

**THE BENEFICE OF GLOUCESTER ST GEORGE  
with WHADDON**

**ANNUAL REPORT for 2020**

**Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meetings**

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VICAR:	Revd Bruce Clifford until 31 August 2020
READER:	Canon Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis
PIONEER:	Helen McGeoch
PASTORAL ASSISTANT:	Susan Scothern
CARING CO-ORDINATOR	Linda Medwell
MUSIC LEADER:	Paula Rix until June
ST GEORGE'S CHURCHWARDENS:	Michael Brammer Sylvia Evans
ST GEORGE'S DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS:	Linda Brown Jayne Close Derek Kingscote Dot Martin
ST MARGARET'S CHURCHWARDENS:	Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis Hans Rackham
ST MARGARET'S DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS:	Jill Ponter Kath Senior until June 2020 RIP
PCC SECRETARY:	Rosie Clifford until 31 August 2020
ST GEORGE'S PCC TREASURER:	David Westcott
ST MARGARET'S PCC TREASURER:	Hans Rackham
BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR:	Glenda Stevens
ST GEORGE'S ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER:	Margaret Barber
ST MARGARET'S ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER:	Jill Ponter

## BENEFICE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS' ANNUAL REPORT

**Status:** The PCCs are charities, excepted from registration with the Charity Commission, under the Charities (Exception from Registration) Regulations 1996.

### **Address for correspondence:**

St George's Vicarage, Grange Road, Tuffley. GL4 0PE.

The PCCs and Standing committees of the two churches elected to meet jointly four times in 2020, as they had done the previous year.

The following ad hoc committees met during the year: Authorised leaders; Church Centre management; Connections; Finance and Funding; Pastoral Care; Pioneer Steering and Social.

### **Gloucester St George Parochial Church Council**

The following members served during the year:

Revd Bruce Clifford	Chair until 31 August 2020	Ex-officio
Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis	Lay reader	Ex-officio
Michael Brammer	Churchwarden	Ex-officio
Sylvia Evans	Churchwarden	Ex-officio
Derek Kingscote	Deanery Synod	Ex-officio
Roger Meadows	Vice Chair	Elected
Joceline Blunt	Secretary from October 2020	Elected
Dawn Dolphin		Elected
Dot Martin	From October 2020	Elected
Helen McGeoch	Deanery Synod	Ex-officio
Linda Medwell		Elected
Stuart Mitchell		Elected
Darrell Stevens		Elected
David Wescott	Treasurer	Elected
Rosie Clifford	Secretary until 31 August 2020	In attendance

**Independent examiner:** Mr A Leach,  
Melrose, Cheltenham Road, Painswick, Glos.  
**Bank:** Yorkshire Bank, 5 Northgate Street, Gloucester

## ST GEORGE'S STATISTICS

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
BAPTISMS	2	13	14	21	24	16	20	20
CONFIRMATIONS	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
COMMUNICANTS	1017	2613	2648	3564	2990	3737	3279	3688
ATTENDANCES	1781	6156	5794	6761	12210	5928	8637	8283
WEDDINGS	1	0	2	0	2	0	4	0
FUNERALS	21	28	25	31	35	38	47	47
ELECTORAL ROLL	65	65	74	80	83	82	85	88

### St Margaret Whaddon Parochial Church Council

The following members served during the year:

Revd Bruce Clifford	Chair until 31 August	Ex-officio
Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis	Lay reader, & Churchwarden	Ex-officio
Hans Rackham	Churchwarden, Treasurer and Vice Chair	Ex-officio
Lorraine Best	Deanery Synod	Ex-officio
Peter Best	PCC	Elected
Michael Smith	PCC	Elected
Jenny Watts	PCC	Elected
Rosie Clifford	Secretary until 31 August	In attendance

**Independent examiner:** Padam Walburn Accounting Services  
80 Forest View Road; Gloucester: GL4 0BY

**Bank:** NatWest Bank; Eastgate Street, Gloucester

## ST MARGARET'S STATISTICS

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
BAPTISMS	0	7	6	4	4	5	11	13
CONFIRMATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COMMUNICANTS	567	919	624	715	-	-	-	-
ATTENDANCES	901	2720	2643	1995	-	-	-	-
WEDDINGS	0	6	2	3	5	6	5	7
FUNERALS	6	6	7	2	1	2	2	6
ELECTORAL ROLL	36	-	36	-	34	-	-	38

### Notes for 2020

Worship took place on 31 Sundays. We can make a crude adjustment, by multiplying the communicants and attendances by 52 over 31. This gives 951 and 1511 respectively.

