inspection of the fabric of the Church revealed just a few minor repairs needed to maintain it in good order, for which we are grateful to Hurley Church Estates for funding, and to David Burfitt for his diligent care of this ancient building. And we thank Sue Burton for her dedication in keeping the church so beautifully clean – to the benefit of all who visit.

Jane Smith

September – when restrictions were eased – and integrating a ‘messy church’-style event in Monk’s Barn for the children. This event combined interactive story telling themed on Kindness and the Good Samaritan, and painting of messages on large pebbles to spread around the village, along with good food and games. At Christmas, when a fresh wave of Covid put the popular Crib Service at risk we moved it outside and merged it with Carols round the Tree on the village green. Over 200 villagers came together to listen to the Story of Christmas told by Reverend Tina, enacted by the children, and to sing Carols over a cup of mulled wine; over £500 pounds was raised for the Children’s Society. Our aim is to increase activities such as these in the coming year to help maintain the church as welcoming, inspiring and inclusive for young families.

One upside of Covid was our ever-popular Cream Teas on the Village Green, which benefited from those taking daily walks – raising a record amount of over £2,000 for Parish funds; our thanks go to Merle and her team of merry bakers. Other examples of fund raising sponsored by the Church this year include the Poppy Appeal, the highly successful Hurley quiz, and the quiet evening Vigil held in the church, the latter two of which together raised over £3,600 towards the Ukraine Relief effort.

Since the lifting of Covid restrictions in February/March many of our regular community activities have been re-started: CAMEO is again meeting monthly in the Priory Room; this much missed group provides an important channel for friendship and community in the village. The Ukulele group is once again strumming their upbeat tunes and the Community Choir is meeting regularly twice monthly; we are hoping to encourage performances from both in the Church soon. Hurley Care continues to quietly provide vital befriending support to those who are alone or unable to get out of the house easily. St Mary’s recently hosted a group of Canoeists from Adventure Plus who overnighted in the Priory Room on their way from Witney to Westminster – raising money to help young people achieve their potential. St Mary’s is blessed with small army of quiet volunteers who contribute their time to these valuable community services, and we are most thankful to everyone.

9. Report from St John the Evangelist, Littlewick Green

We have just finished our second year of the Pandemic. I am pleased to report that although we had lock downs during the year, we were open for services for most of the time. We have also been able to open each day for private prayer and contemplation, providing a peaceful place for visitors. We have music playing and lights on. From the messages left we are pleased to see how valuable this has been to so many people.

We were able to hold our Easter services as well as our Harvest and Remembrance services but it was a disappointment to again lose our Crib service in December. At least we had the Christingle service in early December as well as our Christmas day service. 30 of us also sang carols at the Cricketers, raising over £130 for The Children’s Society. We did leave an empty stable in the lychgate for children to fill, and fill they did. The 600 led lights illuminating the lychgate linked St John’s to the village.

Looking at our service numbers, we are pleased to see that numbers are increasing and more of our regulars who were missing in 2020 have returned.

During the year we had 5 Baptisms and 7 Funerals/ Internments.

The highlight of our year, and perhaps the last 3 years, was the opening of our Sunday Club (Sunday School) in October. Please see Sally’s report.

For the first time, we have employed Braywick nurseries to carry out churchyard maintenance. They provide a service from May until October, not without charge, of course, but something that was necessary for us to undertake. The cost of the first year was almost covered by donations, as was the repairs that we undertook to the gates on the Lychgate.

Finally, Jenny and I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Father John, Tina and Dilys. Without their help and support the year would have been so much more difficult and challenging.

All in all another busy year.

Fabric Report

Our Quinquennial Report was carried out in March. This highlighted some urgent stone work repairs, primarily to the south gable. These works have now received a Faculty and are scheduled to commence on the 9th May. The cost is just under £9,000. We will be replacing some coping stones probably damaged by the branches of the Beech tree, now removed. 15 of the ashlar facing stones will also be replaced, adjacent to the stairwell to the boiler room. There are a number of facing stones that have 'blown' and we fear that this will become a regular activity. In addition, we have carried out some minor repairs, serviced the central heating, carried out our 5 yearly electrical inspection and report and had both the security systems and fire extinguishers checked and serviced.

You will be pleased to note that in the architect's report he noted that our church is maintained to a high standard.

Richard Moores and Jenny Robinson

Littlewick Green Sunday Club

The first Sunday Club was held in our lovely new cabin on October 3, 2021. We have had a great response from Littlewick Green families with at least 8 children attending every session so far and ten families having attended at least one of the sessions. These are held during the morning service on the first Sunday of the month. Activities so far have involved dancing, singing, sharing, drawing, decorating and sticking but are always focused around 'Jesus loves Me'. Thanks to Richard's hard work and dedication in getting the building ready and well stocked with books and array of art equipment the Sunday Club is going from strength to strength and now has three organisers.

Sally Gray

10. Report from St Mary the Virgin, Hurley

This last year has been one of uncertainty, adaptability and hope; and, on reflection, it's encouraging to consider just how much we have embraced fresh ideas at St Mary's.

Planning of Church activities has been shadowed by the risk of Covid, not knowing what rules would apply and whether Services and Events would be able to proceed and in what format. We were thankful for the calm guidance and stability we received from Father John during the Interregnum; with his support and by adding lay-led services, 'God in Quiet' and 'God through Music', we have been able to sustain weekly services throughout year. We have had much positive feedback for these new service formats, and we are grateful to our lay leaders who craft these services with such care and thoughtfulness. The Oasis prayer group moved online – continuing to meet each week on Zoom and providing spiritual sustenance to those who felt unable to join us in Church. The prayer tree in the church became a key channel through which visitors to the church could request prayers to be said on their behalf.

We thank our key-holders, who have ensured the church remains open daily for both villagers and visitors alike. As a historic riverside village, we are blessed to welcome a steady stream of visitors, and the introduction of Card Readers has helped us to benefit from their generosity, as well as now becoming an accepted and practical way of giving both inside and outside of Services.

During Covid a number of new families have moved into Hurley, and we have been delighted to welcome a good number of new faces of all ages at St Mary's; and this of course includes our new Parish Vicar Tom, Hannah and their children. Sadly, we have also lost some very dear friends, who we remember in our hearts and prayers.

Covid restrictions have impacted the younger members of our congregation the most. We adapted by moving the Family Barbeque to