



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, LEDBURY

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

DEANERY - LEDBURY

DIOCESE - HEREFORD

Registered Charity Number: 1132846

Incumbent - Rev. Keith Hilton-Turvey

The Rectory, Worcester Road, Ledbury

Independent Examiner - Luke Keegan

Bankers - Lloyds

6-8 High Street, Hereford

Architect - Jane Chamberlain

Caroe and Partners, 34-36 Church Street, Tewkesbury

It is the duty of the Incumbent and Parochial Church Council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, and to co-operate in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

During the year, the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

To 17 June 2021

Incumbent Rev. Keith Hilton-Turvey

Associate Minister Rev. Tony Hodder

Self-supporting Minister Rev. William Simmonds

Churchwardens Dr Christine Bainton
 Julian l'Anson

Elected members	David Houghton	Assistant Churchwarden
	Sue Simpson	Assistant Churchwarden
	Peter Tattersall	Assistant Churchwarden
	Richard Thursby	Assistant Churchwarden (<i>Died 19 March</i>)
	William Hopkinson	Deanery Synod
	Christabel Panter	Deanery Synod
	Peter Veasey	Deanery Synod
	Andrew Beech	1 Year, Secretary
	Catherine Beech	1 Year, Treasurer
	Benjamin Hilton-Turvey	1 Year
	Peter Scull	2 Years
	Ian James	3 Years
	Diana Veasey	3 Years

From 17 June 2021

Incumbent	Rev. Keith Hilton-Turvey	
Associate Minister	Rev. Tony Hodder	
Self-supporting Minister	Rev. William Simmonds	
Churchwardens	David Houghton Julian l'Anson (<i>Elected 11 July, resigned 30 September</i>)	
Elected members	William Hopkinson	Deanery Synod
	Christabel Panter	Deanery Synod
	Peter Veasey	Deanery Synod
	Catherine Beech	1 Year, Treasurer*
	Peter Scull	1 Year
	Abby Wake	1 Year*
	Will Wake	1 Year*
	Ian James	2 Years
	Tim Keyes	2 Years*
	James Smith	2 Years*
	Diana Veasey	2 Years
	Andrew Beech	3 Years, Secretary*
	Sue Cooper	3 Years*
	Benjamin Hilton-Turvey	3 Years*
	Lisa-Jayne Lewis	3 Years*

* *Elected at the APCM on 17 June 2021. Term of office determined by lot.*

Committees

The Parochial Church Council operates through a number of committees and sub-committees which meet as necessary between full meetings of the Council. All committees submit to the Council reports on their discussions, and all matters of policy and action are approved by the full Council.

The report of the Council is given below and, where appropriate, reports of the Committees are printed in the following pages of this Annual Report.

The committees are: Bell Project (sub-committee, *to 8 June*), Concert, Fabric (sub-committee), Finance (sub-committee), Local Ministry, Standing.

A number of studies are underway arising from resolutions passed by the APCM in 2020 and 2021. The study groups report to the PCC and all matters of policy and action will be approved by the full Council. The groups concerned are: Baptism, Children and Young People, Communications, Pastoral Support. The reports of these groups are printed in the following pages of this Annual Report.

Church attendance

There are **159** parishioners on the Electoral Roll compared with 157 in 2020.

The number of communicants at Easter was **95** (151 in 2019, there having been no Easter services in 2020). At Christmas there were **75** communicants (48 in 2020).

A new Government lockdown at the very end of 2020 reduced numbers attending worship in person considerably, but numbers picked up steadily thereafter. Average attendance in January and February was **30** (compared to 127 pre-lockdown in 2020). From March to the reintroduction of the 08.00 service in July, average attendance was **61**, and thereafter to the end of the year was **111** (67 in the equivalent period of 2020).

Review of the year

The Covid pandemic continued to affect the life of the church throughout the year. At the start of the year seating capacity in the church was still restricted due to social distancing measures, hand sanitising was enforced, as was the wearing of face coverings and a ban on singing.

Our new Director of Music, Kate Cheetham, created a new choir to inspire us in the absence of congregational singing. The choir continues to develop its repertoire and has been much appreciated.

Government Covid restrictions abated in July, and we were able to open up more seats, though some socially distanced seats were left in place for those who were vulnerable (and remain in place at the year end). We were able to dispense with face coverings and be able to sing again from 25 July. Because of a new Covid variant, wearing a face covering again became mandatory from 4 December and remained so at the end of the year; but singing behind a face covering is permitted.

We were able to recommence the 08.00 Book of Common Prayer service from 25 July, and a monthly choral evensong from 19 September.

Many of our parishioners, and many others in the town and surrounding area, continued to prefer not to attend church in person during the pandemic because of age or underlying health conditions. The church provides Christian worship online for them and others to encourage members of the congregation and others in their faith. This has been a successful outreach, and has been much appreciated by those that have used it. Plans are in place to improve the audio-visual technology during 2022. Up to the end of the year, online services continued to be offered in parallel with the 10.00 service held in the church.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) continued to meet throughout the year. It met on ten occasions and the Standing Committee on five. The major items for discussion included the reviews on Baptism, Children and Young People, Communications and Pastoral Support mandated by the Annual Parochial Church Meetings in 2020 and 2021. Other topics included replacing the lease of St Katherine's Hall with something more fit for purpose, the proposals for reordering and the arrangements for the church office.

The PCC noted with sadness the deaths during the year of Alan Pratt, who for many years was both PCC secretary and an assistant warden, and of Richard Thursby, who too served as an assistant warden, and remained so at the time of his death.

The quinquennial inspection report has largely been actioned, and necessary maintenance work carried out where possible because of Covid-19 restrictions. An inspection for the

next quinquennial report took place in March, but the report itself had not been received from the inspecting architects by the end of the year.

During the year the PCC was pleased that the chancel lighting project was completed, as was the extension of the ring of bells from eight bells to ten. The church took advantage of a kind bequest from Alan Meikle and of Government grants designed to allow the economy to recover from Covid to replace all the PVC rainwater goods (guttering and downpipes), which were time expired, with more suitable cast iron. Alan Meikle's gift was commemorated with his initials being inscribed on two of the rainwater hoppers. Some repointing was carried out on the tower, and the surface of the tower parapet renewed (though some snagging remained to be carried out at the year end). The organ was cleaned and overhauled.

The Safeguarding Officer has reported that there were no incidents reported during the year.

