



# ANNUAL REPORTS 2018

**APCM 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2018**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18  
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, YAXLEY**

## The Vicar's Report, from Revd Jon Randall

### 2017 Review

In August we said goodbye to Mark, Becci, Josie and Ethan after just two years with us. Whilst this was a shorter period than we initially expected, the role which Mark left us for fits perfectly with his gifts and passions. I would like to record my thanks to Mark and the rest of the family for everything which they contributed to life and ministry at St. Peter's and beyond while they were with us.

There is much to celebrate as we look back on 2017. It seems to me that hardly a Sunday goes by when we are not privileged to welcome someone new to the 11am service. The 9am and 7pm Sunday services continue at similar levels to previous years.

Our outreach to those who we don't generally see on a Sunday continues to grow and several of these initiatives are detailed elsewhere in the report. Food Bank has continued to serve those in need and early signs are that 2018 will be the busiest year yet. We have run various CAP money courses during the year. SPARKS, our group for 0-4 year olds and their parents / carers on a Friday morning continues to thrive. We regularly have 40-50 children and those looking after them at each session.

I am delighted that our groups for children and young people continue to thrive. There have been some changes to our provision for young people which are described elsewhere in this report. A highlight of the year for me was spending a week under canvas (I really don't like camping) at Soul Survivor with almost 10,000 young people including a group from St Peter's. To be part of a "crowd" of 10,000 people worshipping the Lord with such joy and enthusiasm was an unforgettable experience.

During the year we followed several sermon series. These included looking at what it means to Love the Lord your God with all your heart etc, a series on the Holy Spirit and a short series looking at some of the parables from Matthew's Gospel. I had been sensing for a while that God had been calling me to write a sermon series on Revelation. However, it took me a while to find the time to do so! We explored Revelation and its messages in some detail in the autumn.

The sermon series were accompanied by material for home groups, in order for them to go into the subjects in more detail. I have been hugely encouraged by the growth both in terms of numbers of attendees, and also the growth in faith and discipleship of those in home groups. As well as Bible study, these groups provide a space for prayer, worship and fellowship. I am conscious that I have been saying this throughout the 9 years I have been here, but.....if you are not in a home group please speak to me about joining one.

Our church weekend in Matlock in September was attended by around 60 people and was an opportunity for us to enjoy fellowship with one another, to explore Derbyshire, but also to reflect on what it means to be *Game Changers* and to grow *Deep* in our faith (acknowledging books by Gavin and Anne Calver and Frog and Amy Orr-Ewing).

I would like to place on record my and our thanks to Fran Russell. Fran is stepping down at the APCM after 24 years on the PCC, with many of them as PCC Secretary.

## **Challenges for 2018**

During the sermon series on Revelation I invited both individuals and groups to write the letter that they believed Jesus would write to the church of St. Peter's today. My thanks to those of you who chose to engage with this process and to spend time prayerfully reflecting on what Jesus would say to us as a church. These letters were shared with the church family in February (2018) at a "Vision Morning". From the letters and the discussions, we have a basis for re-casting our vision as a church for the future. A key challenge for 2018 will be to find the strategy to implement our vision, and to seek to ensure that everyone plays their part in building God's Kingdom.

We also committed as a church to employing a Parish Communications Officer. Laura Ashley was appointed at the end of March to this role. Our challenge as a church is to ensure that we are able to fund this post going forward. We have received significant financial support from the Diocesan Growth Fund. The Fund is actually going to give us more money than we applied for. Why? Because the Diocese noted the many good things which were going on at St. Peter's and because our generosity and commitment in increasing our parish share by 10% p.a. for several years has been noticed.

I finished last year's report by saying that our biggest challenge for 2017 would be for all of us to embrace fully our vision as a church and for everyone to play their part. I believe that we have made significant progress during the year with many people stepping up into new ministries. We still have further to go, and I would want to encourage everyone to identify their God given gifts and use them for the glory of His Kingdom.

## **Churchwardens' Report 2017-2018**

### **Quinquennial Inspection**

This last took place in August 2014. The report did not highlight any urgent works - with the next inspection due in 2019.

### **Project Fund**

We would take this opportunity to thank everyone for their ongoing generosity – as we work towards building new toilets, servery, and a second upper room in early 2019 – especially as the Fund already stands at ~£47k.

### **Terrier**

Most of our documents are now held at the Huntingdon Records Office – where they can be viewed by anyone – leaving us with only the most recent records for our use.

### **Heating**

Heating costs are still being kept in check through our 'use it only when you need it policy' and not depending on the timer for every activity in church.

The problem of gas supply to boilers, which causes one to trip out, continues, but it seems that the supply pressure fluctuates with increased use in Yaxley so we now have measures in place to deal with it.

