



St Peter's Church, Tiverton

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

April 2020

Report on the Fabric of the Church
Gill Heard and William Zarrett

We are pleased to report that the condition of our beautiful church building is sound. This year was one of no major projects but rather of routine maintenance and small repairs. Sadly, several repairs have been necessitated by vandalism, the most significant of which was the destruction of a stained glass panel in the window by the children's corner. Other window repairs were undertaken in the Vestry. Professional specialist help was required for both projects.

We greatly appreciate all the work done by our Tuesday morning DIY group whose willingness to tackle manageable projects is only surpassed by their jam doughnut eating enthusiasm. New members are always welcome. Please see David Ricks.

Many thanks to all who care for our church on a regular basis, cleaning, polishing and hoovering. Visitors often comment on how the church must be well loved!

The Reordering Project
David Ricks

The detailed design for the reordering project was completed by the architect in early 2020, and all the drawings and documents were submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee in late January for their February meeting. Two members of the committee revisited the church subsequent to this meeting and published their comments to us by letter on 13 February. On the whole their comments were very favourable, but they presented a list of 10 observations for our consideration. Most were of a minor nature and agreement was reached easily and amicably in all but one. We are required to move a narrow block of pews to a location immediately to the east of the new porch, to frame the open area for the font in front of the Greenway chapel and to help retain the "collegiate" feel of the corporation seating in the south aisle. These pews will actually be replacing those removed previously (in the 1960's?) where the reading desk now stands just inside the doors. They also require us to commission an additional specialist academic study into the provenance of our pews, before any are removed, for historical record purposes. This study has been commissioned.

With these matters agreed, the DAC gave us their approval on 14 May, and we may now petition the Diocese for a formal Faculty. Having to work within the restrictions of the current Covid-19 lockdown, this process is slightly more complicated than usual but it will mean the uploading of the approved design on to our parish website, so everybody will be able to see the drawings.

We now proceed with the architects to complete the working drawings necessary to obtain building regulations approval and obtain construction tenders from a selection of approved contractors. The current situation means that we are not able to plan the construction stage of the work with any certainty.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our architects, especially Michael Vaughan, for all his support, good advice and hard work. He was always very relaxed about obtaining DAC approval, and

I think a period of two and a half months from submission to approval is, in the light of past experience, a wonderful achievement.

Deanery Synod Report
Mary Seaton and Richard Stenlake

The Tiverton and Cullompton Deanery Synod's meeting in June 2019 was based on the theme 'Thy Kingdom Come', a global prayer event which invited Christians around the world to pray for the widening of the Church's work. Very imaginative prayer stations had been set up around St Paul's Church, and they helped to focus our prayers for various causes both within our own community and throughout the wider world.

In October, the Synod was introduced to a requirement by the Diocese to put forward a Five Year Deanery Plan by October 2020. This plan would aim to enhance the way the Deanery functions, and to improve communications between the parishes and across the Diocese. A consultation questionnaire was distributed seeking our ideas about how the Deanery might work more effectively. A small St Peter's working group was formed to consider our response, which was subsequently approved by the PCC at the end of January.

In March, the Synod was presented with the resulting draft Deanery Plan, which is quite modest in its scope. Its proposals include the wider sharing of news or initiatives, the holding of two Deanery training events each year, a yearly mission event appealing to a wider group, and a commitment to good communication between mission communities.

In considering our questionnaire response, the St Peter's team soon realised that deep questions were being raised about the way ahead for our own church, and much prayerful deliberation was devoted to the forming of our own Mission Action Plan, to be highlighted at the forthcoming APCM.

Baptism Team
Jeanne Barnett

Last year was a particularly disappointing one, we only had one Baptism all year. Our four visitors, Diane White, Gill Heard, Jenny Palmer and Rosemary Longbourne all thought I had forgotten them. I am glad to say that 2020 has started better, having already had two baptisms in March and one booked for April: hopefully that one will take place later on.

The Baptism Visitor Group have had their meeting with the Safeguarding Representative and are now carrying out the measures needed.

Bible Reading Fellowship
Gill Heard

These 4-monthly publications of Bible readings, entitled 'Guidelines' and 'New Daylight', continue to be read by our congregation. They cost £4.60 and are kept at the back of the Church. Large print copies are available on request.

St Peter's Society of Change Ringers
Sheila Scofield

We now have 10 members of the St Peter's band. We recruited a new learner, Bev, in April 2019 and an experienced ringer, Simon, moved to Tiverton in the autumn. We have rung regularly for all Sunday morning services, monthly Quarter Peal attempts for Evensong and for other special occasions throughout the year.

Sheila Scofield became Captain in November as Mark Heritage stepped down after 4 years in the post.