Copies of PCC minutes and those of the Standing Committee and Fabric Sub-Committee are available for inspection on the church website and in the purple folder at the back of the church.

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Chairman.....

Date.....

FRIENDS OF LEDBURY PARISH CHURCH

With no AGM possible in 2020, and no events until the autumn of 2021, it was good to have an AGM in November that helped us feel that we were up and running again. With no event income to boost the funds from which we make grants to the church, the continued excellent management of the bookstall by Maggie and Bill Mackenzie enabled regular additions to our account. Our committee was a little depleted and it has therefore been really gratifying to have been able to find five energetic new members. I am particularly grateful to Val Houghton for taking on the duties of Secretary of the Committee. I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their commitment to this important aspect of church life. One committee member, Sue Embrey, has decided to stand down. We are very grateful to Sue for her contribution to our work.

We launched a new programme at the AGM for the current year. We hope that church members and others will find in it much that is of interest. Three events have already taken place: a very successful Quiz Night in November and two tours of the tower which will become an even more attractive proposition when the weather is warmer! We were also very grateful to Bob Vaughan, Chairman of the John Masefield Society, for agreeing to be our guest speaker at the AGM.

Our intended Burns Night in January fell victim to Covid but we are cautiously optimistic that the rest of our planned events will take place.

We continue to supply funds in response to requests from the PCC. Having recently given substantial support to the Bell Tower project, lighting for the Chancel and for the Last Supper painting, we are ready to receive further requests. A new lighting scheme for the Chapter House is the next project in the pipeline. All these recent projects have been successful and have attracted many positive comments. I want to record our thanks to David Tatham who has funded the publication of the leaflets about the restored Last Supper painting, and the interpretive board. He has also donated to the Friends 500 cards depicting one of our stained glass windows portraying an image of St Martin.

The Friends oversee the rota of Stewards who welcome visitors to the church from April to October each year. We are always looking for new volunteers!

Tim Keyes

LESSON READERS ROTA (FOR THE 10AM SERVICE)

Prior to Covid restrictions, the late Richard Thursby organised the readers rota.

With Covid restrictions we recorded readings which allowed people who normally aren't able to read 'live' for various reasons to take part; for which thank you all. Readers were agreed on a rolling basis.

After we returned to live services, we ran a hybrid arrangement with some live and some recorded readings, gradually moving to being mostly live. A number of new people have joined those who already read. Thanks to all readers, old and new. We continue to agree readers on a rolling basis and are intending to reintroduce a readers rota that is for several months at a time.

If you would like to organise the rota, please have a word with me.

Keith Hilton-Turvey

INTERCESSIONS

Throughout another difficult year our intercessors have been faithful in remembering the concerns we have both locally and internationally. Our overseas mission partners have found it hard coping with the pandemic, as well as living and working in an alien culture. Our prayers for them have been much appreciated.

Leading prayers in church has been rather different since the onset of the pandemic but intercessors are learning to adapt to this new situation.

At present we have 15 intercessors on the rota. If others would like to have the opportunity of leading prayers do please let Keith or me know. A copy of the rota is available in the vestry. Prior to preparing prayers it is helpful to know the readings together with any special occasion. No special formula is followed and can vary from fairly formal to less conventional.

Grateful thanks go to all who have taken on this responsibility.

Ann Gates

SACRISTAN AND SERVERS

The Server and Sacristan ministries are two important lay ministries. The role of a Server is to support clergy during services, notably Eucharistic services, by assisting in the preparation of the gifts, carrying the Cross in procession, and holding liturgical books for the minister and Gospel readers, among other things. Over the last few years though there have been a number of changes made to services and worship at SMAA with one impact being that processions are now not so frequent, which somewhat reduces the workload on Servers.

Traditionally, Sacristans were 'the officers charged with the care of the sacristy, the church and their contents.' Their role today is to assist the presiding minister in the preparation of various services, again mainly Eucharistic services.

All our Servers and Sacristans are volunteers. Their ministries are not always visible, and, indeed, Servers actually try to be minimally visible in carrying out their duties so as not to distract from the proceedings of the presiding minister. Nonetheless they would be missed by many, both lay and clergy, if they weren't there. Thank you to them.

William Simmonds, Chaplain to the Servers

YOUNG CHURCH

2021 continued in the same vein as 2020 being a year like no other, the difference with 2021, being, that we began working in a different way.

We worked with Locally Encouraging all to Flourish (LEAF) and supported an Easter Trail with displays in the windows of different organisations depicting the story of Holy Week.

From there we took an active part in supporting a Family Activity Day on the Recreation Ground in July and one in the Church and grounds in August. Both occasions were very well attended by families in spite of inclement weather at the second event.

In the autumn we lead on the Alternative Halloween and the Advent Parties, again very enjoyable and well attended events.

In addition, during the year we arranged for local families to re-plant the containers by the West Door and the Garden of Remembrance. The treat of coffee and cake afterwards provided very positive encouragement.

The Giving Tree was organised again this year. As a result of the generosity of the congregations of St Michaels and All Angels, the Baptist and Methodist Churches, a large number of children and parents from Ledbury Primary School and older people in Ledbury Community Hospital and Nursing Home, had a happier Christmas, knowing that someone had thought about them and shared love at Christmas time.

We were delighted that Ledbury Brownies took on the making of the Christingle Orange and the telling of the Christmas Story in the Christingle Service. They performed really well and were a credit to their organisation.

At the Christmas Day Morning Service, a family who used to attend Young Church read the Christmas Gospel. It was lovely to have the input of young people.

As far as Sunday morning sessions go there are no specific plans at the present time but there are always possibilities.

Plans are already well underway for events in 2022. This collaborative way of working within our churches, is definitely the way to go; sharing of resources, skills, ideas etc. under the leadership of Mary-Anne Keyes, to provide activities for families to engage with and come closer to their local churches. We are responding to the need for change.

Jill Jupp

PRAYER MINISTRY GROUP

This group has not been able to meet for some time due to Covid, but as we have heard of prayer needs we have shared them with each other and prayed individually. We hope soon to be able to start praying with individuals after the 10am service on Sunday mornings. Prayer requests are always welcome.

