

FRIENDS & SOCIAL COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

To be presented to the APCM

To be held via Zoom on Wednesday 28th April 2021

2020 will be remembered as the year that was devastated by the COVID Pandemic. We held 1 face-to-face Friends & Social Committee Meeting on the 14th January 2020 and thereafter all subsequent meetings were held via Zoom with no personal contact. We held these Zoom meetings on average every 3 weeks during lockdown, partly to raise morale amongst the Committee members and partly to plan for future fund-raising initiatives for the year ahead.

Janice Wilde stood down as Chairman of this Committee in March 2020 due to ill health and we take this opportunity of thanking her for her amazing support and leadership and wish her improved health in the future. I took over as stand-in Chairman for the time being, keeping the seat warm for Janice's possible future return to the post.

Due to the statutory lockdown and self-distancing regulations imposed by the Government in March 2020, we were only able to hold 3 social events during the year, namely 2 Coffee Mornings, 1 in January and 1 in February bringing revenue to the Friends & Social account and our Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, 25th February 2020, which raised a nett profit of £241.00 for St. Michael's.

All further social events scheduled for 2020 were cancelled, having a devastating effect on our annual income.

In order to try and make up for lost earnings, we held an Auction of Promises, which took place in September 2020, and we reached out to the wider Congregation both for pledges to supply prizes and to bid. This initiative exceeded our wildest expectations and made a nett profit for St. Michael's of £1,000!

These are very uncertain times and nobody knows how long the Coronavirus will linger on and impact on all our lives, so it is impossible for us to plan for the future, except to say that the F&SC have drawn up a Social Calendar for 2021 in the hope that we will be able to get back to some semblance of normality later on in 2021. In the meantime, we are continuously searching ways of raising well-needed support for our Church.

Gilly Pitt
Chairman
Friends & Social Committee
April 2021

