



St Peter's

Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon



Annual Report 2019

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Services at St. Peter's

Sundays

9.00am

A reflective start to the day with said **Holy Communion** every Sunday except the last Sunday in the month when the service is held at 9.00am at St. Leonard's Church, Warmingham.

10.30am

Sunday School held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

10.45am

Holy Communion every Sunday with the first Sunday of each month being a **Family Communion**.

7.00pm

Contemplative Service of **Evensong** every Sunday. Holy Communion following Evensong on the last Sunday of the month when there is no 9am service.

Please do look at our Website, Church Window Parish Magazine or Notice Sheet for details of special services that take place during the course of the year.

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Introduction / Vicar's Report

(written July 2020 covering 2019)

Background

St. Peter's Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church. The PCC also shares the responsibility for maintaining the church and church / community hall of St. Peter's, Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon.



The present incumbent had completed twelve and a half years in post (first as Priest-in-charge from July 2007, since September 2011 as Vicar) by the end of 2019. He and his wife, Gail, thank parishioners for their continuing support. In July 2020 he will be seventy-four. He will retire 19th July, the eve of his seventy-fourth birthday. Gail has very kindly agreed to continue to edit and print the magazine, and to attend to a number of other clerical / admin tasks at least for the short term. The Vicar hopes that the United Benefice of St Peter's, Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon and St Leonard's, Warmingham will be an attractive proposition to a future incumbent.

Church Attendance

There were 131 persons on the Church Electoral Roll in April 2020. We have maintained church attendance over the year Sunday by Sunday, and major Festivals have been generally well attended, though a few smaller less well attended services have been suspended. We continue to give special attention to our links with baptism families, emphasising our expectation that they will participate in the life of the church. Some wedding couples have responded to our requests to join in the worshipping life of the church.

The choir continues lively and enthusiastic, making a valuable and distinctive contribution to our worship. We are extremely grateful to our

regular and occasional organists. We have been most grateful to visiting clergy for cover when the vicar was engaged elsewhere or was on holiday.

Review of the Year

We continue to reach out to all in fellowship and to present the Gospel to all. We are particularly trying to form links with children and young families. We maintain a range of services which aim to meet the spiritual needs of different groups, and our occasional offices (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) mark special steps on the journey of life. We aim as a parish to respond flexibly and willingly to all parishioners.

During the past year we have moved to a pattern of worship where the third Sunday of each month has been a Family service which is not Eucharistic. This has meant that a lay person can take the service. We appreciate the way Jim Britcliffe, who is in training for the ordained ministry and has been on placement in the parish for part of the year, has led the worship of many of these services.

We have had some success in sharing responsibilities within parish and church life, and we are extremely grateful for all help and support. The greatest burden of day to day responsibility falls on our Churchwardens and Assistant Wardens. We have developed a team approach. We are keen to encourage new talent!

It should be noted how extensively the vicar's wife Gail supports the work of the parish, in very many different ways, not least in her attention to the routine paperwork of the parish. After the vicar's retirement she can continue to make a major contribution to parish life.

We have seen some further integration between the two parishes of the United Benefice (Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon and Warmingham). As from January 2019 we have operated a common Church Magazine across the two parishes. This has proved a very happy development, now well established and we think well regarded across the two parishes. It makes explicit the nature and working of the United Benefice, and encourages co-operation between congregations. The

hope is that we should showcase our various and wide-ranging activities. We have had some significant contributions to the magazine from our parishioners.

During 2019 we again joined with our Methodist friends on Bradfield Road for Lent sessions (and before the Lockdown in 2020 there were two sessions for Lent).

Some folks attend worship in both churches, some social events at St. Peter's have been strongly supported by Warmingham members, and vice versa, and St. Peter's Choir have on occasion sung at services at Warmingham. However, we have respected the integrity of each parish. For example, we have not tried to amalgamate regular services, or to oblige people to travel between the two parishes in order to worship.

As in previous years Giving and Fee income has not increased in line with the increase in parish share payable to the Diocesan Board of Finance, and the other costs falling on the parish. The shortfall has sadly been hugely worsened in the first half of 2020. However, our investments have cushioned the impact, though again in the first half of 2020 they have yielded less.

Thanks to our new churchyard extension and resurfaced car park, completed Autumn 2018, we enjoy a beautiful site, and feel we have created a fitting space for lost loved ones to be laid to rest.

The maintenance contract we have sustains the attractiveness of the site, if at some cost.

A number of agencies continue to be well supported by St. Peter's, notably Christian Aid, the Children's Society, Mission to Seafarers, the local YMCA. Our Harvest produce went to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy families in Crewe, as did our Christmas toy collection. We continue to subsidise the work of the Crewe-based Wishing Well Project in the hall. We as a parish, together with St Mary's Nantwich and other Deanery parishes, are supporting the mission of the Church of England in Crewe town by helping to finance a project worker building capacity for better social cohesion. We support the youth and family work performed by Elizabeth Morris in the Coppenhall / Leighton area. This is an ecumenical partnership with our Methodist friends on

Bradfield Road. During the year we continued as a collecting point for the main Food Bank, St. Paul's Pantry, in Crewe, and have provided many much needed and appreciated food items.

