

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

### **Aims and Purposes:**

It is the responsibility of Walmsley Parish Church Council (PCC) and the minister to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish. The PCC will co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and to encourage good relations with other Christian denominations.

The PCC will give consideration and discussion to matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest but not the declaration of the doctrine of the church on any question. (Doctrine means the official teachings or beliefs of the church)

The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the church, the churchyard and for the movables in the church and aims to ensure a safe warm church for all to worship in.

### **Objectives and activities:**

Our objectives for 2020 were to provide the following public benefits: -

- Regular public worship, open to all
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation
- To review our services in order to enhance the beauty of our worship and make our occasional offices more accessible to those with no experience of Church
- To love our neighbours and be open to them
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved as well as pastoral care for those in hospital, hospice and residential settings.
- Facilitating worship in church for Christ Church Walmsley school
- Creating links with the local community
- Provision of services / activities for young people through Turton Youth Church
- To love each other through fellowship
- We continue to work as part of the Turton Moorland Team

Unfortunately due to the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the church had to close its buildings for much of the year. The buildings may have been closed but we met our objectives and activities in new and often challenging but exciting ways.

### **Achievements and Performance Overview:**

Many of our parishioners were shielding and socially isolating so worship and pastoral care needs were met in different ways by telephone calls, doorstep visits and the sharing of resources, prayers, cheery newsletters...

The Turton Moorland Team won a Diocesan Award: 'CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD' for the huge team effort by our six churches to work together to provide online worship, shared daily prayers and setting up a telephone system. We

embraced the opportunities to go online and use social media effectively, and the wealth of resources continues for those not yet ready to return to public worship.

Our social media reach is still growing with daily Facebook & Twitter posts + our regularly updated 'A Church Near You' attracts over 100 visits a week. Although our 'FOCUS' Parish Magazine has been 'on hold', Geseth Garcia continues to update our church website ([walmsleyparish.org](http://walmsleyparish.org))

In November, Lucy Walsh, a worshipper at Christ Church Walmsley, volunteered to step into the role of Foundation Governor, vacated by Nick Kennedy.

At the APCM, postponed until November, we were delighted to welcome new - and younger – members of the PCC. Iain Stewart stepped up as new Church Warden; Stuart Ormisher became Treasurer and Gemma Dyson swiftly proved her worth by volunteering to be on Standing Committee ...and on the newly formed Executive Board of Walmsley Parish Community Hall.

Early in the year, Louise Hitchen took on the role as Booking Manager of Walmsley Parish Community Hall, upgrading and digitising the booking process and setting about creating more usable space for hirers in the Hall. At a PCC meeting in February, she was given the remit to write a Business Plan to look into the future of the Hall and its financial viability. Policies and procedures were updated and reviewed to ensure that best practice is in place. In November, funding was secured for sanding and re-sealing the back classroom ('piano room') floor following an application submitted from the 'Girdlers' Charitable organisation and a grant bid to install Wi-Fi was also successful.

In November 2020, Gemma Gardiner became the new Hall Manager, with a greater remit to move forwards with the Hall and to seek funding for improving the facilities thus making it more desirable to hire. (regulars: Playgroup...Wake up Walmsley ... Active Afterschool ... InterAct ...) but a great deal of Gemma's time so far has been spent rectifying non-functioning and/or ageing items which have needed urgent attention.

The great sadness of the year was not only Covid but the death of Mike Hayden; valuable member of our PCC with the specific role of Fire Officer; tower of strength for Reverend Carol; wise and loyal friend to many. The death of this gentle Welsh giant left a gaping hole in so many ways.

On a personal note, Reverend Carol would like to thank everybody across the parish for their understanding and patience following my long absence, whilst caring for Mike and his subsequent death.

Rev Carol Hayden – Team Vicar  
Dawn Hitchen – Church Warden