

Burleydam Chair's Report for the APCM of 2019

This past year I introduced a new focus to our PCC's:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks no matter what. 1 Thess 5. 16-18

It arose out of my ministering in our parishes and the thought and prayer that arises out of this ministry.

I felt in my heart that it was a good time to remember one of the most important gifts that God gives to each and every one of us – the ability to pray.

Prayer links us to the deeper reality of God's love. It opens our eyes to what God is doing in our communities. It is a bond between us as we support each other in prayer. It is all of these things and so much more.

My hope is that we will go deeper into prayer, discovering afresh our identity as people who pray and our churches as places of prayer. These are things we already know in part but there is much more to discover.

As our PCC's meet to serve and guide us they will hold in mind this call to pray and discovery of prayer. Our services, our social and fundraising activities, our care for our beautiful buildings can and should all be caught up in our prayers and to the end of telling other people about this wonderful gift.

I encourage everyone gathered here to pray for those who serve on our PCC's and in other capacities in our churches.

Lastly, a word of thanks and rejoicing from me personally to all who give their time, energy, creativity and resources to our church: the community, the building, the churchyard, the admin and our uplifting weekly services. It is much appreciated!

Rev Alison Fulford

Finance Report for 2019

I am pleased to report that Burleydam Parish Church had a successful overall financial performance in 2019. In 2018 we had adjusted and updated the Accounts and 2019 was a more straightforward year, showing a pleasing overall increase in balances of £1578 at £41852 across all accounts. As in 2018 the PCC agreed to move £3000 from the Fabric Fund to the main fund. This highlights our continued reliance on fundraising efforts as the ordinary day to day income does not match expenditure.

The single largest source of income was once again the Parish Lunch in March 2019. As previously, this took place in the Combermere Abbey Walled Garden Pavilion, by kind permission of Mrs Sarah Callender Beckett. An amazing team of helpers assisted Mrs Caroline Hollins and they all deserve our sincere thanks for an excellent event that also generated record profits. All the other fundraising events are shown in our main account, including the Bazaar and 2 Coffee Mornings. Again, huge thanks to all who contributed to these activities.

Dodcott and Wilkesley Parish Council gave 2 Grants and their ongoing support is greatly appreciated, as is that of Wrenbury Consolidated Charity and the Hollins Family. Community Room activities continue to thrive and Mrs Jean White performs a great service in keeping detailed records. We also benefited from Tax Recovery from HMRC, and, again, I thank Mrs Helen Atkins for her work on these returns.

We also received a legacy of £1000 from the estate of Mr Arthur Ford, whose long association with Burleydam Church was remembered at his well attended funeral in February 2019. Arthur would encourage others to follow his example in leaving a legacy to our church in their will.

As I write this Report in March 2020 it is evident that we are entering very challenging times. Thankfully, we have nurtured sound finances that will sustain us hopefully as we move ahead. I should like to thank all those who continue to provide Burleydam Church with the financial support it needs to deliver its mission in the local community.

Peter Little OBE (Church Treasurer)

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT 2019

We would confirm that the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure (2016).

In January we had a Reader in training, Vanessa Layfield, on placement until Easter

Also in January we had visiting organists for part of an afternoon. They were from Staffordshire and were visiting local churches to play the organ at each church. They also visited Wrenbury.

The meeting room and kitchen were painted in January.

The Plough Service was held, as usual it was the United Service.

In February the Fire Extinguishers were serviced. An expansion vessel, pressure reducing valve and automatic air vent were replaced on the boiler.

A funeral service was held in February.

In March we held a joint service at Lightwood Green Chapel which was well attended. We also had a Mothering Sunday service and gifts of home-made biscuits were given to everybody attending.

In March we again held a luncheon at Combermere Abbey Pavilion. It was a beautiful day with a wonderful meal and over 170 people attending and many favourable comments were received. We thank everybody who contributed to make this event so enjoyable.

Also in March the rain gutter was blocked and down spouts cleaned. Three shelves were put in the large cupboard in the kitchen

The Easter Sunday service was well attended.

Following problems with the car-park, after Council vehicles compacted the surface during work on the road, they provided a large load of chippings to help raise the surface and help the drainage.

In May we held a Coffee Morning at Whitchurch Civic Centre. Thanks to all who helped at this event.

In June our soon-to-be Curate, Dot Woods, was ordained Deacon at Chester Cathedral

A wedding was held in June.