The Sunday School has continued as before with sessions running on certain planned Sundays. We thank Kerris for her dedication and enthusiasm with the (regrettably few) children who usually attend.

Many of our activities have happily combined a social with a fundraising dimension. We have in place a Social Committee. A number of very pleasing occasions occurred during the year. The last such event before the lockdown was the Burns Night Supper (26th January 2020). Early planning for the proposed Flower Festival in June has had to be suspended. Thanks for the immense effort and the support of our parish community – both behind the scenes activity and attending events.

We continue to enjoy good ecumenical relationships with the other denominations represented in the parish – URC and Methodist (eg the Lent Lunches and co-operation with the youth and family work, both mentioned above).

There continues to be significant outreach into the community through various activities apart from services in the church. These activities include regular assemblies in Mablins Lane School (an underestimated part of my role, in my opinion), and services in the chapel of Leighton Hospital. The hospital also has held two services in St. Peter's Church. The Vicar has acted as an out-of-hours chaplain to the hospital.

The Vicar has also been a Governor at Mablins Lane School and active in decisions about school life. The link with Mablins has had a visible and tangible result in our worship in the form of the school choir coming to several of our Sunday services to sing for us. These occasions have been accompanied by a bit of "pantomime" in church and celebration in the hall afterwards.

Our Community Hall has been used regularly both by the Church and outside organisations. It fulfils an important social and community function - an important part of the mission of the church. The hall is self-sustaining financially and has accumulated reserves to deal with contingencies. A new dimension to financial planning is to create funds

for a possible Hall extension. We have over £2,000 towards this goal. The Hall Management Committee meets regularly and decisions and principles of working are brought to the PCC. This committee has continued to keep developments in hall letting and management under review. We have every reason to be proud that the hall has been well managed and maintained, and is serving a spiritual and community purpose. We have been employing a regular cleaner. Our Booking Secretary and Treasurer is Miriam Harvey and our Hall Manager is Malcolm Davies. Very big thanks to them for fulfilling these roles. We are grateful to those who serve on the hall management committee, and all who help in any way with the running and maintenance of the hall. The hall has been closed from mid March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Thanks

We would like to thank Ron Gallimore and Patrick Smith, our Churchwardens plus our Assistant Wardens Chris Ward, and Ann deRuiter. To John Edge our Treasurer, to Margaret Heming our PCC Secretary, to Ruth Edge our organist, to all office holders and all members of the PCC, and to all those who in so very many ways contribute to the ongoing life of our Church, only some of whom have been mentioned above. To all those who have made our church such an attractive and welcoming place to be in – flower arrangers, cleaners, sidespersons, etc – grateful thanks. Gail and I leave with heavy hearts.

The Revd Dr Philip Goggin

PCC Membership

The members of the Parochial Church Council are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The following individuals served as members of the Parochial Church Council in the year:

Vicar	Revd Philip Goggin (ex-officio member of the PCC)
Churchwarden	Mr Ron Gallimore (ex-officio member of the PCC)
Churchwarden	Mr Patrick Smith (ex-officio member of the PCC)
Assistant Warden	Mr Chris Ward (Co-opted)
Assistant Warden	Mr Richard Hollinshead (ex-officio member) (died February 2020)
Assistant Warden	Mrs Ann de Ruiter (ex-officio member)
PCC Deputy Chairman	Ron Gallimore
Health and Safety	Mr Malcolm Davies (PCC)
Treasurer	Mr John Edge (Co-opted)
PCC Secretary	Mrs Margaret Heming
Electoral Roll	Mrs Gail Johnson (ex-officio member of the PCC)
Deanery Synod Rep	Mrs Gail Johnson
Deanery Synod Rep	Mr Jim Britcliffe

Elected to serve until APCM 2020

Mrs Alison Bate	1 year to serve
Mr Malcolm Davies	1 year to serve
Mrs Kerris Fairclough	1 year to serve
Mrs Ellen Humphrey	1 year to serve
Mrs Dorothy Riley	1 year to serve
Mrs Marilyn Scott	1 year to serve
Mrs Pam White	1 year to serve

The PCC met on 4 occasions during the year.

Electoral Roll

The numbers on St. Peter's Electoral Roll as at the end of 2019 were 131.

Every six years the Electoral Roll is completed from scratch and so in March 2019 all those wishing to be on the Electoral Roll had to complete a new enrolment form.

Gail Johnson

PCC Secretary's Report

Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council met on four occasions.

The PCC has a Parish Safeguarding Officer who ensures that we are informed of the continually changing requirements.

Finance is permanently on the agenda and Members received regular reports on the church finances from the Treasurer and the spending decisions made.

We continue to be grateful to the many individuals who ensure that the church fabric is maintained and services and activities developed and run.

Thanks go to Ron Gallimore and Patrick Smith – Churchwardens and to Chris Ward and Ann deRuiter, Assistant Wardens – for all their help and hard work during the year.

