



St Peter's Church, Tiverton

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Thursday 11 April 2019

### *Report on the Fabric of the Church*

Gill Heard and David Ricks

2018 was the year for a new Quinquennial Inspection of St Peter's by Russ Palmer, our Church Architect. The report states that the church is generally in good structural condition. This year we are required to address the items in the report marked as urgent, to be completed within one year, so this report looks forward to those works.

The most significant is a group of works on the roof, which will all be undertaken as one contract. They include loose pinnacles, pointing to stonework, rendering repairs and refurbishment to the chimney over the vestry. This work will be undertaken during the summer months. Additionally, the window in the vestry, which is distorted and leaking, requires urgent refurbishment. This is planned for April 2019. An asbestos survey has been completed, finding only a small residue of asbestos in the boiler room. We will be able to undertake the necessary containment works ourselves.

Otherwise the regular maintenance inspections and servicing of all our facilities and systems has continued as normal without the discovery of any major or expensive problems. These visits mostly occur during the autumn and winter months, so we should be safe for the foreseeable future.

Once again we must be grateful for the unfailing support and hard work of our fabric team who week by week undertake a multiplicity of smaller jobs to keep St Peter's in good shape. They know who they are, and our thanks and appreciation, as always, is extended to them. One special mention for our "sparks" who masterminded the new, very successful, churchyard security floodlight. We plan more similar fittings.

### *The Re-ordering Project*

David Ricks

This time last year we were in protracted discussions with the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee), as we had submitted to them an application for preliminary informal advice. This resulted in a number of meetings in church with representatives of the DAC and their timber specialists. We were able to establish their concerns, primarily with pew removal, and come to an understanding as to what information they require from us to allow them to support our application. We are hopeful that in gaining their agreement to our proposals, in principle, we have paved the way for a reasonably smooth final approval process.

The position with the design works is now as follows.

*Toilet block:* As this facility is external to the church it falls to the local authority to grant planning and listed building approval. The final design for this area is now with them and, having established agreement in principle last year, we now hope to receive full approval in April.

*Areas of change within the church:* The overall master plan for works within the church remains as established and instructed and as defined in the report to the APCM last year. The design of each of the various areas is progressing well, with meetings being held with the catering and children's teams to establish their needs.

The open area at the west end, the servery, the flower arrangers' facilities, the new location for the font, and the dais at the east end of the nave are all at an advanced agreed stage ready for final presentation.

The other areas – the children's area, the entrance porch, the bookstall/notice board, the office/meeting room and various storage cupboards – are not quite so advanced but the principles are now established and most necessary instructions have been confirmed. The architect needs our final thoughts on materials, colours and finishes.

The architect will shortly be preparing a display board for the back of the church to show the proposals to the congregation, prior to final submission to the DAC.

*Programme:* We have instructed the architect to plan for a commencement on site in early 2020. This will allow the church to be undisturbed for all the special Christmas services, when a considerable number of additional visitors come to use St Peter's.

The only aspect, out of our control, which could delay matters is gaining the final approval of the DAC. We believe we have done everything in our power to prepare the ground with our preliminary application but uncertainty will remain until we have their final consent.

### *Deanery Synod Report*

Sally Mundy, Mary Seaton and Richard Stenlake

The Tiverton and Cullompton Deanery Synod continues to be a valuable and absorbing forum which unites and encourages members from a wide variety of church communities as they explore the practical ways in which our Christian faith can be deepened and extended within our deanery.

In June, we were introduced to the 'Growing in the Rural Church' programme which is mainly funded by the Church Commissioners. Vivid examples were provided of struggling churches which have been reinvigorated and supported by this programme, and there is capacity to involve more churches.

Our meeting in November was concerned with the Diocese's Common Fund Review Consultation Paper. We were posed with a series of questions, for which the synod was divided into groups. With the aid of our Rector and three financially expert members of St Peter's and St Thomas's Chevithorne, reasoned responses were given by our group to a number of complex issues. Our deanery input has been collated with that of other deaneries, and final recommendations were made to the March 2019 Diocesan Synod Meeting. Meanwhile, a statement emerged that parishes in interregnum not paying their common fund will only be allocated an incumbent when all their payments have been made and they commit to paying their full amount for the next four years. This ruling left your representatives uneasy, and they will be raising the issue for discussion at the next Deanery Synod in June 2019.