During the year we hosted a WI visit in June and a full peal was rung in October of Yorkshire Surprise Major with Steve James, friend of the band and branch member, achieving his first attempt.

Heritage Open day was as popular as ever with 35 visitors in September. We were blessed with the best weather yet, giving the clearest views from the top of the tower.

We held our tower outing on 27 April, ringing at Brixham where we were joined by Nick Brown, grandson of Owen Brice. We had tea and ringing at Churston Ferrers. We concluded the evening with a curry in Newton Abbot. Our annual dinner was held in February this year at Zio's, Tiverton.

Maintenance during the year has included 5 rope repairs (£208) and new bell muffles (£342). The working party has made electrical repairs recently. We also purchased the peal board (£386) to mark the peal rung in November 2018 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of this first peal and the formation of the Society.

CHAT

Jill Robson

Although the box is no longer in situ at the back of the church, we continue our support. Individuals either donate required items at the supermarket, or take them to CHAT directly. Donations of cash are also appreciated, to help clients with fuel bills.

Christian Aid

David Catchpole

St Andrew's and St Peter's combined to continue as much as possible the work of the earlier Tiverton Christian Aid group. Our own PCC decided to affirm on behalf of St Peter's our commitment to Christian Aid, so our fundraising effort was enabled to be even more emphatic and enthusiastic than might have been otherwise. We hoped to leave the 2018 total raised (£366) far behind, and indeed we did with the excellent outcome of £1,202,72. Contributing to this total were £150 from St Andrew's and £410 from the Safari Lunch, organized by Gill Heard and Jenny Palmer, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone who participated. Special thanks were due to them for their generosity and hard work in arranging the lunch.

In less than a month we reach the Christian Aid week for 2020 (10-16 May), when despite or even more because of the present uncertainty the need for generous support, so important at all times, is even more so this year.

St Peter's Church Choir and Music

Chris Burford

The musical life at St Peter's Church suffered a tragic blow with the untimely death of our Music Director, Andrew Curtis, in December last year. Since then the choir has worked very hard to uphold the Christmas music tradition and enhance worship every Sunday morning in church, with the able assistance of Graham Willson and a group of talented visiting organists. Robert and team are actively seeking a replacement Music Director but until someone is appointed the choir is managing without our Wednesday evening rehearsals. With only Sunday morning rehearsals and with unfamiliar organists we are unable to cover special services and evensong at present.

Choral Scholars: The choral scholar recruitment program is also on hold until the appointment of a new music director. Ben Fitton (tenor) and Frankie Lambert (bass) continue as our local community choral scholars, and this year they were joined by Antony Jackman (bass) from Exeter. and more recently by Leyla Magassa (soprano), a former scholar who has returned to us from Wells Cathedral. Their wonderful musicianship and support are greatly appreciated as is the sponsorship of Viscount Amory's Charitable Trust.

Choir lunch: The choir members enjoyed and appreciated the annual lunch in July, held once again in Chevithorne Village Hall. Another great occasion, with good food, company and true fellowship, enjoyed by all present!

Choral Evensong: This continued each third Sunday of the month until October with a good choir attendance, loyal congregation, and continued support of Graham Willson at the organ. We hope to re-introduce the choral element of this evening service in the future. As with last year we sang the Benedictine service of Compline in Lent and on Palm Sunday a special choral service, this year *The Requiem* by G Fauré.

Andrew's Funeral: In January the choir was joined by many other singers from groups with whom Andrew had links. With rehearsals arranged by Graham Willson, and assistance from Yvonne Buttifant conducting, we were able to provide a fitting choral accompaniment to this extremely well attended service. All of the choral works were known to be among Andrew's favourite pieces.

Website: The choir web page on the church website (www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk) has been updated with music from the carol service and the organ duet by Andrew Curtis and Graham Willson. Also the music lists are published online now and no longer sent out to a distribution list, thus avoiding some of the pitfalls of GDPR.

Particular thanks: These must go to Graham Willson for stepping in at short notice on the organ; 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!

We look forward to returning to a full programme of music with a new director in the year ahead. Well done, everyone!

Churches Together in Tiverton
Sue Beale

A most uplifting service was held at St Peter's on Good Friday 2019. On the evening of Pentecost some of us met in West Exe Park for prayer as the sun went down.

Street Pastors, School Pastors and Prayer Pastors all continue their invaluable work, and are, as always, in need of more recruits.

At the AGM on 25 February 2020 the proposal to hold Forum Meetings only when required was approved.

Coffee on Sunday at 10.15
Jackie Monahan

Provision of coffee and biscuits continues to be appreciated and raises over £600 during the year for church funds. We have a stalwart band of about 24 helpers but can always use more. Some people have been serving coffee for a very long time and would love to retire. Jean Parkinson has retired, always reliable and ever willing to do an extra turn: thank you, Jean.