Annual Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish

Despite Covid-19 affecting our Old Mutual Investment Fund, the finances of the Parish are in relatively good health. The income from our two rental properties in Church Minshull continues to support our spiritual efforts here and this, combined with the strong fiscal controls by the PCC, allows us to continue with improvements to the Church fabric.

In this period of disruption, the PCC have invested in a new boiler, helped by a substantial and generous donation, a new fully bunded fuel tank and an upgrade to some parts of the internal heating system. The old boiler was thirty-three years old and had served us well, but we anticipate the new one to be much more efficient.

Furthermore, substantial and costly repair work to the organ is due to begin in October 2020. This will necessitate a complete shutdown of the organ for four weeks, but as we are not allowed to sing at present, the Exec thought that this was as good a time as any to proceed.

We continue to be extremely grateful for the Tomkinson legacy, as without such funds, none of this would be possible. In an interregnum, whilst we have to continue paying our Parish share of £48,000 to the Diocese, we also have to fund the visits of relief clergy to officiate.

Huge thanks are due from all of us to Philip and Gail for charting us so successfully through these last thirteen years. Thank you both.

John Edge (Treasurer)

Churchwardens' Report

Churchwardens: Ron Gallimore and Patrick Smith

Assistant Wardens: Chris Ward and Ann deRuiter

General Items:

- ❖ **Church Terrier** – Completed
- ❖ **Quinquennial Report** – No items outstanding
- ❖ **Church Grounds Maintenance** –Following receipt of three tenders for the maintenance of all the Church grounds (including the new graveyard), the order has been placed with John Harding.

Church Maintenance & Faculty Items:

- **Stained Glass Windows** – We have instructed Duncan Sanderson to draw up an accurate plan of the Church in order to send through to the DAC to sign off the Faculty. The electronic version can then be utilized for any future works within the Church.
- **New Graveyard Project**–The works are now complete. Phase 1 has been consecrated and the first burials have taken place.
- **New Signboard** - Complete.
- **Altar Steps** – Options are being discussed with the Architect.

Ron Gallimore & Patrick Smith

Graveyard Report

Now that our beautiful new graveyard is fully finished and in use, our focus has turned to maintenance and mowing.

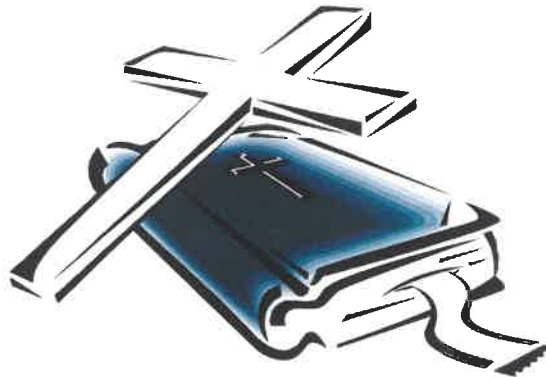
John Harding & Son Ltd won the contract to provide regular grass and hedge cutting services to all areas of the churchyard, and during the summer when the grass is growing, these have taken place once a fortnight. Yes, sometimes on their visits it is a bit wet, as we all know about our British weather, but the contractor tries their best to minimise the mess on such inclement days.

Disappointingly, our wild flower seeds, in the area of the Roman road have not progressed as well as we would have liked, so that is still a work in progress, as we seek to re-establish our flora and fauna after the upheaval of major construction works. There are also a few newly planted trees and beech hedge plants, that are struggling and may need replacing, if they continue to show signs that they are not relishing their new homes. Some large shrubs in the very old graveyard have had a strong pruning, as they had become very overgrown and unmanageable. This work has revealed a beautiful pink rhododendron, previously crowded out by a vigorous laurel, so look out for that next Spring and other special delights, as new growth appears from all the cut stems. There are a few more still to prune, but we did not want our special graveyard to look too bare when we had our Flower Festival planned for late June 2020. Unfortunately, the old tree stump at the entrance to the graveyard is becoming dangerous and will have to be removed.

On a brighter note, the planters on the manhole covers near the entrance to Church have delighted us with their seasonal displays and the addition of a number of previously approved benches and bird tables have enhanced the ambience of the whole area. Once all the work is completed on the new oil tank and heating system, the old graveyard will be much more accessible and will bring further added pleasure to us once again.

John Edge

Bible Study Group



The Bible study group meets in the vestry once a month, usually on the second Wednesday at 6pm. We have been taking a break since Christmas whilst Jim has been on placement, but we hope to start again after Easter. It is about four years since we first met and we have had a regular group of about seven attending but, sadly, this has reduced to about five or six. Anyone else who would like to join us would be most welcome. If you're interested you could speak to Jim or just turn up. Meetings are advertised in the magazine and in the weekly news sheet.

We were looking at the book of Daniel before we took a break. It would be a great time for anyone else to join the group as we will be starting on a new book of the Bible when we reconvene.

The group meetings are very informal and everyone is encouraged to speak about the passage that we are looking at. There are no wrong answers and everyone's thoughts are welcome.

Philip usually attends the meetings and so it is a wonderful opportunity to listen to his views on the scriptures and ask him those difficult theological questions in an informal setting.

