

Parish of Witney: Churchwardens' Report 2021

It is, of course, a great sadness that our churches have had to remain closed for much of 2020, and that, therefore, many of the events that would have normally taken place in our wonderful buildings, from regular worship to concerts and festivals, had to be cancelled.

Nevertheless, we are hugely grateful to the Deputy Wardens and all the volunteers who have worked so diligently to complete numerous iterations of Covid Risk Assessments for their respective churches to enable them to re-open. They have also worked hard to ensure that our churches were set up and remain Covid secure for all the services and occasional offices that have taken place during those times when we were allowed to re-open. Once again, many thanks for this gracious service.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, we have been able to progress various projects to maintain and improve our buildings, and also to plan ahead for the times when we will be able to hold major festivals and events again. Thank you to all those who have contributed to these projects in this fallow time.

We are thankful that we live in a time when technology has allowed us to keep in touch from the safety of our own homes. As such, we are all so grateful for the work of our Ministry Team in adapting so creatively to the challenge of undertaking their priestly calling in such unusual circumstances. And of course, to those who have worked in the background to enable our Zoom events to happen so seamlessly.

Finally, a special word of thanks to Michelle, who has worked in the Parish Office throughout the pandemic. She has had to adapt her work practices significantly to enable us to hold services safely and has provided great support to those without internet access by sending them paper copies of sermons, liturgies and the weekly newsletter (as well as being a friendly voice at the end of the phone when needed).

Kate Banks and Jeremy Lasman
Churchwardens