The communicants figure reflects a significant increase at the 10.30am Thursday service since the start of Covid.

The attendance figure is less encouraging and reflects several factors:

- the lack of weddings and baptisms
- the closure of Wynstones School
- reduction in Family Praise congregation during Covid
- reduced numbers at Christmas services

## BENEFICE LAY CHAIRS' REPORT

What a strange year – and that's putting it mildly!

Our 20/20 vision for the year soon disappeared with the loss of the Vicar, Benefice Joint Secretary and Director of Music in quick succession. The Church had to close its doors from March until July and again in November because of Covid 19 regulations and, even in the period when churches could open, strict protocols had to be followed. These restrictions were such that we have not been able to say a proper farewell and thank you to Bruce and Rosie for all their work during the five and a half years they were with us. We did it virtually thanks to Helen's brilliant idea of knocking on the doors of regular members of the congregation and videoing messages. They were both very appreciative of this and the generous leaving presents that we gave them. We wish them a long and happy retirement.

We managed to keep worship going through the lockdowns in new and innovative ways. Bruce, and later in the second lockdown, Rev Canon Dr Sandra Millar recorded virtual communion services to which additions were made and service sheets sent out weekly. Thanks are due to all those who helped in their preparation in any way.

Bruce helped to prepare us to cope during the vacancy by establishing a Vacancy Steering Group which has met on a regular basis to keep things going and particular thanks are due to David Westcott for his sterling secretarial work in this respect. We managed to hold the Annual Parish Meetings at the first possible opportunity in early October and these were presided over by the Lay Chairs of each Church. The Churchwardens have taken on a lot of extra responsibility during the vacancy and this is appreciated. Services have continued, either actually or virtually, with visiting clergy organised by Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis and we are grateful to him for that, also for the flexibility of those involved in them.

Agreement has been given to a replacement Vicar and the PCCs have been following through the necessary procedures with the Archdeacon of Gloucester and the Bishop of Tewkesbury. The Vacancy will be advertised in January 2021

with the interviews planned for March and hopefully an appointment being made as soon as possible thereafter. A lot of work was involved in the preparation of a Benefice Profile in this connection and thanks are due to the team who produced such a brilliant one.

Church finances have obviously been affected considerably this year and we are greatly indebted to all who were able to continue their stewardship on a regular basis. There will be a real challenge to redress the balances. Prayerful consideration needs to be given to this problem by all concerned and not left to the new Vicar to solve – although miracles are always welcome!

Let us look forward with optimism to 2021 and pray that we come out of this global crisis with renewed faith and enthusiasm.

ROGER MEADOWS, LAY CHAIR ST GEORGE'S AND  
HANS RACKHAM, LAY CHAIR ST MARGARET'S

## **CHURCH & COMMUNITY PIONEER REPORT**

The past year has not been an easy year for anyone. Keeping in touch with people and making sure needs are met has been our primary focus. I am thankful for technology that has enabled much of this, for a team who have carefully embraced each step of the way through an unprecedented event, and support from other leaders and members of different groups I have worked with.

This report is a summary of how we continued to love our church and community together in a year that will be remembered for a long time to come.

Soul Space – we managed to run just two Soul Space events at the beginning of the year, both being times of worship and learning together in a relaxed atmosphere.

Tuffley Festival – the team worked hard in getting the community on board with engaging with a different style of festival, submitting videos, pictures, and comments to be shared as part of several videos, cleverly put together by Hans

and shared online. The feedback was that it was genuinely felt that the videos captured the true spirit of Tuffley. Thank you, Hans.

### **Bruce's Goodbye DVD**

This idea came to me in the sad moments of realising that we would not be able to give our beloved vicar and his wife the goodbyes we wanted to, but we needed to do something. Thank you all for taking part in this. Special thanks to Hans for videoing and preparing the final DVD. We made doorstep visits with nearly all of our members, including some precious moments with Cath, Ruby, Marjorie and Joan. Bruce and Rosie were delighted with the finished product and enjoyed trying to guess who was behind all of our doors.

### **The Church in Tuffley**

I was running Alpha with the help of some volunteers, first from English Martyrs Church, then from my home, in the early months of the year. It was wonderful to share the good news of the Gospel with those who joined with us.

