

Christ Church Lille

Report for Archdeaconry Synod 2021



A year of mixed blessings

Building works next door to the church have continued to cause problems (no wifi because they cut the cable, noise, dust and difficult access) but the promoters of this new building helped pay for our new heating system. So there are positive aspects. The heating now works so well that we can't afford to run it all the time, however.



Lockdown and closing the church last year was a difficult time for us, as for everyone. But volunteers did get more work on the floor done while the building was closed, and it looks lovely.



But out of necessity came **innovation**: who would have thought that we could publish weekly **videos and sermons** to

YouTube, and now **podcasts** too! It's been an amazing learning opportunity and has taught us to take a whole new look at how we "do church".

Our **videos** have reached around the world, proving that church is not just the building, it can go beyond the local area.



Finances and in particular the lack of them continue to be a great worry, although we are grateful for help from the Diocese, and in particular to all those who continue to support the church financially. Support also comes in the form of volunteering and in looking out for others during periods of isolation.



What now?



Sadly, our **150th anniversary celebrations due at Ascension 2020** could not happen the way we had originally planned. We had fund-raised for the events, but once again, out of

disappointment came an opportunity. We are going to use some of these reserved funds to update our **audio-visual equipment**, to fit us for a sustainable, hybrid future.



In addition to our audio-visual plans, and when finances permit, we're still hoping to open up the church with an inner glass door or window. This will be a visible sign of the way we're reaching outside the church building and connecting with the wider community. The next 150 years begin here.