

# Holy Trinity Church, Shaw

in the West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church  
Partnership

## Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020



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## Administrative Information

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Holy Trinity Church, Shaw is one of four churches in the West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership, which comprises Baptists, Methodists, URC and Church of England.

The address is

Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramlease Drive, Swindon SN5 5PY

In accordance with the constitution of the Church Partnership, the government of the Church is the responsibility of the Church Committee.

### Church Committee for 2020

Chair	Steve Kershaw
Church Wardens Green	Steve Kershaw (resigned during year) & Sue Green
Treasurer	Sue Green
Secretary	Janet Clarke
Other Elected Members	Ian Bryon (resigned during year) Moira Webster Wendy Dukes Angela Mak
PC Representatives	Janet Clarke Sue Green Steve Kershaw

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## Structure, Governance and Management

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The Church is a charity as part of the Church Partnership which is registered with the Charity Commission (1141341). The church committee members are elected as specified in the Church constitution.

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## Objectives and Activities

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The aims and objectives of Holy Trinity Church, Shaw are to build a community of God's people to take the love of God in action and God's word to the community. It is also to provide a facility for groups serving the community in Shaw.

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## Achievements and Performance

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### **Church Attendance**

As we are aware during the majority of 2020 Holy Trinity Shaw was closed due to Covid restrictions and opened only for a few weeks at the end of the year.

Accordingly figures of attendance is inappropriate. The number of members as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 was 26

### **Review of the Year**

#### **Review of 2020**

Last year I started off by saying that our membership numbers have remained stable, however we have since lost Ian, Gayle and the family as Ian continues to progress in his drive to seek what the Lord has for him, and the family, in the Methodist world. Our lost is their gain. However I believe we should rejoice not only at the work they have all done at HTS, the Partnership and school's work, but in the certain knowledge that the church they have moved to and the surrounding area will benefit from their spirit led mission. To say they will leave a big hole in our worship and personal lives is in itself an understatement.

Also, and I know this is happening around spring this year and is technically for the 2021 review and not now, but the fact is that Sue and Rob will be moving to the Isle of Wight shortly. They have been with us for in excess of 25 years and during that time Sue in particular has been without a "role" to play for only 2 ½ years!! From a personal point I cannot state just how much support Sue has given me and just how much work she has done for HTS, being that as a committee member, minute taker, Church warden or Treasurer all roles of which she has covered during those years. This also ignores things such as House Group Leader and I believe a friend to us all. Accordingly on behalf of us all I just wish to say to Sue and Rob ( he has been Chair, Treasurer and in the music group!!) thank you, you are loved by us all and we will miss you.

The year itself has in many ways been quiet. With Covid and the decision to close the Church, and the lack of social interaction we have been limited as to what we have done. However a great deal of thanks still needs to be given to Clive , Teresa, Mark, Angela, Ian and Gayle while they were with us and several from St Mary's in putting together the zoom and at home service sheets. The feedback for both of these has been extremely positive and has even been a life line to some.

Also we have been able to keep a form of pastoral care going and again thanks to Mark, Angela and Gayle for their checking on us all. There have also been numerous areas of kindness, with things such as shopping for people and I know , purely as an example, that Ivan has been grateful in the early months when he had to self-isolate

as he was / is a vulnerable adult and that Marie and Wendy did shopping for him on a regular basis. Ivan was not allowed out and this offer of service was gratefully received by him. Ivan by the way is the first person I knew who had both his jabs (completed 7/1). There have also been examples of people helping with hospital visits, and the list can go on, but the main thing is that in one way or another we have been here for each other.

Yes, the Church has had a couple of services at the end of the year, before we closed down again. It was good to be inside the building with other people, but it still felt quite different, not being able to sing, give the peace as we do and the simple ability to sit down and natter with a drink and biscuit. But a lot of hard work had to be done to get the place Covid “secure” and a lot of thanks goes to Teresa and the work she did in getting a risk document for us and our users—but also to people such as Rebecca, Janet and Wendy who took on the additional roles that the “Welcomer” now does.