**Refresh** – We have continued to meet online throughout the year, each church taking a turn to plan and host a time of worship and learning together. The church community is beginning to feel less like four different congregations and more like one bigger church family.

St Barnabas Church joined with The Church in Tuffley when Sarah Todd became their Vicar in May. They bring a wealth of skills and further opportunity to reach our community with the Gospel.

**Prayer Booklet** – When we realised we were going to be in lockdown for longer than originally planned and that the situation was not easing as we had all imagined, Archbishop Justin Welby, the Pope, and others, called us to pray. I put a prayer booklet together, which included some prayers from key organisations, to assist our congregations in doing this.

**Hampers** – This was an incredible success considering everything that may have hindered us. Our churches provided 40 hampers for our local families. Liaising with the schools enabled us to work to family specifications and gave Dawn, the chair at Gloucestershire Bundles, the opportunity to target their donated presents to the age and sex of the children involved. Having Gloucester Youth

for Christ leaders and young people come and help with the packing and delivering was a bonus.

### **Schools Work**

We were building on the well-developed relationships with our schools and looking forward to Easter before all things were stopped. The stringent rules of the lockdown meant that we have not been allowed back into schools to do the normal assemblies, clubs and Open the Book sessions. One event stands out for me – I was invited in to speak with the year 6 children about creation and what Christians make of it. I took Dr Ian Todd, a scientist with a scientific opinion on creation, with me. We had a wonderful hour with the children sharing our faith and our understanding of how the world came to be, including a very impressive grilling on how we came to that understanding.

**Hans and Lorraine report for their Open the Book Teams below: -**

#### **From Lorraine Best concerning OTB at Harewood Infants School**

All school visits stopped during the 1st National Lockdown and we have not been able to restart. We'd like to acknowledge our indebtedness to Kim Westcott who has now retired from her role as OTB Wardrobe/Property organiser. When we are able to restart, she will be greatly missed.

#### **From Hans Rackham regarding OTB at Grange School**

On behalf of my team, we've naturally been very disappointed in not being able to visit Grange School to take the assembly on Monday mornings.

Just before Christmas I did send an email to the Head, Beth Williams, asking her to give our best wishes to all the children and staff.

In her reply, she thanked me and said that she hoped we might be able to gain access to the school again in the Summer term – here's hoping!

### **Messy Church**

Messy Church made a great start to the new year, going through a programme of Holy Habits. The team held meetings in my home, enjoying a time of Bible study prior to the activity planning, ensuring our focus was always on how we could bring out the details of the story we were sharing about Jesus. The team was becoming increasingly more creative, relying less on the ideas in the magazine and using more of their own, often more appropriate ways of working with our children. We were beginning to get to know the families just

a little more each time we met with them and, often, families would linger at the end of the sessions to chat or help with the cleaning up. Stella reports on how Messy Church has engaged with our families during lockdown: -

### **From Stella Mitchell**

During this time when Messy Church could not take place, the team have kept in touch with our sixty Messy Church families with newsletters. These contain a Bible story, some puzzles, a colouring page and a craft activity. The feedback we have had is quite positive and the children enjoy receiving their letters. Hopefully, we will be able to start Messy Church in St George's again later in 2021, but, until then, we will continue with the newsletters.

### **Other Activities During Lockdown**

- Participation on the Church Profile team
- Continuing to support families, some of whom belong to our Messy Church.
- Set up the Food Parcel project and deliver parcels each week.
- Some volunteering help with Gloucestershire Bundles, reaching out to vulnerable families in the area.

Lorraine Best has also submitted this brief outline of the pioneering work she and Pete have been involved with: -

- Welcome packs prepared and being delivered to new residents at Yew Tree Gardens.
- Regular prayer for Benefice continues with accompanying walks when Covid restrictions permitted.
- Refresh Meetings either physical or virtually by Zoom.
- Starting a fledgling Church in Tuffley environmental/conservation group calling ourselves Churches in Tuffley - Making a Difference Together. Plans for tree planting in Randwick Park, regular litter picks and clearing footpaths have had to be postponed due to Covid restrictions.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the pioneering project and for continuing to pray for the team and the people we engage with. We look forward to this year of journeying out of lockdown and finding new ways to connect with the local people in our community.