Jim Britcliffe



Choir

St. Peter's Choir meet for choir practice on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. We have nine adult female members, one junior female and three adult male choir members. (Ruth) our Church Organist also joins the choristers for special items, with Rev. Philip playing the organ in her place. Some of the choir members have been part of St. Peter's Choir since the 1950's and are still regular attenders. Rev Philip Goggin leads the choir practice and sometimes plays the organ for us when Ruth is unavailable. Sadly, we lost a long-serving choir member (Nancy Twiss) in 2019. The choir sang at her funeral service on 9th April 2019. Nancy loved being part of St. Peter's Choir and we miss her. Another long-serving choir member (Mick Humphrey) underwent heart surgery at North Staffs Hospital and was poorly for several months. Ellen, his wife and a member of our choir, remained by his side in hospital every day and we were all praying for Mick, Ellen and their family. Eventually Mick was allowed home and Ellen nursed him at home. Mick has returned to sing in the choir along with Ellen, and we are so pleased they are with us.

We are happy to say that we have a new choir member, called Irene Booth. Irene had been a regular worshipper at St. Peter's and was asked if she would join the choir; we are pleased that Irene agreed.

The choir sing at two services each Sunday, with the majority of members available on a Sunday morning, although we do have three or four members who also sing at Evensong. We would welcome anyone who wishes to be part of St Peter's Choir, to come along on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm to choir practice and give it a try. The choir have sung two traditional Welsh songs/hymns in the past year, with help from Joan and Gill who are two Welsh ladies in the choir.

The choir members enjoy meeting for their weekly choir practice, which is a social meeting too, with laughter and banter. We celebrate

birthdays and special occasions of choir members with soft drinks and light refreshments following choir practice.

The choir sang at the funeral of the late Mr Richard Hollinshead on 13th March 2020 (a lifelong worshipper at St. Peter's).

Sadly church services and choir practices have been cancelled at St. Peter's from 16th March 2020 for the foreseeable future, due to the coronavirus.

Alison Bate



The Children's Society

Every charitable contribution can make a difference and some members and friends of St. Peter's support The Children's Society by having a collecting box at home.

The small change from our twenty-three boxes opened last year raised £387.50. We have added four new box holders this year, and would be grateful to anyone else willing to take a box.

If you feel you could support The Children's Society by taking a box, please have a word with me.

Many thanks for your support.

Margaret Davies

Christian Aid



St. Peter's has supported Christian Aid for many, many years and we have usually been able to find volunteers to collect in the parish during Christian Aid Week in May.

Church Cleaning

We are very grateful to all the ladies and gents who, on a regular basis, keep the church looking so clean and tidy. However, as there are so few of us, we would really appreciate help if you feel that you could offer an hour or two once every few months. Maybe you would just like to be responsible for a particular area i.e. the porch or the brasses.

A monthly rota appears in the church magazine so you always know when it is your turn and folk are happy to swop weeks if you are likely to be away. We would be really pleased if we could add your name to the rota.

We would also appreciate offers of help with the church/community hall, ie. steam cleaning the chairs or hall floor once every few months, cleaning the kitchen cupboards etc. or just sweeping the front porch and cleaning the glass door when you are at the church.

If you feel that you could help, in any way, please speak to a Churchwarden or email gail.philip4@gmail.com We would love to hear from you.



Thank you!



Flower Arrangers

Our grateful thanks go to all who are on the weekly rota who keep the altar looking so lovely with fresh flowers.

Please speak to Alison if you would like to join the rota by providing fresh flowers for the altar once every few months.

St. Peter's Church Windows have been decorated throughout the year by church members and those who have a window in memory of a loved one, also other areas of the church eg. pulpit, font, altar. The pew ends are usually decorated by the Sunday School children for occasions such as Easter.

The skills of all who contribute and decorate for all our special services, Easter, Harvest, Christmas is much appreciated, for all to enjoy and embrace the beauty in which they bring to each and every one of us.

Audrey Bergin

Minshull Vernon and District



Minshull Vernon Garden Club – 2019 Meetings

Briefly listed below are the dates meetings were held and the speakers who kindly came to speak to our gardening club members. We are always pleased to see new members and visitors; contact the Secretary, Sue Howes on 01270 765410 if you would like any more information, or just come along on the night.

9th January- for the first meeting of the New Year, Graham and Judy White gave members a talk on Gardening mishaps and disasters. How to laugh and cry at the same time!

13th February - David Race gave a talk on Changing colours in gardens.

13th March - Gillian Watson, a member of the Gardening Club, gave a very interesting talk, with slides, of her visit to Highgrove.

10th April – Duncan Shough gave a talk on Seasonal Colour. Duncan is seen regularly at Nantwich market always displaying some wonderful plants to sell.

8th May - Our final talk this year before we met again in September for the AGM was entitled 'Endon Well Dressing Festival. One hundred and seventy Years of History Portrayed In Flowers.' Delivered by Robert Barlow, the Chairman of the Endon Well Dressing Festival and Well Designer, the talk provided a pictorial history of the traditions of Well

Dressings and a tour of England where the customs are practised. Robert covered the techniques of preparing their designs and finished by giving details of the history of their village festival which was celebrating its 175th Anniversary during 2019.