Christabel Panter

TOWER REPORT

Work on the bells and in the tower was substantially finished in December 2020 although there were many loose ends to tie up. I am pleased to report that, with the installing of the donor / supporter board in February 2022 in the Exhibition Area on the ground floor of the tower, work on the project is almost complete. Members of our band are completing some soft furnishings for the ringing room, and then all will be done. It was been a long journey (which started in early 2018) but a most rewarding one. Every part of an ambitious project has been completed, enabled by the humbling generosity and support, financial and

practical, of around 200 individuals, families, businesses or organisations in and around the town. Around £300,000 was raised. I have made 20 short films during the project which can be found on the website (ledburybells.co.uk). These document many different aspects of the course of the project and will give you much more of a feel for it all than this report.

We have been able to make a steady return to ringing, interrupted for a while in June when new inscriptions were engraved on four of the bells. We have had to follow strict rules about numbers in the ringing room, ventilation, the wearing of masks and, of course, Lateral Flow testing. A number of our ringers had lost confidence during the long lay-off from regular practice and service ringing, but I am pleased to report that we have all made good progress over the last year and that morale is high. We are starting to teach new recruits. We have been able to ring two Quarter Peals so far. We are able to ring 10 bells for a part of most practice nights although we tend to stick to 6 on Sundays to make sure that we make a pleasing sound. The refurbished bells are a joy to ring and are already in great demand from visiting bands.

We were finally able to hold a service of rededication of the bells and commissioning of the ringers in October 2021 at which the Bishop of Hereford presided. It was a joyous occasion and, in every way, a great launch of a new era for the Ledbury Bells. The exhibition was formally launched in June 2021 and has attracted many 100s of visitors and a wealth of appreciative comment which we will be able to feed back to the National Lottery Heritage Fund who met the cost of this part of the project. Regular tower tours will be on offer when Covid restrictions are fully eased. I am very grateful indeed for all the practical help that we have received. The contribution of Frank Seabright (our District Master, and Tower Captain at Bosbury) both to the project team and all the detailed work that this involved, and also to many practical aspects of the work in the tower, has been exceptional and has saved the church a great deal of money. I also want to record my heartfelt thanks to the other members of the team, all of whom have worked very hard to make the project such a success: Judith faux, Andrew Beech and Cath Beech.

Tim Keyes

HOME COMMUNION TEAM

The Home Communion Group consists of a small number of clergy and lay people 'in good standing with the congregation' who are trained and licensed to take Communion to the homes of people who may not otherwise be able get to church regularly to receive it. Authorised forms of service are used, and the lay persons use pre-consecrated wine and wafers. The homes that Communion is taken to include individual private homes, large residential and nursing homes, and sheltered accommodation.

Sometimes Home Communion is taken to a person or persons on a temporary basis, perhaps when they are recovering from an illness or hospital stay. At other times it is on a more permanent basis, for example when the person has some form of disability or long term illness which makes it physically difficult for them to get to church. It is therefore a very important ministry, not just providing people with the sacrament but also having a pastoral dimension to it, helping to provide social support and contact to those who cannot get to church and reminding them that they are still a part of the SMAA fellowship and worshipping community.

With the COVID restrictions coming to an end and the various residential and nursing homes and sheltered accommodations opening up again, the home communion visits are returning to their old levels. The number of visits to private homes seems to be on the rise too, with more people unable or reluctant to go to church for health or other reasons.

The numbers of the Home Communion Group have remained steady since last year at about five people, who quietly go about their duties. There is no urgent need for more people, but it would be desirable to have more volunteers. If interested, please contact me or the Rector in the first instance.

William Simmonds, Home Communion Team Coordinator

SMALL GROUPS

Despite Covid we are pleased that the small groups have continued to meet throughout the year, some by Zoom others in person. A number of topics has been studied, including the Living Christianity Course and Psalms, Songs of Life. Prayer and support for each other is a major feature of life within the groups, and we have continued to be blessed by God in our life together.

David Kirkham has, sadly, had to relinquish the role of small groups co-ordinator due to ill health. We are looking for someone to continue the invaluable work he has done.

David Houghton/Gwen Kirkham/Bill McKenzie

LEDBURY DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod met regularly throughout the year. The representatives from the parishes that have been added to the Deanery were welcomed, and a meeting held at Withington church with an inaugural Eucharist.

Speakers during the year included the new Dean of Hereford, the Very Reverend Sarah Brow, who told her faith story and answered questions from Synod members. We also had a diocesan speaker to tell us about the *Living in Love and Faith* course, which has been recommended to all parishes by the archbishops.

The representatives to Diocesan Synod and Diocesan to General Synod also bring us information from these assemblies.

Christabel Panter

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The finance sub committee met once during 2021 when it considered a request from the PCC to consider how reordering of the church should be funded and also suggestions for maximising the income of the church. It has considered other matters by email as they arise.

Cath Beech

OPEN THE BOOK

Continuing concerns over the risk of Covid in the spring and summer meant that we continued to send in video recordings of the stories rather than visiting the school in person. Different techniques suited different members of the team so the children were sometimes treated to shots of us dressed up and acting our hearts out in our sitting rooms, and at other times to a 'Jackanory'-like reading from the sofa! When school reopened in September we were delighted to be invited back in, and also to discover how much the children and staff had been encouraged by our continued contact through the video recordings. With suitable precautions we were glad to be able to present the Bible stories live in the Autumn term and to include the children wherever possible in these re-tellings. There was a real buzz of excitement and delight on each visit. Sadly, with the steep rise in cases since Christmas we have been asked not to visit the school at least until half term, so we are back with recording. My thanks are due to my wonderful team who have stuck with the ups and downs of the past year and continue to be committed to maintaining this valuable link with the school.

Similarly it was not possible to hold our usual Open the Book assemblies in Eastnor Church for much of the the Spring and Summer terms. I was able to occasionally join in the weekly school zoom assembly and tell a story. Then towards the end of the Summer term we were able to go back as a team and tell an Open the Book Story, acting in the playground. It lovely to be able to do this and to be welcomed back so warmly by the School. In September we started OTB assemblies as normal back in Eastnor Church. Nina and John Hainsworth have joined the team and are very welcome. We are being cautious, and sadly not having children dressing up and taking part in the acting, but it is so good to be back. Please pray that we will be able to continue with our story telling and get the end of the year one stories this time.

Mary Anne Keyes (Ledbury OTB Team)/Heather Lucas (Eastnor OTB Team)

CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

Our mission partners were back in England over Christmas 2020, with their two young boys and new baby girl. They are now back in Asia awaiting visas to return to working with Christians in another Asian country.