HELEN McGEOCH

## **PASTORAL REPORT**

During the lockdown our pastoral work has of course mainly had to be Phone support only with a small break in between we were able to get in to see some of our more vulnerable parishioners observing all the social distancing rules.

This of course has been rather frustrating as it is so much easier to see how people are really coping in a personal visit. However, we totally embrace the reasons why.

We of course are praying for the day when we can safely take up our visits again as soon as we are able.

However, many thanks for all the team and all our congregation for manning those phone lines our dear folk have found it invaluable and very much value that friendly voice at the end of the phone in their isolation and loneliness.

It will of course be continued until finally get together for that much needed physical contact we all so desperately need.

LINDA MEDWELL

## **DEANERY SYNOD**

Deanery Synod did not meet at the start of the pandemic but there were two meetings on Zoom in the latter months of the year. These were single topic meetings looking at the Deanery Strategic Life Plan and were to be the first of a series of discussions to formulate a plan for Gloucester City Deanery. This work is ongoing.

DEREK KINGSCOTE

## ST GEORGE'S CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Hello everyone!

Here is our report for 2020. We started the year as we usually do, but then in March we were disrupted by the Corona virus. At first, it didn't make a great deal of difference, except we had to wear masks and sadly couldn't sing. However, as time went on, we went into a total lockdown and our church was shut. Services were recorded and those who had access to a computer were able to join in via you tube or just used the signpost that was delivered to most households. Life would never be the same. The outreach in the community was greatly needed and we hope you didn't feel excluded.

Bruce left us in July. His farewell was not the usual celebration we are known for, as we had Covid-19 restrictions in place. A small group of people went to the Vicarage and gave Bruce and Rosie a leaving gift. Afterwards, we were blessed with visiting Vicars who kept our services going. We extend a huge thank you to all of those who came to help out.

Many things have been disrupted this year. Meetings have been held by Zoom, our regular hall lets have all been suspended and we have not been able to celebrate many special events over the year. However, we have met together as a Steering group to take our church forward during this interregnum. The Parish profile has been compiled, so hopefully in 2021 we will have a new vicar.

In September, we were able to have an allocation of food from Fair shares delivered, which has given us the opportunity to hand out food parcels. It is a very valued resource and available to all. Covid restrictions and safety regulations are all in place.

Throughout lockdown, our centre toilets have been refurbished and look quite nice. Sadly, because of Covid-19, we were unable to hold our Christmas Carol Service, but a shortened version of Carols by candlelight was held at St Margaret's. Here is hoping that normal service will resume in 2021.

It is with great sadness we end our report with the tragic death of Brian Woodruff. Brian was our Director of music and choirmaster for 14 years and was the inspiration behind the founding of our Coffee Pot. He, along with his

wife Cynthia raised over £17,000 for our Church which is staggering. Brian also brought in the weeklong St George's Festival, which showcased talent from our local schools and opened up our community. Without his innovation, we would not have the Tuffley Festival, so his legacy will live on. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Although this has been a year of unprecedented sadness, fear, and a whole new dynamic of worship, we have all rallied together and shown a true camaraderie towards each other. Many of us have been out and about checking up on our parishioners and making sure they are safe and well. We hope that 2021 will bring a sense of "normal" and we will be able to sing to God again. Thank you to all of you, for your support throughout this weird and wonderful year. We hope to see you at St George's and look forward to serving you, as Churchwardens.

Yours in Christ  
MIKE AND SYLVIA

## **WHADDON, ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

2020 was an unprecedented year, due to the effects of the Covid-19 virus. Public worship was suspended from 18th March until 12th July, and again for most of November. At the close of the year, restrictions and precautions were still in place: in particular members of the congregation have not been allowed to sing, and facemasks have been compulsory.

A great deal of effort has been put into providing virtual services during the periods of lockdown, and maintaining contact with the congregation, especially those who are not computer users.

### **Farewell to Bruce and Rosie**

Bruce Clifford's retirement was announced early in 2020, and his last service in the benefice was at St Margaret's on Thursday 30th July. It was very sad that the Covid situation prevented us from giving Bruce and Rosie the farewell that they deserved. Their contribution was immense. It was said more than once

they had packed ten years' work into the five and a half years they spent with us. Bruce also reminded us by his own quiet and constant example that everything must always be rooted in prayer. We thank God for all that they were enabled to do here.