25th May – We held our annual stall at the Plant Sale at Wheelock Methodist Church. Always a good fundraiser and well supported by our members.

9th October - Jack Swan gave a talk on the Beauty of Trees and Shrubs. Beauty is not only in the eye of the beholder; it is out there in nature.

11th September - Annual General Meeting. After the formalities members enjoyed a social evening with tea, coffee and cake.

13th November - Razvan Chisu returned to our club in November and spoke to us about Fifty Shades of Green.

27th November - We thought we would have a change this year and, instead of Minshulls Garden Centre, we decided on our own Christmas Buffet in the Community Hall. This turned out to be a really successful evening with good food and entertainment. After exchanging Secret Santa gifts, we all made our way home – full!

New members are always welcome to come to any of our meetings. We normally meet on the second Wednesday of each month, September to May, at 7pm in St. Peter's Community Hall. Do think about joining us!

Sue Howes, Secretary

Music



For a small church we do extremely well for music and singing. The singing in church is robust. This really makes a difference to the quality and feel of our worship. Long may this continue.

Our choir hugely enhances our worship Sunday by Sunday as choristers lead congregational items, and on special occasions sing anthems. We are indeed fortunate to have their loyalty, dedication and musical skill. We say a big thank you to them. Time spent in church on Sundays is only part of the story, for there are regular choir practices most Thursdays and sometimes the choir sing at weddings and at St Leonard's, Warmingham.

So far we have managed to ensure that all our singing is accompanied by a real organist (rather than by tapes/CDs). Ruth Edge is our lead organist supported by Rod Cash on occasion. To them our heartfelt thanks. Occasionally the vicar helped out on the organ. John Axon has played for some Weddings and Funerals, and to him we say a big thank you. We have a very lovely pipe organ, well suited to the size and acoustics of the church, and a delight to hear. We maintain it with love and care, and at some expense.

From time to time we introduce new hymns, but generally our music is traditional and typically Church of England. It is hoped that this suits most worshippers. We are always willing to consider new suggestions.

Sadly, in March 2019 we lost a very faithful, long-standing member of our choir, Nancy Twiss. Her voice in the choir added quality and distinction to our worship over something like twenty-seven years, and she encouraged new members to join us. We too, would welcome new choir members. If you may be interested in joining please speak to Alison Bate or the Vicar.

Nantwich Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod generally meets three times a year at different churches in the Deanery. At the start of each Synod two churches in the Deanery present a topic or problem they would like each member to take away and ask their own PCCs to put in their prayers. As well as conducting the formal business of the meeting, which takes around half an hour, we usually have a talk from a guest speaker after which we discuss the issues raised or the questions posed.

11th February – St. Andrew's, Bedford Street, Crewe

Tim Oakley, from West Street Christian Fellowship spoke to the Synod about CAP - Christians Against Poverty.

CAP offers free debt counselling through a network of hundreds of centres based in local churches. Their message to those struggling with debt problems is that there is a way out of debt and there is definitely help at hand.

Each year they help over 20,000 people to find their way out of debt. Tim said they have a new family weekly programme where he and another person will visit and help go through a journey out of debt booklet to help to work out a fair budget.

21st May 2019 - St Mary's, Nantwich

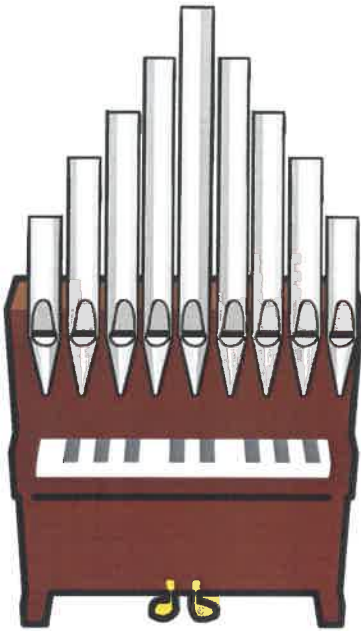
This Synod meeting was an open meeting which took the form of Worship - a Celebration of God - led by Jonathan Roberts and members of the Foundations for Ministry Group who have been meeting in the Deanery.

The service was very well thought through and involved many of the members in acts of worship. All church members were also involved with each member invited to weave a piece of ribbon into a cross.

27th November 2019 - St Mary & St Michael, Burleydam

We next met at St. Mary and St. Michael, Burleydam where we received an interesting talk from Tim Stratford, the Dean of Chester Cathedral, which included his thoughts on Worship in the Cathedral, The Building and Interface between Cathedral and City. This was followed by group discussion and a short open forum.

Organ Report



Once again our three manual organ has provided inspiration and accompaniment for our very many and varied services. Unfortunately at the time of writing this report we are all in lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

But the organ is not redundant as fortunately Philip has been able to play our wonderful musical instrument, especially in his role as the dedicated caretaker of the church.

He has been playing the hymns set for each Sunday and Gail has been recording them to send, via WhatsApp, to the choir who, in their own homes, sing them at 11am each week.