We had our usual CMS coffee morning in August, thanks to Cath and Andrew Beech, in their lovely garden on a pleasant summer morning. This was enjoyed by a good number of church members and other friends.

During the year we had two Zoom sessions with out mission partners. We cannot mention countries where they work or their names because of the nature of the Christian work they are doing.

Christabel Panter

LEDBURY DEANERY MTWARA LINK

Despite difficulties with Covid restrictions, we have been in touch with Revd Jackan Waweru throughout the year. The Kindergarten children are all well and have attended school throughout the year.

We are able to send the usual Christmas funds for distribution to the poorer people and for food for the Kindergarten children.

Covid vaccination has been authorised by the Tanzanian President, but we do not how widely this has been distributed.

It has been a difficult year for the Deanery Committee as we have been unable to fund raise but hopefully we shall (Covid restrictions permitting) be able to hold a Deanery Soup Lunch at St Katherine's Hall on Friday 25th March between 12noon – 2pm. The hall has been booked for this occasion.

Brian Bowers and Elaine Toyer have attended Diocesan meetings on behalf of the Deanery.

Elaine Toyer and Brian Bowers
On behalf of the Deanery Tanzanian Committee

BAPTISM REVIEW GROUP

BARE has met four times. A review was presented to PCC following BARE's first three meetings, but the points raised were not discussed as the meeting was out of time. This will be addressed in a future meeting with a recommendation to continue BARE as a regular agenda item at PCC.

One baby was baptised in 2021, which was a matter of great joy for the whole church. The family hope to move permanently to Ledbury. The godfather of one of the parents, Reverend Prebendary Sam Ashton, took part which provided lovely spiritual continuity. The family were handed personalised copies of the service sheet at the font. The main congregation used the screen.

For the future we propose to liaise with priests in other Parishes to share and encourage on-going spiritual and pastoral nurture of baptismal families and candidates, including to confirmation, here and elsewhere; consider practical location of Baptisms within our building as we develop its function; and hand out service sheets (as the screen is not universally visible) for those who wish.

We propose to re-establish the Baptism Support Group, including with Mother's Union representation, to enable families seeking Baptism, and their after-care; to support presiding Minister/s and sides-people in caring for the expanded congregation on the day.

Continue to review our website to best encourage parents and adults seeking baptism.

Diana Veasey

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REVIEW GROUP

The review group has met once so far. The main outcome from that meeting was to work to build our relationship with John Masefield High school. This is a work in progress and like so many things, has been impacted by covid. It was felt that there are several key challenges:

Alternative activities are seen to be more attractive and produce points for university applications.

We need to achieve a critical mass of both children and of teenagers

One thing we can all do, is to pray:
Pray for all the families in Ledbury, that they will be healthy.
Pray that God will add families to our church community.
Pray that God will help us generate relationships so that we gain critical masses.
The group will organise to meet again at a convenient date and time.

Keith Hilton-Turvey

COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW GROUP (CORE)

CORE started work immediately after APCM 2020. It proceeded until November 2021 by correspondence, producing two interim reports. The focus was mainly upon the parish's internal information and communicating with its members, making known who was responsible for what and what decisions had been taken. Further guidance was and is required about the parish's objectives and targets before the main tasks of the next phase, concerned with increasing its impact on the wider community, can be put in hand.

Communications was recognised as a vital tool of mission, and as necessary for helping create cohesion within the parish community. An oversight group to integrate thinking on all aspects was agreed, but has not yet been established. The PCC agreed that notes of meetings and membership of parish bodies should be available on the website, the website itself should be reviewed and the quality of email communications improved. Attention was to be paid to ensuring that material was sent to the website promptly.

The Group recommended that improvements in Audio-Visual provision should be investigated. That has been done and the PCC has reached some interim conclusions. The Group has not yet examined the role that Social Media might play; that must await further guidance on the objectives and strategy that the parish wishes to adopt. Meanwhile, the website is being reconstructed and relatively minor, but nevertheless, very useful, improvements can be made in the Pew Sheet; those are being examined.

The one area of significant difficulty that the review encountered was over ensuring that the Magazine would reflect the diversity of opinion in the parish. Experience indicated that total editorial independence could lead to the exclusive favouring of one segment of Church of England belief. That is not acceptable. The principles are clear; the detail of how to prevent it remains to be resolved.

The main need now, apart from work on new areas to support parish objectives when known is the effective implementation of what has been agreed.

William Hopkinson

PASTORAL CARE REVIEW GROUP

After a delay due to various PCC-related matters, work began in earnest on the Pastoral Care Review in December 2021. A fairly substantial discussion document was produced which involved meetings with several people, and this was circulated to the persons listed above.

The discussion document recognises the significant amount of excellent pastoral care that goes on in the SMAA community, much of it not very visible because of its personal/private

nature. Mistakes have been made though and the review can be seen as mostly trying to help the community do to what it already does, but better.

One of the purposes of the discussion document was to focus the review. The potential scope of pastoral care is large, so to avoid the review getting out of hand three areas were identified as priorities, these being in line with the areas highlighted when the review motion was put to the 2021 APCM. They are:

'Quick wins' with a pastoral support dimension.

This refers to mechanisms that could be put in place relatively easily but which would nevertheless provide quick and tangible benefits with regards to pastoral support. One such was the suggestion of Cath Beech's put forward at the APCM for a prayer chain. Other ideas included a voluntary register of people who might be able to offer particular skills to help others in need, and self-help groups. The need for a Home Group co-ordinator was also raised, this recognising that a great deal of pastoral support takes place within Home Groups.

2. Re-starting the Pastoral Support Group.

The Pastoral Support Group has gone through several iterations since the early 2000s, the group existing in the period 2004-2012 and led by Dianne Lindeck being particularly well thought of. After a period of absence the Pastoral Support Group was restarted in about 2017 with a different team. However, due to a number of factors, not least COVID, the group has rather fallen under the radar, even though individual group members have continued with their good work. The question of whether to re-start the group and, if so, what form it should be take and its management were considered a priority.

3. The LEAF factor

The review would be very negligent not to consider LEAF which offers significant pastoral support to the wider community, including a counselling service. The purpose here would be to see how where and how LEAF and SMAA might assist each other with regard to pastoral support to mutual benefit.