Finally, the synod was privileged to welcome the Right Reverend Jackie Searle, the new Bishop of Crediton, to the meeting in February. Her talk on 'Serving the People of Devon with Joy' was uplifting and strongly appreciated, and was greeted with warm applause.

### *Baptism Team*

Jeanne Barnett

The ladies of the baptism team have had a very quiet year, there having been being fewer baptisms than in previous years, only nine in all. Hopefully we may have more candidates this year.

### *Bible Reading Fellowship*

Gill Heard

Bible Reading Fellowship Notes: These 4-monthly publications continue to be used by members of our church. The *New Daylight* booklet concentrates on daily readings, and *Guidelines* provides Bible study for today's ministry & mission. The cost is £4.50, and large-print versions are available on request. Copies are held at the back of Church.

*St Peter's Society of Change Ringers*  
Mark Heritage

2018 was an historically important year for the Tower in so far as it marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Full Peal rung on the bells together with the formation of the St Peter's Society of Bell Ringers. To mark this notable occasion, four current band members along four others who have connections with the Tower, rang a Full Peal of Grandsire Triples, again, the same method as first rang. After some 3 hours and 22 minutes of non-stop ringing (equating to 5040 changes), we successfully achieved the attempt.

Once again, the Tower opened its doors to the public, offering guided tower tours and demonstrations of the bells being rung during Heritage Open Day. This was a roaring success and great to hear the positive feedback from all who not only enjoyed the tour but complimented the sound of the bells throughout the year.

The Summer Fair proved to be a very popular event and exceeded the previous year's income, totalling over £700.00. My thanks again to all who were involved in making the event fun and dedicating so much of their own free time. It was greatly appreciated.

The recruitment drive for bell ringers continued and although unsuccessful for St Peter's Tower, we did provide training and support for three other new ringers who were recruited on the back of the *National Ringing Remembers* campaign. I am pleased to report they all rang for the Remembrance Service in their respective churches, which is encouraging news.

Ringing was maintained for both the morning and evening services at St Peter's and support for St Paul's Church was upheld due to the shortfall in their ringing numbers, enabling them to ring between services.

Recruitment and training is ongoing, so if you would like to learn more about this fine art, please do come to one of our practice nights on a Tuesday evening. You would be most welcome.

*CHAT*

Jill Robson

The CHAT box by the door was removed some time ago because it was rarely used. St Peter's folk continue to support CHAT by donating at the Supermarket or by taking donations directly to CHAT.

*Christian Aid*

David Catchpole

The sad demise of the Tiverton Christian Aid group, despite the strenuous efforts of some St Peter's supporters, left a large hole in the support offered locally to this vital charity, devoted as it is to meeting ever-growing human need in our troubled world. By means of the distribution of envelopes within our church community we were at least able to send £366 in May 2018.

The PCC decided at its February meeting to affirm on behalf of St Peter's our commitment to Christian Aid, so our fundraising effort will be even more emphatic and enthusiastic, and it is very good news that St Andrew's and St Peter's will be combining to make this a joint effort. So we very much hope that this will strike a chord throughout our church, leaving last year's total far behind.

*St Peter's Church Choir and Music*

Andrew Curtis

St Peter's Church choir works very hard throughout the liturgical year to enhance all forms of corporate worship. Our loyal, enthusiastic and dedicated members rehearse every Wednesday evening and Sunday morning in church, to learn an ever-widening repertoire and genre of music.

*Annie Macintyre*: With the passing of Annie in December, the choir lost another dear friend and colleague. We will always remember a musical talent in sight-reading parts – swiftly moving from soprano to alto, or

vice versa; anecdotal stories from the past; a most wonderful support, care and concern for others despite personal health issues. Members from St Peter's choir, along with Exeter Chorale, sang a short anthem of tribute at the graveside funeral in Cheriton Bishop.

*Choral Scholars:* Leyla Buttifant-Magassa (soprano) and Ben Fitton (tenor) continue as our local community choral scholars. They have now been joined in the stalls by Frankie Lambert (bass), from Uffculme. Their wonderful musicianship and support are greatly appreciated. Welcome aboard, Frankie!