St Peter's Electoral Roll
Catherine Makepeace

The Electoral Roll for 2019-2020 was a completely new one, so this year we have simply had to build on that. The present roll has 114 electors (up 3), of whom 29 live within the Parish and 85 outside.

Flower arrangers
Mary Seaton

The team has worked steadily with its rota to change the floral arrangements in St Peter's once a fortnight.

We were so pleased to be able to produce some thoughtful and beautiful arrangements for Andrew Curtis's thanksgiving service and for other church calendar commemorations throughout the year.

The team are very generous in their gifts of flowers and foliage which helps keep the expenditure at a low rate. However, it would be nice in future if donations to the flower fund were forthcoming. We hope one day to hold a flower festival, probably to celebrate the completion of the re-ordering and will need funds and physical help with this. If you would like to donate perhaps in remembrance of a loved one's birthday or other anniversary, Sally Mundy our treasurer would love to hear from you.

The team is keeping in touch and supplying pictures of their gardens for viewing on the web site. We would welcome any new additions to the team.

Holiday Club

Ann Catchpole, Shelia Richardson and Diane White

Holiday Club: We looked at the life of St. Peter starting on day One with Jesus calling him and his friends. Day two looked at Jesus giving him the keys to heaven and Peter's betrayal of Jesus. Day three saw the disciples fishing and Jesus appearing on the beach and cooking them breakfast.

We started slowly with numbers at first, and then gradually built up to a reasonable number on day three, as with other years. It was a good experience once again.

Home Communion Visiting Team

Jean Jenner

This year the number of visits has decreased, usually because sadly someone has died. However, Sue Beale, Helen Fensome, David Catchpole and myself are still very much available to visit when necessary. This is usually the case when someone is recovering from an operation, illness, or has become housebound. We all find it a privilege to carry out this ministry.

The Parish Magazine

Jeanne Barnett

The magazine has been much easier to produce of late due to most articles arriving by the deadline. Unfortunately, there are quite a few less required as the congregation shrinks. There is no hard copy being printed at present, but the magazine can be accessed on the St Peter's Church website.

Tiverton Mothers' Union

Helen Fensome

Tiverton Mothers' Union now has members from St Peter's and St Andrew's, and one of our newest members is from St Paul's Church. There are 24 members and 6 members at home, those who can no longer attend meetings. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month, 2 pm at the Baptist Church Hall for a very varied programme.

We are part of the worldwide Mothers' Union, and as such seek ways to support and fundraise for projects both worldwide, and our own Diocesan Holiday Scheme more locally. In 2019 we raised £661.81, and our latest project, Easter egg knitted rabbits and chicks, has raised £350 for the Make a Mother's Day project. We would like to express our gratitude to all the parishioners who have so generously supported us. We also support campaigns against gender-based violence and modern day slavery. Please do come and see what we do: we are a growing vibrant group of women and men. Phone Helen on 01884 256611 for more details.

Pastoral Care Group

Elizabeth Ricks and Rosie Longbourne

Elizabeth writes:

Pastoral care has continued gently and steadily during the past year, thanks to our pastoral team and members of the congregation. There have, however, been a considerable number of significant changes in pastoral care matters which church members need to know.

In recent years, a greater awareness of abuse within society has led to central church authorities working to tighten control of all aspects of pastoral work carried out in its name, in order to increase protection for vulnerable people of whatever age. During this year, representatives of our pastoral group have been meeting with others to produce a new policy for pastoral work in our parish. Special thanks here are due to Catherine Makepeace, Rosie Longbourne and Bill Zarrett for their efficient input in producing the final document for St Peter's.

The implementation of this policy will mean that the work of the pastoral care team will in future be carried out in a more formal and regulated way. This has not been an easy process of change for some, and some existing pastoral visitors may opt to visit others instead on an informal friendship basis only. Others, with our Rector's authorisation and with the appropriate DBS checks, will work according to the new dispensation.

As a separate matter, you may know that some months ago I resigned as Lay Pastoral Assistant and that our Rector is searching for an appropriate replacement. The church counselling service which I, Jan Heptinstall and later Helen Fensome have been running for many years (and which has served many both within and beyond the congregation) has now closed. This is a real loss in view of the increasing need for help within society, the delays in NHS provision and the cost of most private provision.

Please pray for our pastoral work at this difficult time when society is changing, volunteers are ageing, and increasingly prescriptive demands are made nationally of clergy and volunteer workers alike.