### **Organ**

The organ has had its annual service and no problems were discovered.

### **Bells**

The bells had an annual check in June when the bearings and pulleys were greased and oiled. The stays and ropes are checked on a regular basis about three or four times a year or if a rope needs adjusting. Roger Austin has continued to be of great assistance in maintaining the bells again this year.

Last year it was reported that the clapper on the treble had some sideways movement; adjustments were made to the castle nut, and this seems to have proved to be successful, but we will continue to monitor this to make sure that it is still OK.

We have replaced 3 ropes this year, and are now in a position where we will need to look at making a repair to 2 of them. A new stock of ropes will need to be purchased. A special thank you to the bell captain and his team for the hours they put in to maintaining the bells.

### **General.**

The problem with the pump which operates the drainage system, resulting in it 'tripping out' and the alarm sounding in the toilet, has been fixed (for now) after removing a screwdriver handle that was discovered lodged in the pump...!!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of the congregation who have assisted them throughout the year.

**Paul Russell & Mark Jarrett**  
**Churchwardens**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT 2017**

The accounts for 2017 reflect a very busy year, and show us with a modest surplus at the end of it.

During the year we spent £6500 on a roof alarm system. However, we were fortunate to receive a grant of £2500 towards it, a VAT rebate of £1092 and a reduction in our insurance premium of £900, so the net cost of installation was only just over £2000.

Expenditure includes insurance premiums of around £4600, and utilities of £4000. We continue to benefit from the bulk-buying powers of the Church of England Energy basket for both gas and electricity, but will keep this under review to ensure that this remains competitive.

We boldly pledged to pay £40,000 for our Parish Share in 2017....and we did. So we have extended our boldness to £44000 for this year.

We continue to fund Berthe's ministry in Rwanda, and also to make regular payments to sponsor Hope; we also support Christians Against Poverty, both locally and nationally.

The Food Bank is now a stand-alone venture and benefitted from a generous donation by the former Patients' Association at the beginning of the year. The figures for this are shown in a separate section of the accounts so that we can keep track of the finances.

We were also able to transfer £9500 to our Project Fund – the planned figure plus more - and this now stands at £47000. Exciting plans afoot, about which you will hear more from our Churchwardens I am sure!

All of this is possible thanks to your generous giving, whether by standing order, weekly envelopes or one-off donations. On behalf of the PCC, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports the work of St Peter's in many different ways – both in Yaxley and in Kabahire.

Many thanks, as always, to those who assist me in producing these figures.

**Debbie Jarrett**  
**PCC Treasurer**

## **REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

The PCC has met four times since the 2017 APCM. The meetings always start with a prayer, and finish with The Grace, and members have discussed a variety of matters, including:

- The work with children & young people, including "Sunday Youth", "The Youth Group", "Soul Survivor", "SPREE" Holiday Club, and Admission to Holy Communion
- "24 hours of prayer" days
- Fund-raising
- Social events
- Community Sunday and Community Projects
- Stewardship
- The Electoral Roll
- Financial matters
- Maintenance, repairs and improvements
- Extension to the Upper Room and Servedy
- The Impaired Senses group
- The MU Engage group
- Food Bank
- Safeguarding
- The Compass Group
- Christians Against Poverty
- Data Protection
- Policies and Procedures
- Parish Communication Officer
- Church Away Weekend
- Pioneer Exchange
- The Pioneer Minister
- The "Encounter" Group
- "Thy Kingdom Come"
- The Deanery Plan
- "Drive/Ride/Stride"
- Our Vision/Letter to St. Peter's
- Naturally Supernatural
- Roof Alarm

- Jon's time as Rural Dean
- Our Welcome
- Confirmation
- St. Giles' Holme
- Recycling
- Litter in the Car Park

**Fran Russell, PCC Secretary**

## **Children's Ministry Report for APCM 2018**

A huge thank you to all of you who are part of our children's ministry team at St. Peter's. We are blessed by your dedication and enthusiasm, by your giftedness, and especially by your loving kindness towards our children. Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." (Matthew 18:5)

### **Junior Church**

Numbers in Junior Church are still growing, which is very encouraging. We continue to use Scripture Union's 'Lightlive' syllabus, which allows our group leaders to do their own planning from a choice of resources and to prepare sessions which are most appropriate for the children in their group. The introduction of sung worship in Junior church has been very successful. Tina Webster kindly continues as Junior Church Co-ordinator. Thank you so much, Tina.

### **Junior Church Nativity**

Our children loved the rock 'n' roll nativity, 'A Christmas Presence,' which they performed at our December All Age Service. Many thanks to Jenny Hall, Debbie Jarrett and their team who put so much work into making this so special for our children and congregation.