A meeting of the review team was held in December to discuss the document. At that meeting it was agreed unanimously that the Pastoral Support Group should be restarted, and it is envisaged that a significant part of the work of the review team would be looking into the recommendations for that. In addition, the review team hope to solicit the ideas of the wider SMAA community as to any specific pastoral support elements that people would like to see be put in place which the review team might not have considered.

At the time of writing, it is hoped and expected that the recommendations for the 'quick wins' will be put to the PCC by the time of the March meeting, if not before, and that the recommendations for the Pastoral Support Group will follow soon after, ideally before the 2022 APCM.

William Simmonds

CONCERT COMMITTEE

Following a quiet eighteen months due to Covid restrictions there was a flurry of activity, with three concerts held in the church last autumn and Christmas time. The performers greatly appreciated the improved lighting and the good-sized audiences enjoyed the novelty of live music in the town once more.

This small committee of just four people have decided to step down after eight years of service, but no one has yet volunteered to take their place, so the future of concert going at St Michaels is in doubt, which would be a great shame as it brings in new people to appreciate this lovely building. We would be pleased to assist a new group of people to take on this task.

Sue Andrew

BANNERS REPORT

We were pleased that the Harvest, Remembrance and Advent banners were deployed again in 2021 for the first time since the start of the Covid pandemic. The banners team resumed work early in 2022.

Diana Veasey

FLOWER GUILD

During this past year the Guild Members have met on 2 occasions to plan the major Church Festivals after Easter; the Patronal and Harvest Festivals and Christmas. The weekly arrangement at the N. Door and Memorial flowers have continued throughout the year. All these arrangements and Festivals have occasioned very positive comments from congregation and visitors alike.

As agreed, we had a scaled- down Lily Festival in July as a celebration of the lives of those who had died since 2019 and the lessening of restrictions to Worship, using the money collected for Easter Flowers 2019/20 as the base of our costs. This was very well received on the part of the congregation and visitors over the weekend and some additional donations were received as a result.

We have now successfully changed our Bank account from the Nationwide Building Society in Malvern to Barclays in Hereford to simplify banking arrangements and through this we now have access to On-line Banking.

During this rather quieter year Chris. Lynch, the Guild Secretary and I reviewed a] our contribution to the Parish Church website which had become rather out of date and b] our Wedding Flower Planning form with updated costs in light of inflation and the increase in costs at the wholesaler and helpful advice about what the Guild could provide.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Judy Street for personal reasons and also Jo. Stephens. We sent Judy a Garden voucher as a 'Thank you' for long Service and commitment to the Guild over many years.

The Rector and I discussed the ongoing provision of flowers throughout the year and he agreed to put a *cri de coeur* on the Pew Sheet from time to time in the hope of recruiting new arrangers to the Guild.

Christmas 2021 is still a fairly recent memory when the Church looked stunning, the lovely creative arrangements enhanced by the new lighting.

Pauline Smith

BUILDINGS WORKING GROUP

Because of the inability to meet or to make visits, and of the need to assess the long-term effect on modes of worship and engagement with the wider community BWG paused its work before the beginning of 2021. Both of the latter could affect the requirements for changes and improvements to the church building. Then new members were added, including from outside SMAA. The 2019 ideas were reviewed and others considered.

Some changes have already gone forward. The PCC has addressed audio-visual improvements, reflecting the increased importance of making worship available on line. There have been improvements to lighting, eg in the Chancel. Additionally, Government policy and age may require fairly early replacement of our heating plant.

In the light of professional advice from the Major Churches Network, BWG is revising the Statements of Need and Significance. The former will emphasise the church's important role in supporting the community - essential for fund-raising. Further extensive engagement with the community, on how the church can help meet its needs will be required. Relations with LEAF will be significant.

The Statements must provide for flexibility now and into the future, not focus just on the worship or other activities that we now do or provide or propose for the immediate future. It is impossible to know what requirements will be 100 years hence, so flexibility but with the avoidance of irreversible change will be essential.

The revised Statement of Significance will balance the important conservation requirements with the need to fit the church for present or foreseeable requirements.

Fund raising will be important and time consuming. Implementation will be spread over many years. Expertise will undoubtedly have to be bought in; some may come from volunteers with time, energy and commitment, including people outside the congregation, helping the church to bond with the community.

William Hopkinson

LEDBURY MOTHERS' UNION

There were no meetings during the first part of the year because of the covid situation. Members continued to contact each other by phone or email. Our first opportunity to get together was in September 2021. This took place in our new venue – the Methodist Church (the theatre was not available as there was no provision for ventilation there). We hope to continue our monthly meetings there. Ledbury MU is grateful for St. Michael's continuing support as regards the rental for the venue.

Janet Gallagher

DATA PROTECTION

No data protection issues arose during the year. All records are kept securely in the church office. If you are new to the parish please complete a data protection form which are available at the back of the church.

Sarah Williams

LOCALLY ENCOURAGE ALL TO FLOURISH (LEAF)

St Michael and All Angels is a supporter of LEAF, which is a separate charity, and many members are involved in it at various levels of the organisation. The Trustees report for December 2021 is attached at Annex C.



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners of St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

St Michael and All Angels church, 17 June 2021

The meeting was chaired by Rev. Keith Hilton-Turvey.

1. Rev. Hilton-Turvey opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of meeting held on 15 October 2020

2. These were agreed unanimously and signed by the chairman. There were no matters arising.

Election of churchwardens

3. David Houghton had been proposed and seconded and was duly elected unopposed.

4. The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Second Annual Meeting of the Parishioners of St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

St Michael and All Angels church, 11 July 2021

The meeting was chaired by Rev. Keith Hilton-Turvey.

1. Rev. Hilton-Turvey opened the meeting with prayer.

Election of churchwardens

2. Julian l’Anson had been proposed and seconded and was duly elected. A confirmatory vote was taken at which 47 votes in favour were received, no votes against and three abstentions.

4. The meeting closed at 11.10am.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St Michael and All Angels church, 17 June 2021

Present

1. The meeting was chaired by Rev. Keith Hilton-Turvey. 60 parishioners attended with 8 apologies.

Minutes of meeting held on 15 October 2020

2. Keith Hilton-Turvey proposed an amendment to the minutes to replace the fourth sentence of paragraph 15 as follows: "Keith Hilton-Turvey, however, asked that given his views and actions regarding the Anglican church and St Michael and All Angels particularly; how would he represent St Michael and All Angels on the deanery synod?" Liz Harvey believed that the minutes, unamended, represented what had been said, and proposed that they stand. The rector's proposed amendment received 8 votes in favour, 16 votes against and 14 abstentions. The unamended minutes were agreed with 35 votes in favour, 3 against and 2 abstentions.