In the last year the organ has been in good working order, unlike the previous year when it was so dry, and has been tuned by Peter Spencer. He has suggested that the organ would greatly benefit in having a good clean and service, to minimise any minor faults becoming major expensive ones. This would involve the organ being stripped down, with some parts being renewed, re-felted or re-leathered and would be out of action for a short while.

We have been in the fortunate position that we have Ruth, Philip and Rod Cash to play the organ for our services, and John Axon for some weddings and funerals. A great many churches do not have an organist – a fact brought home to me when occasionally playing at St. Leonard's Warmingham who have relied on Philip and sometimes me, instead of their usual taped music.

Ruth Edge

Parish Magazine

Ted and Monica edited St. Peter's magazine for some twelve years, finally retiring at the end of 2018. That is something like one hundred and forty editions, each one requiring much more than a mechanical assembly of material – and all compressed between getting reports in on time and a printer's deadline

Ted especially excelled at casting a wry eye over events in church life. Laced with humour he gave us all pause for thought. Between them they recorded with care baptisms and funerals, and provided a monthly record of the birthdays of children baptised in previous years. This suggested the church had not forgotten them. They also extracted the relevant names from the Book of Remembrance – a touching gesture for those who had lost loved ones.

So a big hand of applause for two loyal servants of St. Peter's.

Since January 2019 we have produced a new magazine across the two parishes of the benefice. This has been hailed as a great success. Grateful thanks to Gail who edits it (and prints it). "Church Window" is a gem!

Readers

Many thanks to all our regular Sunday readers.



If anyone would like to join the Sunday rota for bible reading, at either the morning or evening service, please speak to Ron or Patrick. They would love to be able to add your name to the rota.

Safeguarding

This year at st. Peter's we have continued with safeguarding principles and measures to promote and build a good safeguarding practice.

It was identified twelve months ago that the safeguarding officer should attend each APCM and every PCC meeting where possible. This I have done.

At each PCC meeting safeguarding has become a formal item on the agenda.

The PCC has used this time to raise any issues regarding general safeguarding within our church.

At each meeting I have used the opportunity to raise awareness of many specific areas and knowledge of safeguarding e.g what is abuse and neglect of children? What is abuse of vulnerable adults or the elderly?

There have been handouts for each member and the opportunity to discuss or ask questions.

We continually promote a safer culture and safe guarding practice at St. Peters Church.

Also this year we have been required by the national church headquarters to check through our records of many years for any past incidents from a safeguarding point of view.

A notice was placed in the church magazine regarding this.

A declaration and Report was signed by the appropriate church persons and forwarded to the church national headquarters.

Safeguarding is part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life in our church.

Sandra Peake
Safeguarding Officer

Sidespersons

If you would like to join the Sunday rota for welcoming and greeting people, at either the morning or evening service, please speak to Ron or Patrick. They would be pleased to add your name to the rota. Thank you.

Social Planners

This is the annual summary of the social planners whose aim is not just to raise funds but to bring people together in fellowship.

In 2019 our social year began after an early Evensong with our Burns Night Supper on 20th January. Again, as in previous years, it was really well attended with a good number of people enjoying the evening plus bagpipes.



On 10th February we had our Plough Service followed by Supper in the hall. This was another chance for people to get together and socialise. All monies raised went to the Agricultural Chaplaincy.

We held a Flower Workshop on Wednesday 17th April in the hall. Ann Gater gave us a workshop on making an Easter arrangement which was much enjoyed by all who attended.

We held our usual Charity Fayre / Coffee Morning at Nantwich Parish Hall on Saturday 27th April. Unfortunately the weather was not on our side so numbers coming for coffee were low. However we had a good

turn-out of helpers and had a lovely friendly, social morning amongst ourselves.

21st April, Easter Sunday

Easter Bunnies, Joan and Gilly, joining in the Easter Egg Hunt held around the church followed by refreshments (and eggs) in the hall.



The first Saturday in May we were at Warmingham Wakes for their annual Village Fete. The weather was beautiful. Support was given to the Wakes by a number of folk attending from St. Peter's with a joint service at St. Leonard's on the Sunday evening.

A Confirmation Service was held in church on 23rd June. Heather Buxton, Alice Ford, Lucy Ford, Paul Harvey, Joanna Hind, Ruby-Ellen Humphrey, Sophie Kulak, Rosalind Morris and Cynthia Whitney were all confirmed by The Right Revd Dr Peter Forster Bishop of Chester. This was a super occasion followed by food and friendship in the hall.



The Harvest Service in the Church on 20th September was followed by a Harvest Supper in the hall afterwards. There was plenty of good food and fellowship.

Ann Gater was with us on 29th November for our annual Christmas Flower demonstration. We had a lovely evening with beautifully created seasonal flower arrangements. All the arrangements were raffled off at the end of the evening. This is always a good occasion with mulled wine and mince pies served during the interval.

December 1st found St. Nicholas calling in to church to visit us accompanied by two of his elves who were collecting presents for children less fortunate than some. Santa listened to the children from Mablins Lane School who came along to sing carols at our 10.45am service. This was a lovely occasion which was continued after the service in the hall. St. Nicholas' grotto looked wonderful and the refreshments were plentiful!