*Choir lunch:* The Choir members enjoyed and appreciated the annual lunch in July, held once again in Chevithorne Village Hall. Needless to say, with good food, company and true fellowship, a very happy time was had by one and all!

*Choral Evensong:* This continues each third Sunday of the month with a good choir attendance, loyal congregation, and continued support of Graham Wilson at the organ. Wider publicity and advertising in the Welcome Sheet and Church magazine may yet boost future attendance for this evening service.

In accordance with last year, for Advent and Lent, we sang the Benedictine service of Compline.

*Recruitment:* The Choir continues to welcome and reach out to new community members, with recruitment of male singers still remaining a high priority. We welcomed Tom Ewings (tenor) back in September, to boost the ranks of our main Sunday choir. Welcome, Tom!

*Particular thanks:* These must go to our patient and efficient Choir Administrator, Chris Burford; to Anne Searle, our Librarian, for the endless filing of music throughout a busy year; and to our choir, who remain faithful and enthusiastic as ever!

The fun and camaraderie at each Wednesday rehearsal still lifts weary spirits and strengthens our hearts. It has been an excellent year for the choir, and we look forward to another exciting, musical year ahead. Well done, everyone!

### *Churches Together in Tiverton*

Sue Beale

A decision has been made to discontinue *Make Lunch*: sadly, the take-up was too small to make it viable.

It was proposed at the AGM to hold Forum Meetings only when required to discuss a particular project.

School Pastors were launched with a service on 10 February 2019 at St Paul's Church. Andrew Curtis is a member of the team. Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors are in need of recruits.

The Good Friday service will be held at St Peter's Church at 11.00 a.m. with refreshments beforehand.

### *Coffee on Sunday at 10.15*

Jackie Monahan

Coffee after the 10.15 service is popular and raises about £600 a year for church funds. Sadly, this year Keith and Brenda Stocker have had to stop. They have made coffee for many years, are always completely reliable, and have been very supportive to me, thank you. Luckily we have had several new volunteers join us, but we are always glad of extra help.

### *St Peter's Electoral Roll*

Catherine Makepeace

The Electoral Roll for 2019-2020 is a completely new one, as required by the Church of England every six years. The application and publication arrangements this year needed to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations which came into effect in May 2018 and we accordingly followed the relevant

guidance issued by the Diocese. This year there are 111 electors, of whom 27 live within the Parish and 84 outside. This compares with 151 electors the previous year (27 living within the parish and 124 outside).

*Flower arrangers*  
Mary Seaton

The team have continued to produce elegant and imaginative flower arrangements throughout the year. We enjoy working together for festivals and special events, and every week, apart from Lent and Advent, there are two people on duty, one in charge of the Altar and one taking care of the Chapels.

The flower fund, although healthy at present, is greatly helped by the generosity of the team who use garden produce and buy their flowers but somehow do not often make a claim for re-imburement although they are very welcome to do so. One day we would like to stage a flower festival so donations are always welcome. If anyone feels they would like to donate money for special flowers for someone's anniversary we would be delighted to arrange them.

There are rewards after the toils! The team really enjoyed a happy time at Killerton House before Christmas, seeing the decorations and enjoying an excellent lunch. Where to next, we wonder?!

We look forward greatly to our planned new premises in the re-ordering plans. We always like to welcome new members. We do know that many men are adept at flower arranging, and we would love to welcome any men or women who would like to join the team. Help and advice are always available (Mary Seaton 252018; Sally Mundy 254378).

*Holiday Club*  
Ann Catchpole, Shelia Richardson and Diane White

The *Holiday Club* took place for the fifth year. It lasted for three days (each of which began at 9.30 and ended at 12.00) and the numbers of those participating and helping were similar to earlier years. The theme was 'lost and found' (the sheep, the coin and the son) and this proved very popular. As with the experience of previous years, there was a wide age range, and more 'dipping in and out' of the week, rather than committing to all three days. Again several children already had a connection with St Peter's via *Time Together*, *Castlekeepers* or *Make Lunch*. Some of them were also acquainted with the children's corner through attendance on Sundays. The craft opportunities were much enjoyed as well as the food and drink.