Matters arising

3. Diana Veasey reported that the group reviewing baptism had only recently been able to start work due to circumstances beyond the group's control.

Rector's report

4. The rector gave his report of the year's activities and recorded his thanks to those who had contributed (see Annex A).

Treasurer's report and reception of accounts

5. The Statement of Financial Affairs for the year ending 31 December 2020, the Balance Sheet as at 1 January 2021 and explanatory notes had been printed in the Annual Report. A summary page of the finances of the church in 2020 had additionally been included. Cath Beech expressed her thanks to all who had helped run the church's finances during the past year, especially David Kirkham in his role as Gift Aid Secretary. She also thanked those on the Finance Sub-Committee, Ayo Adowale, David Houghton and David Kirkham. The committee were looking at how to maximise the church's income.

6. Cath Beech reported that the Covid-19 outbreak had continued to impact on church finances. Income was down some £8,000 on the previous year, with income from the congregation having fallen due to lower attendance and the lack of a plate collection in services. On the other hand, visitor numbers had started to rise again, which should improve income. Cath once more asked members to sign up for the Parish Giving Scheme.

7. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Cath Beech and seconded by Christine Bainton. They were adopted with 42 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

Election of lay representatives to the PCC

8. Nine posts were available for the election of lay representatives to the PCC and there were twelve nominees: Andrew Beech, Cath Beech, Sue Cooper, Liz Harvey, Benjamin Hilton-Turvey, Tim Keyes, Lisa-Jayne Lewis, Ann Scull, James Smith, Abby Wake, Will Wake and David Wall. An election being required, Tony Hodder and David Wood-Robinson were appointed as scrutineers.

9. The number of valid ballots received for each of the candidates was as follows:

Andrew Beech	52	Lisa-Jayne Lewis	42
Cath Beech	52	Ann Scull	27
Sue Cooper	36	James Smith	35
Liz Harvey	24	Abby Wake	29
Benjamin Hilton-Turvey	30	Will Wake	36
Tim Keyes	54	David Wall	19

Andrew Beech, Cath Beech, Sue Cooper, Benjamin Hilton-Turvey, Tim Keyes, Lisa-Jayne Lewis, James Smith, Abby Wake and Will Wake were accordingly declared elected.

10. Andrew Beech reported that the PCC had considered the terms of office to be served by those elected at its meeting on 18 March. It was concerned to even out the number of vacancies for lay representatives that would occur each year. To achieve this, of the nine elected at this meeting, three would serve a one year term, two would serve a two year term and four would serve a three year term. This would result in four vacancies occurring each year. In accordance with the Church Representation Rules the individual terms of office would be determined by lot at a PCC meeting to be held immediately after the APCM.¹

Sidespeople

11. The list of sidespeople remained unchanged. It was agreed with 39 in favour, none against and 1 abstention.

Reception of reports

12. Christabel Panter proposed, seconded by Ian James, that the Annual Report for 2020 and the Churchwardens' Fabric Report for 2020 both be received. This was agreed with 38 votes in favour, none against and 5 abstentions. The Electoral Roll stands at 158 persons.

Independent examiner

¹ The results were:	One year term (expires APCM 2022):	Cath Beech Abby Wake Will Wake
	Two year term (expires APCM 2023):	Tim Keyes James Smith
	Three year term (expires APCM 2024):	Andrew Beech Sue Cooper Benjamin Hilton-Turvey Lisa-Jayne Lewis

13. Cath Beech proposed that Luke Keegan of Greendawn Accounting of Ledbury be reappointed as independent examiner. Lois Pratt seconded the proposal, which was agreed unanimously.

Questions of general and parochial interest

Young people's work

14. Ian Beer thanked Jill Jupp and Julia Warren for their faithful work with the children. But he was concerned that more needed to be done to attract young people to the church. He proposed the following resolution:

“That the PCC set up, as soon as possible, and not later than October, a Working Group to consider what St Michaels should be doing to attract and help the young of our Parish. This should include (but not be restricted to) examining liaison with the two Schools, whether we should restart Sunday School on 'Monday after School' at the Primary, restoration of the elder adolescent discussion group (preparation for possible Confirmation), the involvement of the young in the general life of the Church - including the choir and, essentially, liaison with LEAF.”

15. The resolution was seconded by Jenny Silcock and agreed with 50 votes in favour, 2 against and no abstentions.

Strategy

16. William Hopkinson felt that the world has changed radically because of Covid, and the church needed to adapt to the changed conditions. He felt that a strategy review was needed. This should be led by the Local Ministry Development Group and Worship Review Development Group, but with much involvement from others. He felt that St Michael's needs to lead the community in a positive way. He proposed the following resolution:

“Given the impact of Covid and other developments, it is imperative that SMAA rapidly address in a strategic manner its role, objectives, and means of achieving them. The APCM therefore asks the PCC to put in hand urgent work on that, utilising a renewed, balanced LMDG and other bodies to prepare, after deep consultation with the parish, an updated MAP.

The LMDG should be given by the PCC

- Clear terms of reference;*
- Instructions on how to report back on and publicise what they were doing;*
- Guidance on how to record its discussions most effectively and to report them to the PCC;*
- Guidance on a review process for our progress with the MAP's objectives.”*

17. The resolution was seconded by John Worby and agreed with 44 votes in favour, none against and 9 abstentions.

Pastoral support

18. William Simmonds felt that a lot of good pastoral work, some of it formal, much of it informal, was going on within the church, but it tended to be uncoordinated and there was

a danger that some needs might not be addressed. This was especially true during the current Covid outbreak. He and Cath Beech had drafted a resolution as follows:

“ The PCC should appoint a team to undertake a thorough review of the full range of pastoral support provided by SMAA, looking at both current and past provision. This will be with the aim of putting forward recommendations to the PCC for the shape of future pastoral care in SMAA as we emerge from the long hiatus caused by Covid. The review should cover amongst other things:

- (i) Whether there is a need for a (re-)establishment of a formal pastoral group including bereavement support group with specially trained volunteers, and if so how that is to be set up and overseen;*
- (ii) The range of informal care that goes on currently and whether some ‘quick win’ solutions can be put in place to help in that, one such being a prayer chain, which among other things would help in identifying where there is need;*
- (iii) The overlap between (i) and (ii);*
- (iv) The extent of LEAF involvement in pastoral care within SMAA.”*

19. The resolution was proposed by Cath Beech and seconded by Sue Cooper. It was agreed with 51 votes in favour, none against and 4 abstentions.