### **Youth Church**

Our lively Sunday morning youth group meets in the vestry, following Scripture Union's Youth curriculum. This is working really well. Once a month, this group is discussing their hard questions about Christianity, such as how we know we can trust that the Bible is the truth, whether we need to worry that the Bible doesn't mention dinosaurs, whether science and the Bible are at odds with each other, how we can be sure of the resurrection of Jesus etc. etc.! We hope that this will enable them to stand firm in their faith and always to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks them to give a reason for the hope that they have in Jesus. (1 Peter 3:15)

### **Holiday Club**

Around 70 children and young people attended our Watt-a-Lot Castle Holiday Club in August. Thank you to our wonderful leaders and helpers without whom we would not have been able to reach out to our local community in this way. Thank you to Sharron Watt and Mick Debbage for creating the amazing castle scenery. Our thanks, again, to Yaxley Scouts and Guides for allowing us to use their building, which was ideal for us.

### **Sparks**

Sparks, our group for under-fives and their parents and carers, continued to meet once a fortnight throughout the year. Special thanks to our growing team of faithful helpers who have worked so hard to make Sparks a happy, friendly and hospitable environment

in which people of all ages from babies to great-grandparents can engage with the Gospel. We are delighted that Sparks continues to be very well attended and that several parents whose children have outgrown Sparks have joined the team.

**Ingrid Randall**

### **Youth Group**

Our key focus as Youth Leaders at St. Peter's is to journey with our young people in our community, nurturing, engaging and teaching God's word.

In summer 2017, we took five young people to Soul Survivor. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

During the early part of 2017, attendance slowly decreased within the Tuesday evening Youth Group. With Mark and Becki Fuller leaving the Parish and St. B's not being available from September, it was decided that we would run a Youth Group for the older children - year 10 and above. We held a social at Krispy Crème, where the young people discussed what they would like to do within the group.

We have been looking at the Hope Mission Academy Live DVDs. We also had a stall at St. Peter's Christmas Fayre where we sold homemade crafts and raised £140 for the Toilet Twinning charity. As most of our young people are taking their G.C.S.E' s this year it has been decided that from March to July 2018 we will run a 10-week stand-alone Mission Academy Live course for all children between the ages of 11 -18.

We also continue to meet on a Sunday morning during the 11am service, and are very grateful for an increase in volunteers to help lead that ministry. Both of these groups are aimed at young people from year 6 upwards and are open to youth both inside and outside the church.

We have already booked another trip to Soul Survivor for summer 2018.

**Suzanne Delegate**

### **Foodbank Report for APCM April 2018**

This year has seen Yaxley Foodbank become an independent foodbank. We continue to maintain close links with Godmanchester to whom we are very grateful for getting us started.

Donations of food from Yaxley and the surrounding villages continue to be very generous. Our team of dedicated volunteers enables us to be open throughout the year. During the summer holidays we gave out 41 parcels of food totalling 1266kg to families who would otherwise struggle to feed their children over the summer. At Christmas we gave out 26 Christmas hampers with lots of Christmas goodies in addition to the usual foods.

We have given talks at the Library and the Age Well club. The Library has agreed to be a voucher holder.

Liaising with the Salvation Army at Farcet, we have been able to help not only with food but also with suppling furniture to several clients who have been housed in Yaxley having previously been on the streets.

Working together with local churches, the community, the council and other voluntary organisations is a very positive way of being church outside the walls of the building, helping those in need and loving our neighbour.

A huge thank you to everyone who makes this all possible.

## **Sue Grant**

### **MOTHERS' UNION**

The St. Peters branch of the Mothers' Union has been involved with several events and campaigns during the past year. In May we provided a baby-changing tent at the Yaxley Festival and met many grateful families. We continue to support the local women's Refuges with requested items and gift cards. Chocolate selection boxes were given to the children of inmates at Little Hay prison.

We aim to promote campaigns such as the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence" in November/December, the "Make a Mothers' Day" appeal for Mothering Sunday and through a coffee morning and stall at the Christmas Fayre we have been able to send donations to the Mothers' Union Summer and Christmas appeals helping families in this country and worldwide.

Mothering Sunday cards are given out at Sparks and we now have a Wedding Prayer group who pray for couples on their wedding day. Many families received a Christmas fridge magnet and our travelling Nativity sets visited several homes during Advent. Whenever possible we highlight the work of the Mothers' Union on the St. Peters Facebook page and through the St. Peters E Newsletter distribute Family, Faith and Fun worksheets for families to use at home.

Our monthly Thursday meetings have a varied content, and everyone is welcome. Many find our Tuesday MU-Engage women's discussion group very helpful. Information on Mothers' Union can be found on our notice board at the back of church.

