**Parish of Heath and Reach with Eggington**

**Report on the activities of St. Leonard’s Church 2021 for the APCM to be held on 24th April 2022**

The St. Leonard’s sub-committee comprises the Revd. Noel McGeeney, Richard Page, Jane Dempster, Jill Thomas, Linda Morris, Tricia Humber, Ann Gomersall, Kim Anwyl, Linda Page, Nicole Waldock, Tony Mellodey.

Nicole Waldock’s term of office comes to an end but Nicole is willing to stand again. She acts as Chair for our meetings.

The sub-committee met nine times in 2021. The Standing Committee met 5 times in 2021 and six times at the beginning of 2022. On a lovely evening in August we held a meeting outdoors.

Worship

Whilst Covid restrictions were in force, meetings took place via Zoom. This also applied to church services which, with new restrictions at the beginning of 2021, meant all services reverted to Zoom. Once restrictions were lifted the Sunday morning services resumed in September, with precautions, and continued to be Zoomed. The pattern established by Noel is now well supported. Morning Prayer services are Zoomed at 9 a.m. each morning and attended regularly by 25 or more people. At St. Leonard’s a Holy Communion Service is held on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. Eight o’clock Communion is on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The 11 am Sunday service is also Zoomed. Numbers attending have continued to rise. During Advent the Vicar instigated an Evening Prayer Service which has continued, again via Zoom. Eggington and Hockliffe now share a Sunday morning services on alternate weeks.

Appointments

During the summer Corinna Washbrook, Hall Manager and Office Administrator, left and we appointed Jemma Davidson. This turned out to be a disaster. She has been dismissed and is under police investigation for alleged theft of our funds. People have been very generous in their support and insurance has repaid the majority of our loss. Nevertheless, this, together with lack of income from hire of the hall and fund-raising, meant we were, for the first time, unable to pay the whole of our Parish Share in 2021. We also postponed the Quinquennial inspection although we will need to have it during 2022.

We were very pleased when we were able to appoint Vicki Worden as the new Hall Manager and Officer Administrator. We are grateful to Kim Anwyl for holding the fort and to Suzie McGeeney for her valuable support.

We were also able to make a good appointment in Lesley Simpson as our church hall cleaner.

Safeguarding

We approved a Safeguarding policy for the joint PCC and have appointed a second officer to support Esther Dickinson.

Fund-raising

Social and fundraising activities had been suspended during Covid restrictions but have begun again. Little Fishes have resumed and is flourishing. Coffee mornings began again and there has been a Men’s Breakfast. The first fund-raiser was a successful plant sale held in May. A very successful Parish Christmas lunch was attended by almost 60 people and had kindly been sponsored by a grateful parishioner. We were able to hold our Christmas Bazaar in November. The planned Cream Tea did not take place although a very successful winter tea took place early in 2022. A very successful celebration was organised by Vera Paul, Edith Griffith, Rosemary Young and Jennie Mellodey to thank Noel and all the people who had kept services and church life going during the pandemic.

Other Activities

Noel held a well-attended and much appreciated Cemetery service in June to remember those who had died during the pandemic.

The public broadcasting platform is not fully installed as we are waiting for BT although we have been loaned equipment from Litenet. Funds were donated to cover this cost.

We had supported an application for development of the land below the church which would have given us parking places but this was turned down by the planning authority.

Linda Page has joined the governors of St. Leonards VA Lower School but there is a vacancy for a further Foundation Governor.

Richard Page has undertaken training and is now our Verger for funerals.

Esther Dickinson has taken on the role of Sacristan.

We hosted a student doing the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and his grateful parents came and waited at table for our Christmas lunch.

Jill Thomas once again master-minded our contribution to the Christmas tree festival.

A car accident demolished part of the Cemetery wall. Insurance claims are holding up the repair.

We have not been able to complete the etching of the porch door in memory of Jean Lowrence because the original company went out of business but the wardens are doggedly pursuing this.

Thank you

Our church wardens continue to make their mark. We are indebted to them and a great many people who support and enhance our church life. There are too many to name individually and I will inevitably leave someone out but a huge thank you to those involved in committees, fund-raising, organising social activities, Holiday Club, coffee mornings, magazine production and distribution, and support in services and worship. There is always a need for more volunteers; currently we need sides-persons and help with cleaning the church.

Lastly, thank you to Noel for going above and beyond to support us all during these difficult years of the pandemic. The congregations at both attended and Zoomed services have increased and we have been brought closer together. His three churches have much to be grateful to him for.

*Ann Gomersall*

*St. Leonard’s Church Secretary*

Social Committee report

Well it has been another rather unusual year, as we have only been able to hold events with difficulty.  We managed a Plant Fair with strict COVID restrictions instead of the May Fayre.  Then with a slight relaxation of regulations we were able to hold a Jumble Sale and Christmas Bazaar. We were also involved with the Harvest Lunch and a delicious Christmas Lunch.  During 2021 we have raised over £1700 for Church funds.  Many thanks to the hard working committee members and all the people who have helped and supported us throughout the year.

*Rosemary Forsyth, Chair of Social Committee*