### **Working the benefice during Covid and the Vacancy**

Due to the Covid lockdown we were unable to hold our usual APCM, and this eventually took place after Evensong on 4th October. It was good to welcome Jenny Watts as a member of the PCC, and Lorraine Best has succeeded Mike Mumby as our Deanery Synod representative.

Apart from the APCM, all other meetings have been by Zoom connection. This has its frustrations, and of course assumes that everyone has a computer and the necessary skills. It has however enabled us to keep moving forward as a benefice.

The PCC and the Standing Committee have continued to meet jointly with those of St George's. Since the start of the vacancy in August 2020, the Standing Committee has been augmented as a slightly larger Steering Group, which meets about every 2-3 weeks. There has been a great deal of extra work both relating to the vacancy and the changing demands of the Covid situation.

Worship during Covid has created an immense amount of work. We must record special thanks to Hans Rackham, Pete Best and Helen McGeoch for all that they have done. We are also very grateful to the clergy who are maintaining our eucharist services during the vacancy.

### **Care of the Building and its contents**

We have had several more leaks at the W end, where the roof abuts the stonework, mostly on the N side. This is disappointing and rather worrying, as the junction has already been remade to a modified detail prepared by our surveyor David Newton. The latest leak was on 23rd December and the matter will be taken up afresh with the contractor and surveyor.

The structural repair of the porch has not progressed very far. We do now have guide prices: the preferred option is the least expensive, namely to "stitch" the porch stonework to that of the nave. We are now awaiting a specification from our structural engineer., referred to in last year's report.

## **Church Life and Worship**

It is sad to record the death of Kath Senior, who for so many years was a faithful worshipper and welcomer at the door. She loved nothing better than to do the humble jobs of sweeping and cleaning her beloved St Margaret's. She died peacefully but most unexpectedly at her home in June 2020.

Our mainstream congregation has been remarkably loyal during the Covid period. Family Praise has been another matter, with many of our regulars feeling that they should stay away for the time being. It has been good however to welcome some new members both to Family Praise and to the mainstream services. The 1030 am Thursday service is now better supported than it has ever been since it started in 2007.

There have been no baptisms or weddings during 2020. Two future weddings have been booked, however.

There were no Easter services due to the lockdown. At Christmas we had to be cautious about how many could safely be accommodated, so prebooking was essential. A shorter form of candlelit service took place on three evenings, and in total over seventy people attended including several young families.

For social distancing reasons, we decided both at Harvest and Christmas to revert for this year to separate services for family and mainstream congregations.

## **Newsletter**

The usual spring and autumn newsletters did not appear this year, but we did manage one in time for Advent, with booking forms for the candlelit services. The newsletter is really our way of keeping in touch with friends of St Margaret's who live at a distance or who for whatever reason can't regularly be part of our congregation. The last few newsletters can be found on the benefice website under "What's on". Go to <http://www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk/>

## **Outreach and New Housing**

Construction of the 250 new houses at Yew Tree Gardens, to the south of Grange Road, is progressing rather slowly. Welcome packs have been delivered in person to the first forty or so households. Meanwhile draft plans are now being progressed for a far larger development of no fewer than 2000

houses, stretching all the way to Naas Lane, with local community facilities and industrial units as well. It could be that within ten years Whaddon parish will be transformed.

The welcome packs were the work of the Pioneering team and our Mission Group. Pete and Lorraine Best are now our Associate Pioneers. Towards the end of 2020 we learned that our Pioneer, Helen McGeoch, will be leaving in June 2021 when she will be ordained. We hope and pray that the work she has done in the community and the schools of Tuffley will be carried forward. Sadly, Covid has greatly restricted this work in the meantime.

### **Looking to the future**

For so many people 2020 has been a difficult year and perhaps many of us will be hoping for better things in 2021. It may be said however that the experience of Covid has not been entirely negative. We have learned that there are different ways of doing things. Maybe we will not hold quite so tenaciously to our established ways of church life when... and if... things get back to the normal that we have known.

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

JONATHAN MACKECHNIE-JARVIS

### **MOTHERS' UNION REPORT**

Our meeting in January was our AGM and was attend by eight of our members. There were no changes to the officers' positions with Sylvia Chamberlain staying as Branch Leader, Dianne Baker as secretary and Mike Mumby as treasurer.