*Home Communion Visiting Team*  
Jean Jenner

The new pattern as reported last year continues, namely those in nursing homes taking Holy Communion in their rooms. This gives a more personal and peaceful atmosphere in which they find it easier to confide in us. There has recently been a small increase in numbers to visit in their own homes and needless to say we (Sue Beale, Helen Fensome, David Catchpole and myself) are very privileged to be part of this ministry.

*Mothers' Union*  
Helen Fensome

We have had another very positive year in Tiverton Mothers' Union. We have had a varied programme and a full year of fund-raising whilst enjoying and being challenged by our meetings and spending time together in a common purpose. We have made our presence felt in our churches, not as a group of elderly ladies who meet for a cosy inward-looking tea-drinking meeting, but as a dynamic outward-looking group of young-at-heart ladies and men who want to see the aims of the Mothers' Union carried out!

Our sharing together has included talks on 'Refugees and Asylum Seekers', 'The Melanesian Mission', and 'Friends of Tiverton Hospital'. There was an Advent service and meal, and an outing to Buckfast Abbey, besides our joining with diocesan members at two Area Diocesan Days. We are now well into our 2019 programme.

This year's theme is *MULOA* (Mothers Union Listens, Observes and Acts), the initiative from Mothers' Union headquarters that seeks to establish local need and appropriate action, rather than a campaign set from on high that may be relevant to some areas but totally irrelevant to others. We will be having two workshops on this in the July and October meetings. Please read the monthly reports in the Parish Magazine by Betty Thrall if you would like to know more about our meetings and upcoming programme for this year.

We welcome new members to Mothers' Union, remembering that this is open to men and women without any restrictions of membership. We are a welcoming and inclusive group. We were happy to enrol Father Richard Maudsley and Mrs Sandra Hayes from St Andrew's this year into Tiverton Mothers' Union

Thank you to all at St Peter's Church who support our fundraising efforts so generously. It would be easy to become inward-looking but it is always a joy to hear of the impact that Mothers' Union is having in the wider world and to support those less fortunate than ourselves. I am sure that in our praying and giving 2019 will be another remarkable year of faith, prayer, giving and reaching out in this Tiverton Branch, both to our local community and to the many Mothers' Union projects around the world.

*Pastoral Care Group*  
Elizabeth Ricks

We recognise with gratitude and appreciation the loving support and generosity of spirit offered informally amongst church members outside any official structures. Alongside this, as a Pastoral Care Group, we have continued our work of encouraging and visiting church members whom we hear of who need additional support, perhaps because of illness, lack of mobility or at times of particular difficulty. We value and indeed depend upon information from members of the congregation to let us know where this extra help is needed.

Our St Peter's counselling service has continued to thrive and offers more specialised and perhaps longer lasting free professional support to church people and their friends and families. Helen Fensome and Elizabeth Ricks are both fully qualified and experienced counsellors who offer a non-judgemental, eclectic service which does not promote a particular religious stance but honours clients' own beliefs and choices. The service is fully confidential, and subject to supervision and professional insurance.

We have also, in the last few months, produced illustrated pamphlets outlining all different aspects of our pastoral care at St Peter's and have made these available at the back of the church. Meanwhile we are in the process of reselecting the post bereavement cards which are sent out on behalf of our church to relevant people.

This last year or so we have drawn up a contact directory of church members who wish to be included in order to facilitate contact between parishioners, as is found in many Anglican parishes. This has saved many of us a great deal of time, either looking things up on the internet or leafing through telephone directories! We should like to thank Helen Wakely and Roy Webber in particular for their valuable help in producing this resource.

*Prayer Chain*  
Jean Jenner

We have been very busy during the past year, and more and more people have expressed appreciation for the comfort it gives them to know that they are in our prayers. It is indeed a privilege to be part of this team.

*Refreshment Team*  
Gill Heard

Church members continue to provide refreshments for various functions. My thanks go to everyone who assists, but especially to Sue Beale.

### Sacristans

Sue Beale

The sacristan team has continued to give devoted care and assistance at the 8.00 a.m. and 10.15 a.m. Sunday services, which is much appreciated. The team would like to express their appreciation to Averil, on her retirement, for her considerable contribution over the years she has served as sacristan.