Deanery link with Mtwara, Tanzania

20. Ann Tombs pointed out that contacts with Mtwara had been maintained despite the Covid outbreak. A report covering the year 2020 can be found at Annex B.

Other matters raised

21. LEAF are hoping to organise family activity days during the summer, and will request volunteers in due course. They also plan to set up exhibits in the town about their work.

22. It is planned that the 08.00 service in St Michael’s and services in St Katharine’s chapel will recommence once social distancing ends.

23. The Wednesday breakfasts in St Katharine’s hall will recommence during the summer school holidays.

Date of next meeting

24. It was agreed that the 2022 APCM would be held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 6 April 2022, venue to be decided.

The meeting closed at 9.07 p.m. with prayer.

Rector's report

The readings for this evening are Judges 6, talking about the consequences of God's people doing what was evil in His sight and God providing Gideon, an unlikely character to lead them back to God; Luke 14 of the parable of the people who came up with excuses to avoid God's invitation and the consequences; and Psalm 62 –

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation.

² He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

³ How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

⁴ They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.

They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.

⁵ For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him.

⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

⁷ On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

⁸ Trust in Him at all times, O people;

pour out your heart before Him;

God is a refuge for us.

⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰ Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.

¹¹ Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

¹² and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.

For you will render to a man according to his work.

It's 8 months and 2 days since our last APCM!

and we plan to hold our next one in 9 months, returning us to our traditional April APCM timing.

It's been a stressful time for many of us and restrictions have constrained many things we would like to do. During this time we have completed the bells project, had the rainwater goods replaced, had new lighting installed in the chancel and have had the organ thoroughly cleaned and tuned.

Over recent weeks, in particular, people have been returning to gathered worship in person and we've begun to hold meetings such as cell groups in the flesh too.

Thanks:

I want to begin thanking people,

beginning with *Richard Watkins*, who few of you probably know, who has quietly been keeping the porch clean and swept through these covid times.

Ed Huxley, who has been providing our covid cleaning after services, whenever they happen

Mike King, who has been our 'quartermaster' ordering all those things we need and expect to just be there, to enable things to happen – such as sanctuary candles, candle oil, communion wafers and palm crosses.

Mike has decided his time doing that has come to an end.

If anyone thinks they might like to take that job on, please have a word with me after tonight.

Jill Jupp for tending the large planters outside the west door and on the south side of church, keeping them stocked with well cared-for flowers and making those areas more beautiful to the eye.

John and Nina Hainsworth, James and June Smith, Gwynneth and other helpers who've been tending the garden of remembrance and have made what was the scrub area at the back, attractive instead of an eyesore.

Kate Cheetham who's made many recordings with her virtual choir, who's developed a way of enabling singers to be part of choirs of 6 most Sundays.

Our retired clergy, along with *Tony Hodder* and *Mary Anne Keyes* who have taken services.

A number of people are stepping down from the PCC
Both Churchwardens – *Christine & Julian*.

For personal reasons both.

Thanks for the good work done in different ways by both of them, each playing to their strengths.

A couple of examples:

Christine played a significant part in improving people's arrival experience at services.

Julian has grasped the nettle, with much photographic help from Mike King, of updating our inventory.

Thanks too for fulfilling their responsibilities and commitments to our church with graciousness and who have sometimes in the face of unnecessary and unpleasant criticism.

Assistant Wardens – *Sue Simpson & Peter Tattersall*

– who've been helpful, supportive and encouraging

and will continue to contribute to the mission and ministry of S. Michael's in the many other ways they do.

Peter for example, heads the vergers, keeps the careful count of attendance

and Sue has been spearheading our gentle, covid-careful, outreach to people moving into the new houses.

– *Richard Thursby*

– who sadly died earlier this year

Thanks to *Cath* and *Andrew Beech* – Treasurer and Secretary respectively, for much work, thoroughly done:

Cath who's continued to improve our financial processes and reporting and has been getting a financial hold of the church office following Cider and Hop benefices' decision to provide their own administration.

Andrew who's been a diligent and gracious PCC secretary and who with sterling help from the Fabric sub-group has done a marvellous job of overseeing the various works we've had done.

Benjamin Hilton-Turvey and *Lisa-Jayne Lewis* have worked hard and successfully, in the face of determined technical gremlins to provide and deliver the live streaming of our services... and *Benjamin* (again) as it is he who produces our powerpoint presentations for church services and events, including tonight.

Thanks to all those who have recorded readings for our services,

hearing familiar and not so familiar voices has been something people have appreciated.

Tim Keyes along with *Frank Seabright* and the team who've been overseeing and working on the Bells and Tower project, pretty much all that's left is the finishing of the engraving (expected end next week), the opening ceremony for the tower exhibition next Wednesday and the Bells dedication service with

Bishop Richard which until Monday, was scheduled for 6 July and is now likely to be on a Tuesday in October.

Looking forward...

In the short term – as we are as yet unable to have 8am BCP services, the consequence of continuing covid cleaning requirements, we shall have a 10am BCP Communion service on 27 June, with hymns!
As part of the planned celebration of the removal of restrictions Pauline Smith and the Flower Guild had planned a lily festival for the weekend of 26-27 and the week following. This is going ahead as planned. The ladies would appreciate any donations towards defraying costs that people may wish to give.

Looking further ahead, I hope we shall be able to celebrate our Patronal Festival, Civic Service, Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle and Christmas in our more traditional manner.

As a church community, called to worship and witness to Christ,
let's aim to be an inviting, growing Christ-centred, faithful one;
confident in the truth and teaching of scripture;
shining and showing that in Jesus we have an alternative way of living and being.
It's our confidence, enthusiasm and lives that are what will interest and draw people to explore Christianity and meet Jesus.
Let's show our community we follow Him, believing and practicing His teachings.