Wednesday 11th December found us Carol Singing at The Bears Paw helping out our friends at St. Leonard's. Philip played the keyboard and there was a good turn-out of folk, nicely rounded off with chips and sandwiches courtesy of The Bears Paw.

Nine Lessons and Carols on 22nd December was followed by sherry, shortbread and fellowship. This was followed two days later by our three Christingle Services on Christmas Eve, which are always popular.

Not such a busy year for us this year as next year we hope to hold a Flower Festival and Art Exhibition at the end of June 2020 on the subject of 'Life is a Journey'. Much help will be needed to get the church and hall ready for this three-day event which we try to hold every five or six years.

We are always grateful for new members to join in with the social planning events for our church. You would be most welcome!





Sunday School

Sunday School meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, 10.30am - 11.45am in the hall. It is suitable for children 4-11 years, but younger children may attend with their parent / guardian.

We start with a chat, telling each other what we have been doing since we last met, and discuss our theme for the day. Then we say our prayers and have a Bible story, which may be linked to the church activities.

Crafts are linked to the theme. Some of the things we have done are card making, drawing and painting, sewing, origami, Christmas/Easter decorations, baking, quilling, making lanterns from jam-jars, pebble painting, palm crosses and collage.

We try to fit in some physical games or table games if we have time too. Sometimes we go into church to show our work or join in the service. Children get a dip in the birthday box near their birthday.

Thank you to Denise, our Sunday School helper, who has continued to be a great asset to the Sunday School this past year.

Thank you to the children that attend, and to the parents for their support. The children are a delight, they are well-behaved and very creative.

Sadly however, our numbers are still low. We would really like some new faces to join our Sunday School. Just come along to any Sunday School. You will be most welcome.

Kerris Fairclough
Sunday School Leader

Sunday Morning Refreshments

Refreshments are served in the community hall after the Family Communion service on the first and third Sunday of each month. We encourage parishioners to come together and share fellowship over a hot drink and a slice of cake. Its an opportunity to share their stories from the week just gone, their plans for the week ahead and to express their love and compassion for each other by sharing their thoughts.

Special occasions are also celebrated at this time, such as Mothering Sunday where Simnel cake and daffodils are distributed and Easter Sunday where chocolate cake is an essential and the Egg Hunt is enjoyed by children and adults alike. We also try to make sure that any upcoming birthdays are known and a celebration sing song of Happy Birthday goes a long way to make someone smile.

The donations that we receive for the hot drink and cake go back to the church funds and are looked after by our Treasurer for future needs. It might not seem to be very much, but every little helps and we thank you.

Unfortunately as I write this our refreshments and indeed our church services have been halted for the time being, but we look forward to the future and your continuing support.

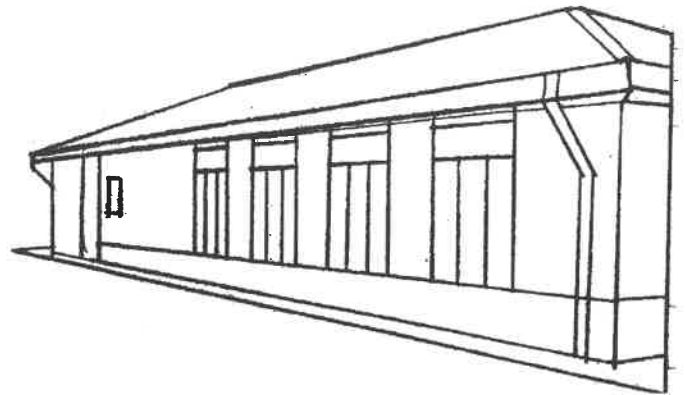
If you would like to get involved in our refreshment serving, please do get in touch with myself or Gail. The more the merrier to keep this relaxed and friendly service going.

Debbie Britcliffe

Thank you to the Sunday morning refreshment teams. We are always looking for new recruits and welcome anyone who would like to join us. Help is always available to wash up and tidy the hall.



St Peter's Community Hall



Committee

The committee has remained stable over the last twelve months with regular contributions from Philip, Gail, Miriam Harvey, Jim Britcliffe, Chris Ward, and Malcolm Davies.

Use and Utilisation

Good use has been made of the Community Hall in the last twelve months accommodating the following diverse groups and activities:

- Art Groups
- Parents and Tots
- South Cheshire Concert Band
- Wilmslow Guild
- Hospital League of Friends
- Gardening Club
- Parish Council
- Parochial Church Council
- SoBS (Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide)
- Table Tennis

Plus one-off Church events, one-off Parish Council events, funeral teas, baptism / children's parties and other occasional events bringing it pretty close to being used 50% of the time (8.30am-10pm).

Income

The regular use of the Hall has provided a steady income to support any work that needs undertaking on the fabric and services of the building, plus a surplus. Some of the surplus has been transferred to

an investment fund to support any long-term projects for enhancing the Hall facilities.