However one area of total success has to be the WhatsApp group. A massive thank you to Clive, Mark, Angela and Ian and Gayle while they were with us. Thanks to this we have probably “touched” our religion / Faith, more frequently and in different ways. I would perhaps even go as far as to say, in my opinion, that in a period of lockdown we have learnt more or how we interact with our world, with each other and with other people—so a massive thank you from all of us who have benefited from the hard work that so many have put into this.

Our users have mainly stopped, and recently so have the other churches that use our premises (Portugese, Polish), the Brazilians are however still occasionally using the premises. The one user that has continued just about throughout is the pre-school. To me this is very important, the Church is very much part of the community and it is good to see the community still using us—and long may this be allowed.

So the year has passed, and for many of us that cannot remember WW2 then this could well be the most difficult of our lifetime. However, the spirit has I believe worked through us all and the interactions, of whatever kind, we have had with people and long may he guide us. 2021 will still be difficult as the virus continues, but with the vaccines there is light at the end of the tunnel, and we may soon be able to embrace each other again.

God Bless

Stephen Kershaw  
Chairperson of HTS Committee

#### Partnership and Clive’s Report

There have been a lot of changes and uncertainty over the past year, particularly in relation to the pandemic and the future of the Partnership. Sincere thanks need to go to Steve (until July) and Sue as Wardens, the members of the Committee and for all those who have ensured communications between the various aspects of the daily life of the church.

My specific thanks goes to Sue Green for being our Treasurer, as she stands down after a significant and very much appreciated time in post. I thank Angela, Mark, Janet, Teresa, Trevor, and all who have led services over the past year, both in church, and through the At Home services and online Zoom services. Thank you to everyone for your understanding when we have had to close and go online. Thanks also go to those like Teresa, Steve and Rebecca involved in ensuring the Risk Assessments have been completed so the church is ready for worship, and the building is available for the nursery in particular. Special thanks goes to Ian and Gayle who left us during year, their gifts and skills are greatly missed as we continue to pray for God's blessing upon them and their children.

Clive Deverell

## **Building Report**

This year's building work has been predominately repairs and maintenance. We continue to pay for the fire alarm, emergency lighting, fire extinguishers, boiler & lightning conductor services & inspections.

We had to repair a glass window at the start of the year and bought some more tables for the hall, so the heavy trestle tables do not need to be used so much.

However, building closure meant lots of work was put on hold.

The main quinquennial repair to the beading is still outstanding and will be carried forward into 2021.

Sue Green

**Worship** We started 2020 following the Holy Habits as we had done in 2019. We came to the end of the series in the Spring. We decided to follow the lectionary for the subsequent months. This was the same as St Mary's, we both used the 'roots publication. People from both churches took it in turns to construct a common worship at home booklets for the last six months of 2020. Marks gospel was read each week on the What's App.

**Junior Church** At the beginning of 2020 we welcomed the junior church from St Mary's as they joined us while their church was being adjusted. Then lockdown arrived.

**Youth Zoom (previously God.com)** This ran on a Sunday evening from the beginning of 2020. Then came lockdown, then came Autumn and God.com by zoom began, twice a month led by Angela Mak. We invited other churches to send

teenagers, so we have ended the year with a partnership God.com. Also just to say thank you to Janet Clarke and Marie Chorley for their help.

### External Mission Links

**BMS World Mission**

**SYFC**

**Filling Station**

Filling Station I believe was prevented by Swindon Borough Council for most of the year (due to covid) to hand out sandwiches, although this changed at the end of the year and we helped out in producing sandwiches, snacks, fruits, toiletries etc. We are hopeful that this will mean that we can go back to our 3 times a year (at least) doing this service for those in need in Swindon.

All 3 charities received £600 each as our 10% giving to further God's work locally, nationally & internationally.

BMS has numerous projects internationally

SYFC sends regular newsletters to church.

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## Financial Review

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Church giving was down a little this year despite us not being in the building much. Rental income took quite a hit due to the lockdowns.

Our plan continues for all our church giving to go in tithing, Partnership share and essential church related items and building costs including utilities and increased maintenance etc to come out of rental income. We didn't complete all the planned building repairs that came out of the quinquennial so they will be carried over into 2021. We did manage to increase our Partnership share as planned.

Spending plans for 2021 include the delayed maintenance work, however due to the loss of some members our church giving and therefore partnership share may be reduced.