In July a Coffee Morning was held at the home of Mrs Margaret Hollins. The Grand Draw also took place on the day. We thank Mrs Hollins for opening her home for us to hold the event and thank all the people who helped make the event a success.

In July Lightwood Green Chapel joined us for the evening service.

There was a wedding in September and also a burial of ashes.

In September the boilers were serviced.

In October we held the Harvest Festival service. This was well attended and well received. Thanks to all who helped with this service; the readers, people who decorated the church and those who provided refreshments.

Also in October there was a wedding and a baptism. We purchased a new keyboard for use in the Meeting Room for services.

In November we held the Remembrance Sunday service, this was well attended, but not as many as in previous years. This culminated with the reading of the roll of honour and laying a wreath by the War Memorial.

In November we held the Christmas Bazaar. This proved very successful and the church was filled with many different stalls, and although it was not as well attended, we raised a large amount of money. Thanks to everybody who contributed to the day.

New carpet tiles were placed in the Meeting Room and porch.

In November we held a service at Combermere Abbey. This was a Thanksgiving Service for the family being at the Abbey for 100 years.

The Deanery Synod was held in November. This turned into an eventful meeting when a member present collapsed, and an ambulance had to be called. Happily the person recovered very quickly, from what turned out to be a virus.

The glass panels were cleaned

The Clergy Chapter held a meeting in December.

At the beginning of December we held the Christingle service. This was well attended and we thank the people who made the Christingles and took part in the service.

In December we held the Carol Service with St Christopher Chorale attending again. The service was well attended, and many positive comments were received about the service. Thanks to the people who read the lessons, decorated the church and provided the refreshments. As part of the decoration we used the mannequins and donkey from the Stitches and Stems Festival to make a nativity tableau in the Children's Corner.

The Christmas Day service had a reasonable attendance.

At the end of December, we had a problem with the safe. It would not unlock. However this was resolved by taking the lock to a locksmith in Crewe, who were able to re-fit the part that had dislocated.

During the year grass cutting took place.

We would like to thank all who have taken services for us during the year, the Vicar, retired Clergy, Ministry Team and lay leaders, to enable us to have a service every Sunday. We would also thank Peter Little and Caroline Harding who have provided the music for the majority of our services, together with Scott Austin who has played the organ for some of our services; the flower arrangers; the people who make the drinks after the service and anybody else who contributes to the life of the church.

John Tomlinson and Susan Harding, Church Wardens

Deanery Synod Summary 2019

In February Synod met at St Andrews, Crewe and were welcomed by Rev Lynne Cullens.

The Rural Dean was in the Chair.

Prayers were led by lay people from St Michael's and St Barnabas, Crewe.

There was a presentation from Tim Oakley from Christians Against Poverty.

The meeting concluded with Compline led by Rev Lynne Cullens.

The May meeting was held at St Mary's Nantwich with a welcome from Rev Mark Hart.

The meeting was an open meeting and took the form of worship – A Celebration of God, which was led by Jonathan Roberts and members of the Foundations for Ministry Group

The November meeting was held at St Mary & St Michael's Burleydam and the welcome was given by Rev Alison Fulford.

The Lay Chair, Brian Coghlan, took the chair.

Lay reps from St David's, Wettenhall and Christ Church, Wheelock led the opening prayers.

The address was given by The Dean from Chester Cathedral, Very Rev Tim Stratford. He gave an interesting presentation on his 15 months at the Cathedral.

Small groups then discussed what it means to be a missionary church in our own settings.

Responses included:

It is easier to welcome visitors in a smaller church

An example from Sydney of interdenominational worship as the norm

Tea at the Tower at Acton is open at the same time each week and gives a welcome to all who attend.

Unfortunately during the meeting one person in attendance was taken ill and an ambulance had to be called. Happily the person concerned made a full recovery.

A report was given on recent Diocesan and General Synod meetings.

The meeting ended with Compline led by Rev Alison Fulford.

Susan Harding and Peter Little, Synod representatives

COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM ANNUAL REPORT 2019

During the last year the meeting room has been fitted with new carpet tiles. Following the redecoration earlier in the year, it was realized that the toilet had been missed, plans were in place to get this done but Covid19 restrictions have halted this for the time being

The glass screen at the front of the balcony was given a through polish in time for the Advent Bazaar.

A new waste bin has replaced the broken one in the kitchen.

For the present all scheduled meetings of the committee are being held in abeyance until it is safe to reconvene.

Jean Cornes

Chairperson of the Meeting Room Committee