Maintenance and Upkeep

The Hall has been cleaned on a regular weekly basis and any maintenance has been undertaken as and when any defects or equipment/component failures have occurred. During the autumn of 2018 the hall was re-painted and a stainless steel counter-top fitted to the serving hatch. During the year a survey has been undertaken on the emergency lighting and general lighting and any plumbing and sanitary repairs addressed. The ground source heating system has also been serviced during the year.

All statutory requirements concerning services, i.e. fire alarm, fire extinguishers, electrical services, etc., have been inspected in accordance with the relevant and respective standards, and this will carry on as and when the frequency date determines.

Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

The year from November 2018 to November 2019 has seen a monetary incentive of circa £1000 being paid to the hall from Ofgem under their Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme for Non Domestic Premises. The payments will continue for another 16 years following this second year payment.

Long Term Considerations

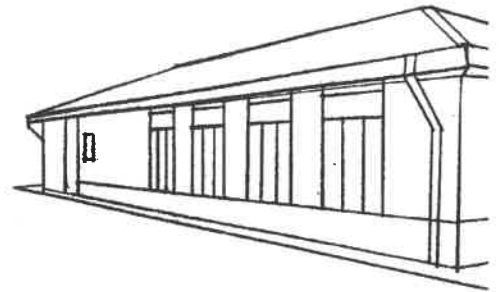
Long-term projects that have been discussed, subject to funding, are an extension to the kitchen area. Surfacing of the car park has been undertaken as part of the graveyard extension project and has much improved the car parking arrangements.

Conclusion

The Hall has remained a valued asset to the Church and Community throughout the last twelve months.

A personal thanks to everyone who has contributed over the last twelve months, in every shape and form, to making the Hall a success, and helping in the running and upkeep of the facility. Malc Davies

Booking Secretary's Report on the Hall



The Hall continues to be very busy with regular weekly and monthly groups plus some one-off bookings from other groups. At times there can be quite a lot of competition for particular time slots!

There are also a lot of parties, at least three most months and not infrequently two on the same day - mostly children's birthday parties with a few baptisms, baby showers, wedding anniversaries and school discos thrown into the mix. Since the Saturday morning dance class moved to a new venue this is becoming an increasingly popular time for children's parties.

Financially the Hall is very stable with the Ofgem Renewable Heat Incentive bringing in roughly half the cost of our electricity bills. All our regular groups pay their invoices on time and we have no outstanding debts.

The Hall has recently been redecorated and is looking much fresher. Someone who recently used the Hall commented on "how immaculate the Hall and facilities are".

St. Peter's Social Committee have worked hard organising fund-raising events meaning there's now over £2,000 ring fenced as "Hall Improvement Fund".

If you want to book the Hall please e-mail me on mvchall@yahoo.com

Miriam



Table Tennis

I'm pleased to say that this group continues to go from strength to strength and remains a regular fixture on the hall booking calendar for a Thursday morning from 10.30am – 12noon.

Whilst the number participating seems to stay pretty constant, around the eight or nine mark, it has been as many as eleven or twelve on the odd occasion, with a bit of a wait to get on one of the two tables which is really all the space can accommodate without bumping into each other!

That's not to say however that we would discourage anybody else who's interested from coming along and reviving their skills... you never know, you might be better than all the rest of us! If you're interested in playing please don't think you need to be of a high standard, most of us aren't that good, and we've all had to start somewhere. We're a very welcoming, non-criticising group so don't worry about feeling embarrassed about your skills or perceived lack of!

If you'd like to come along and give it a go then all you need is suitable footwear (trainers or the like) and we can provide a spare bat for you to use.

We have a break at half-time for a brew, a biscuit or two and a general chit-chat about whatever takes your fancy, so as well as the fitness angle we have a good slice of social interaction. No appointment necessary... just turn up! Hope to see you.

Chris Ward



Website

[//www.stpeters-leighton.org.uk](http://www.stpeters-leighton.org.uk)

The website is updated weekly to reflect the planned services via the weekly notice sheet and events. The parish magazine is uploaded to the website each month.

Any assistance with maintaining the website would be most gratefully received.

Youth and Family Work

Report from Elizabeth Morris (who has been working ecumenically between St. Peter's and the Methodists on Bradfield Road (the main site of operations))

I have been involved in several ongoing groups working with babies and their carers, through childhood to teenagers. We had a popular Toddler group meeting on a Monday morning with a distinct Christian flavour.

I worked closely with Mablings Lane Community Primary School where I often took assemblies on behalf of Philip and have established a BIG Story Club which meets twice on a Tuesday, bringing Bible stories to Year 2 and the Lunch Club (additional needs) using many different methods of exploring God's BIG Story: craft, drama, Lego, Godly Play and sensory activities and games. I also went into various classes to help them explore Christian traditions.

I have been leading a Youth Bible Study on Tuesday evenings. This group explores issues important to them such as bullying, social media, image, anxiety, etc using activities, exercises and games, but above all the Bible to help them navigate these difficult subjects.

We run a monthly Messy Church that meets every third Saturday of the month. St Peter's and St. Leonard's folk are warmly invited to come along, and any help is always very much appreciated! We have met between 10.30am and 12.30pm, including lunch.

Elizabeth Morris