As things ease, Kate is planning to create opportunities for local primary school children to take part in our worship. This is of necessity, tentative at present and likely to take some time. This is about the children, for their benefit and growth, spiritual and musical. It's not for us and our entertainment.

Let's pray

Father God –
Thank You for S. Michael's for all you done here through the centuries
and that as followers of Jesus, we're all part of Your family here... now

Bless us with Your spirit of Godly unity.
Bless us to be a strong and vibrant body of believers,
faithfully representing the King of kings and Lord of lords
and being the Godly, powerful witnesses, You intend us to be.
Bless us to shine out with the light of Christ,
that those in the darkness will be drawn to You.
Bless us with renewed boldness to share our faith in Jesus.
Bless us to treasure the variety of Godly expressions
and to value, encourage and strengthen one another
in our faith and trust in Jesus Christ and His word.
Bless us to work together as the Body of Christ for Your glory,
for Your Kingdom and for the good of Ledbury.
Bless us to serve You, one another and our Town.

Amen.

ANNEX B

LEDBURY DEANERY LINK WITH MTWARA, TANZANIA 2020

Throughout the year members of the committee have been in touch with one another by telephone or e-mail regarding all aspects of the work of the link. We were unable to hold any of our lent lunches arranged prior to the pandemic and also had to cancel the Tanzanian evening arranged for June.

We have been in regular touch with Father Jackan Waweru and the children at the Kindergarten are all well. The usual contribution for food at Christmas was sent and acknowledged. The projects regarding the purchase of chickens and rabbits are going well. These are used for food for the children's meals whilst they are at school.

Our funds are now very low and so when we are able to begin meeting in person again arrangements for future fund raising events will be discussed.

We are pleased to report that the Government of Tanzania has allowed Covid vaccinations to proceed throughout the country. The Masasi & Newala Trust has also provided funds for PPE.

Brian Bowers, Elaine Toyer and Anne Blandford representing the Link also attend meetings of the Diocesan Committee.

Elaine Toyer



LEAF PROJECT

(Locally Encouraging All to Flourish)

Trustees' Update: December 2021

*"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message...
so all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...
so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20-21)*

Project Update: December 2021

With all the activity being undertaken under the auspices of LEAF it is hard to believe that we don't celebrate our first year as a formal charity until April next year. The success of the project so far is in no small part to Tony's committed leadership of the work, along with the passion and enthusiasm of the project team leaders. They are ably supported by others who undertake much of the more hidden administrative aspects behind the scenes. As trustees we would commend their work to you and would wish to express our thanks to all who have contributed so much, in such a short space of time.

Physical Well-Being

Denise, who is a CAP Debt Counsellor, is now funded to work in Ledbury one day a week and is working with a number of clients in the area. She is working well with our CAP Befrienders and so far, four people have been befriended by three different volunteers. However, there is still a need for more befrienders so if this is something that you feel you might be able to commit to then please let us know. CAP will be running a money course early next year and there have been conversations with the Ledbury Children's Centre looking at the option of running a course there for young parents.

Emotional Well-Being

The first Kintsugi Hope course is up and running with thirteen people attending. Ali Bennett is now fully trained to run the courses and Liz Jones is undergoing training to be able to do the same. The first 'cohort' are predominantly from the churches with a view of using some of these attendees to be able to run future courses in the community.

LEAF now has two professional counsellors who work in the community. It is hoped that another counsellor will be added to the ranks as we develop a funding stream for this work.

Spiritual Well-Being

In the past year LEAF has run three Alpha courses and has just started a fourth. If you know of anyone who may wish to know more about the Christian faith then please speak to your church leader who will let the Alpha team know.

One exciting project is the development of a chaplaincy service that will operate within the surgery in the town. Discussions and meetings are on-going and agreement has been reached to start this service on the 10th January 2021. Further meetings are taking place before this to ensure everything is in place. LEAF has two people who have been trained to function in this ministry.

The Monday Worship evening remains an arena for those of any denomination to seek God. This runs alongside the 7/12/7 prayer times which we would commend to anyone who wishes to see God's Kingdom extended in the town. All the trustees are aware that this prayer remains the engine room both for churches to express a tangible form of unity and togetherness but also, and more importantly, it will always be the foundation on which any work in the community is built.

Children

Mary Anne Keyes co-ordinates this work and after the successful events in the summer the team has held the Light Party in October which 43 children attending and more recently the Advent party which was also well attended. It is also worth noting that these events have been supported by 25 people from the churches within the town. Alongside these events LEAF has purchased Advent Calendars for each class (Real Advent Calendar) in Ledbury and Eastnor Primary Schools. LEAF also supported a new event, a Nativity Festival, which was held at the Methodist Church. Looking further ahead there are plans to host "Experience Easter" and "Thy Kingdom Come" events next year.

Tony and an ex-teacher visit the Ledbury Primary school each work to mentor some of the more challenging children. This is the genesis of a longer-term project as there is a high possibility that these children will maintain a link with LEAF through the Youth Drop-in in future years. LEAF also has a representative on the governing body of the school as one of the trustees was appointed to the board recently.

Youth

It is hoped that the Youth Drop-in will be re-established in the near future. You may be aware that there has been an issue finding a home for the group since it lost the option of The Masters House. Negotiations are nearly concluding that would see the group move into the Old Magistrates Court and Ledbury Police Station. This project works in conjunction with LYAS an existing charity for youth already established in the town. Looking further ahead it is hoped that we will be able to employ a Youth Worker, the costs of which will be shared by LEAF and LYAS with a combined brief to serve the young people in Ledbury and the surrounding areas.

Other News

The Bank account is now fully functional and monies that have traditionally been held by St Michaels for Tony's ministry are being transferred to LEAF. The trustees would like to record their thanks to the church not just for the smooth transition of funds but for their administrative support of Tony in recent years. All of the project teams are currently undertaking new plans and budgets for the coming year and Tony is actively engaged in looking for areas of grant funding to support much of the work being undertaken.

How can you help?

There are needs within the work and if you feel God is calling you to serve the community of Ledbury in this way then please do let us know. As stated previously we are looking for befrienders for the CAP project. We also need someone who has marketing skills and can support the work of the website and other communications. If you know of funding streams or would be willing to support in any of the administrative work of the charity then again please talk with us.

Finally, can we thank all of you in all the churches for your ongoing support and involvement. If you should wish to know more then please check the website which has a wealth of information about the charity and its work. The web address is <https://www.leafledbury.com/>