Rosie writes:

The Pastoral Care Visitor Group has been fairly quiet this last year on the client front. Since the autumn, the Pastoral Care Visitors and the Home Communion Visitors along with Robert Gordon, Catherine Makepeace (Safeguarding Representative) and Bill Zarrett (Church Warden) and myself have been working on the documentation for operating procedures and guidelines and also Safer Recruitment for both groups. These procedures are required by the Diocese for group members within the Church who have more than incidental contact with children, young people or adults experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect. Seven documents have been produced, some of which are generic. These two groups were the first to go through this process.

Currently there is a vacancy for the Lead of the Pastoral Care Visitor Group.

Prayer Chain

Jean Jenner

This ministry continues to be appreciated and a comfort to many people. It is surprising the number of requests we receive from other parts of the country. This is usually because someone has received consolation and mentions it to another friend or relative, and when they are struggling with a particular problem they ask for our support. This is indeed a privilege and reassures us that this ministry is special.

Refreshment Team

Gill Heard

A refreshment team operate at St. Peter's for all kinds of social events. My thanks go to the many who always volunteer, so willingly.

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. During the past year we welcomed Kate Henshall to the team and are very grateful for her contribution.

Safeguarding

Catherine Makepeace

There has been a good deal of activity during the year concerning safeguarding as this is now an area of high priority within the Church of England. Parishes are required to raise awareness of this subject and to ensure that robust policies and practices are in place.

The Rector's letter in the July Parish Magazine highlighted this and emphasised the need for those in contact with vulnerable people to undertake the necessary training, most of which can be accessed online.

St Peter's has been working to ensure that measures are in place for the 'safer recruitment' of people in specific roles within the parish, paid and voluntary, including those already carrying out the work. These are (i) where an individual has more than incidental contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults who are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect. Examples are pastoral care and Home Communion visitors, Holiday Club helpers, and bell ringers with training responsibilities; and (ii) those in the parish with overall responsibility for safeguarding: the Rector, the PCC and the safeguarding representative.

Safeguarding is a standing item on each PCC agenda and the Parish Policies and Guidelines are reviewed annually. Guidance for Lone Workers has been issued to all those carrying out such roles.

Stewardship 2019

Helen and David Wakely

2019 has been the fourth 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 2019, there were 45 who give through the Parish Giving Scheme, 9 through weekly envelope giving and 6 by direct debit.

The achievements for the year are as follows:

| Cumulative totals | | 2019 to Dec 19 | 2018 to Dec 18 | Difference |
|----------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Parish Giving Scheme | £ NGA | 3382.73 | 3173.04 | 209.69 |
| | £ GA | 24701.7 | 23919.26 | 782.44 |
| | £ GA tax | 6175.57 | 5974.43 | 201.14 |
| Average No | | 45 | 43 | 2 |
| One off Gift Aid | £ | 4489.34 | £3,320.57 | 1168.77 |
| Envelopes | £ NGA | 467.5 | £803.50 | -336.00 |
| | £ GA | 1378.2 | £1,483.70 | -105.50 |
| Standing Orders | £ | 1314 | £1,314.00 | 0.00 |
| | £ Total | 41909.04 | 39988.50 | 1920.54 |

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 in the pews or by the Church door.

Tapissers
Jane Bonnicks

We have made no kneelers during this past year, so on that front there is nothing to report. Other than repairs and cleaning, no activities are taking place. One kneeler that is currently being produced is still in progress.

I still have an urgent need for storage of woools and sundries, hopefully somewhere in the church rather than in my loft, which is proving difficult to access. Help!

Theology Quest and Questions in Tiverton
David Hamer and David Catchpole

This study course is now in its fourteenth year. It has continued to attract participants by no means limited to the St Peter's community, some of whom travel a considerable distance for this purpose.

Since we last reported to you, our trios have centred on *Talking to my son about God* (Dr Tim Gibson); *Matthew under the microscope* (DC); *God, goodness and faith in a time of revolution, as depicted in Victor Hugo's 'Les Miserables'* (DH); and *Spiritual care at the end of life in a 21st century hospice, and the quest for a theology of palliative care* (the Revd Ann Fulton). Following on the lectures, the discussions have continued to be insightful, good-humoured and, to put it mildly, lively! Those who come are not shrinking violets: they have points of view, and they are not shy!

Plans for next year are taking shape and will be publicised quite soon. We would be delighted to welcome some more members of St Peter's who might like to engage in our varied studies of what Christian thinking and believing may mean in our turbulent times.

Time Together
Ann Catchpole, Shelia Richardson and Diane White

Unfortunately, it was decided in October to suspend *Time Together* due to the attendance dwindling to 1 or 2 children a session.

Young Church
Ann Catchpole, Shelia Richardson and Diane White

We continue to supply age related activities at the back of the church. Attendance is variable, from none to quite a few on special occasions.