### Safeguarding

Catherine Makepeace

Safeguarding is a standing item on each PCC agenda. The Safeguarding Representative, together with the Rector, is responsible for promoting sensitivity within the Parish for all those affected by abuse. She must also notify all relevant individuals who take part in activities involving children, or potentially vulnerable adults, of their requirement to undertake a regular DBS (formerly CRB) check, and/or the appropriate training provided by the Diocese. During the year, the PCC has approved the policy and guidance on safeguarding in the Parish, the policy on domestic abuse recommended by the Diocese, and guidance for lone workers.

### Stewardship 2018

Helen and David Wakely

2018 has been the third full year of offering the Parish Giving Scheme as a means by which to give to St Peter's Church. We continue to receive stewardship through direct debit giving and weekly envelopes as well as the general collection. Giving regularly to the Church by whatever means enables us to plan and cover our expenditure and obligations.

By the end of 2018, there were 44 who give through the Parish Giving Scheme, 12 through weekly envelope giving and 6 by direct debit.

The achievements for the year are as follows:

	2018	2017	Increase/decrease
	£	£	£
Parish Giving Scheme	33,066	31,961	1,105
OOGA	3,321	4,152	-831
Envelopes			
Non Gift Aid	804	1,438	-634
Gift Aid	1,483	1,527	-44
Standing Orders	1,314	1,469	-155

Thank you to you all for giving by whatever means; it is greatly appreciated and enables us to support St Peter's and its activities that we love. If you could consider giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, joining packs are available by the Church door.

### Tapissers

Jane Bonnick

The tapisser group has been doing the usual repairs to kneelers which have shown signs of wear during the year. If anyone sees a kneeler that needs repair, please let me know. The biggest one we are doing is the Altar kneeler in the Greenaway Chapel as it has been damaged by the damp before the renovation to the chapel. One of us is doing a new kneeler in memory of Penelope, this is on behalf of the Choir who chipped in for it. Another one was made for Philip Sanderson, one of our Church Wardens.

We are still looking for a new home for the wools and Tapestry Books and spare looms, as I am finding it more difficult to get up in the Loft. Any offers would be very helpful.

### *Theology Quest and Questions in Tiverton*

David Hamer and David Catchpole

The study course, *Theology Quest and Questions in Tiverton*, now in its thirteenth year, has continued, attracting a majority of participants from beyond the St Peter's community, some of whom travel a considerable distance for this purpose. A year ago we were both a little anxious lest reduced attendance implied that we were getting past our 'sell by date', but this blip seems now well and truly a thing of the past, with rising attendance, including several new people, and of course (though this is not the reason we do it!) reinforced income for St Peter's. Would that more members of St Peter's felt the urge to come and join the experience of reflecting on a variety of subjects which are in one way or another central to Christian believing and belonging in the contemporary world.

Since we last reported to you, our trios have centred on 'Changing morality and the transformative gospel', 'The uses of poetry for the contemporary explorer of theology', 'We need to talk about the Bible', 'The quest of the historical Mary', and 'Luke under the microscope'. The discussions have always been good-humoured and, to put it mildly, lively!

Plans for next year are taking shape. They are likely to include an exploration of the issues raised by Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables*, some studies of the gospel for the next liturgical year, *Matthew under the Microscope*, and a trio that we are especially pleased to make the subject of an advance warning, namely a discussion of the issues surrounding palliative care, led by Ann Fulton, the spiritual care coordinator at the St Margaret's Hospice in Taunton.

### *Time Together*

Ann Catchpole, Shelia Richardson and Diane White

Time Together was once again led by the three of us, together with Gill Heard and Robert Gordon. Morning sessions were appreciated by parents and grandparents of pre-school children. Bible stories were told and illustrated, and activities took place which were appropriate for them. There was an average attendance of 8-10. Light refreshments were available.

School age children up to secondary school age were welcome to the afternoon sessions and were often accompanied by younger siblings.

### *Young Church*

Ann Catchpole, Shelia Richardson and Diane White

St Peter's regards work with children and young people as very important. Attendance of young people at the Young Church corner on Sundays remains variable but the three of us are seldom without company. Parents and grandparents are always grateful for our presence and newcomers often much relieved to find us there. Babies and toddlers are welcome as well as older children.