In February we were due to have a speaker from the Leonard Cheshire organization, but unfortunately, we were disappointed again as no-one arrived. We had a short discussion about MU projects and then enjoyed some refreshments.

March again saw us without the speaker we had booked for our Lent reflection. Apparently, she had put the wrong postcode into her satnav! However, we were fortunate to have Bruce Clifford in attendance and he gave us a short talk about Lent.

As we all know the lockdown was put in place on March 23rd and this obviously curtailed all our meetings. We had a full programme booked for 2020 and we hope to call upon the speakers we had booked as soon as meetings can be held.

We decided to go ahead with the showing of a DVD about the life of John Wesley. This was held in the church in September whilst observing social distancing and just 4 members attended.

The sending of birthday cards to the children baptised at both St. George's and St. Margaret's continues. This helps to maintain some contact with the families.

We look forward to the day when we will all be able to meet for Mothers' Union in the future.

SYLVIA CHAMBERLAIN  
BRANCH LEADER

## **ST GEORGE'S CENTRE**

Well, what a year!

I guess that there is little for me to report apart from my thanks to the 2020/21 committee for just being there offering support when needed. So, my thanks to Linda, Jayne, Glenda, Jill, Margaret, Roger, Mike B, Mike M, Gail and Gareth.

The Centre did re-open during 2020 but few of our regular users took up the chance to hold meetings again. Hopefully 2021 will be more accommodating.

Expenditure was (and still is) a worry in 2020 with windows, doors and loos being replaced, really at a cost that the Centre in the end has had to meet. Many have said that heating should have been the priority, but that option has now passed us by. Still, perhaps 2021 will be the year when our income/balances can be improved and thus form that basis for future projects.

We look forward to 2021 when must ensure that St George's Centre is a 'fit' venue for our regular and occasional users to come back to. Hygiene, Health and Safety must be the paramount requirements for the Centre's environment. Therefore, we shall be looking at and requesting comments from anyone on how the Centre's environment can be bettered/improved. This may come at a cost but if we can encourage more users to return to us, we shall get the income to afford it, eventually.

DARRELL STEVENS

Chair, St George's Centre Management Committee

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Hello everyone!

Sadly, there is not much to report as most events were cancelled. Apparently, there was a virus. Did you hear about it? However, I hope you have all stayed safe and well throughout this last year. The Social Committee are still here and willing to put on fun events like horse racing, Countdown, Beetle Drives etc.

We are hoping to hold new events in 2021, so if you have any ideas of things you'd like to do, let me or one of the Social Committee know.

I thank you all for your support and here's hoping that we will all be able to play in 2021.

SYLVIA EVANS

## **THURSDAY DAY CENTRE**

With the onset of the Covid-19 virus, the Luncheon Club had to close after March 12 2020 to protect our members and in accordance of the rules laid down by the governments first Lockdown.

We were unable to open again for the rest of the year because of the spacing restrictions, transport problems and limitations of the use of the Church Centre i.e. the kitchen was not available.

At the beginning 2020, two members had to have a stay in GRH for different reasons resulting in them both catching the virus. But our old folk are made of sterner stuff and both recovered!

Naturally, the members are itching to return but in the present climate, even the chances of opening by the Autumn are at the moment looking slim.

HANS RACKHAM

## **THE RAILWAY SOCIETY**

The society first met at Ryelands Junction in February 1992 and has continued to do so nearly every month since, except of course for this past year when the Pandemic Covid-19 made it impossible to carry on after March, due to the Governments first Lockdown.

The five regular steam buffs meet at the Station Master's house – Ryelands Junction (12, Ryelands).

We did manage to 'steam-up' for the October meeting only, until further Lockdown caused us to close again.

At our meetings we take a nostalgic look back to the golden era of steam by way of viewing a DVD or two, of which there are many to choose from these days.

Normally our very select group would welcome anyone who has an interest in the golden age of steam to join us, but sadly at this stage I cannot see us being able to 'steam-up' until much later in 2021, if at all in 2021.

HANS RACKHAM  
Station Master  
c/o Ryelands Junction

## **ST MARGARET'S ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

I have redone St Margaret's Electoral Roll this year, we have lost Kath Senior through her sudden death and Rosie Clifford because Bruce and Rosie Retired.

We have at the moment 34 on our Roll and because we have not been able to meet. I don't know who would like to join us. Sorry I can't make it anymore but that's the way of things at the moment.

JILL PONTER