## **Irene Porter, Branch Leader**

### **CAP courses which have been run by St Peter's**

Early in 2017 we ran a CAP Money Course at the Children's Centre associated with Farcet School. Seven ladies attended which was extremely encouraging.



In the summer term we also ran a CAP Money Course for children in year six at Farcet School. As a result of that we have been invited to run the course again this summer for the children in year six.

We are very willing to offer the CAP money course again at St. Peter's, but attracting potential delegates remains a challenge. The benefits of the CAP money system are immense, particularly for those living busy lives where the challenges of budgeting can seem overwhelming. Please speak to Sue Grant, Marilyn Butcher or myself if you would be interested in attending a course. To find out more about the ongoing work of CAP and the CAP Money course visit [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org)

**Pauline Wallace**  
**CAP Money Coach**

## **Annual Report for the Care in the Community Programme 2017/18**

### **Community Sunday 2017.**

This year the Care in the Community team had another excellent turnout on Community Sunday – with 21 jobs competed in the one day serving a total of 15 households.

This year we beat the record for the number of volunteers again, this time with 75 turning out on the jobs and carrying out support roles on refreshments, cakes, sandwiches and photography.

Again - a big thank you to all the members of the congregation who helped - on the jobs, and as support by providing food and refreshments for the returning workers.

### **Care in Community programme during the year 2017/18.**

Last year we trialled going back to an *ad hoc* help arrangement; to be honest not many people took up the offer, and the Community Sunday had no 'left over jobs' requiring completion.

We had two referrals late on in the year which due to the inclement weather have been added to the Community Sunday 2018 help list

Due to heavy commitments at work and home last year I have been unable to focus on promoting the programme in the local community, I am praying that this year I will have the time and can kickstart it and get it moving again.

To do this I need your help, I need a pool of keen and active volunteers I can call upon; if you can help please contact me with your details in church.

### **Community Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

As we gear up for the main event this year I need you all to be seeking out people in Yaxley in need of help; it is only through your '**quality referrals**' that we can give the quality of help and care we strive for to deserving cases.

As St. Peter's eyes and ears in the community, I need you to be making these referrals, I need you to be bold, maybe stepping out of your comfort zone and talking to people in need, it may be your neighbour, or it may just be someone you see struggling with something when you walk back from school or the shops.

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

I truly feel we can expand the Lord's word through our deeds even further into the community, and I look forward to continuing his work in the coming year(s).

**Andy James**

**Co-ordinator (Saint Peter's Care in the Community Programme)**

## **Impaired Senses Group Overview**

The Impaired Senses group has been running, in partnership with Deafblind Enablement (DBE) for 5 years now. The aim has remained the same: to bring together people with a hearing loss, Deaf, Blind, visually impaired, without speech, and deafblind people from Yaxley and the surrounding areas for conversation and fellowship.

The meeting has taken place every third Saturday in the month, (apart from August 2017) from 2-4pm. With 12 sensory impaired people committed to coming to each meeting, 3 not able to attend any more due to health, with 9 regular dedicated volunteers.

Most of the impaired senses members come from outside Yaxley, we would welcome more publicity from our church congregation to encourage local people with hearing and/or sight difficulties to attend.

For the group to facilitate essential communication and guiding, we are seeking more volunteers (and drivers). Full training will be given.

The format of the meeting has not changed over the last year and continues to be chatting/catching up with new and old friends over refreshments. Bethany (aged 14 years) is our Games Co-ordinator and has had some fun quizzes, tactile games and our famous Domino Bingo.

Volunteers act as scribes/note-takers. We encourage members to learn different BSL signs (signing happy birthday at each meeting) and every member of the group has learnt to use Deafblind Manual. Voice-over, deafblind manual and writing numbers on a white board are all used to aid communication.

Norman sets the pitch as the leader for singing 3 hymns; the sound of all of us singing lifts the roof and brings unity to the group. Margaret brailles the hymns for the group and large print copies are always available. Prayers at the end of the group are given by

various members.

Our annual trip to Hunstanton was a great day out paid for by our monthly raffle, donations and DBE. 38 people attended (including 15 people invited from Welcome Club). Fish and chips, sitting on the prom, playing on the beach, chatting and eating ice-cream made a fantastic change for many of the group members.

A big 'thank you' to everyone for all their support, making the Impaired Senses group such a success.

**Debbie James**

### **Encounter**

*Encounter* continues to meet on alternate Friday mornings, with a core group of around 15 people meeting to spend some time together to reflect on life, faith and spirituality.

It's safe to say that since the beginning of *Encounter* in April 2016 friendships have developed, and everyone continues to enjoy the discussions and conversations that are had whilst drinking coffee and enjoying homemade cake.

With Mark and Becci Fuller leaving the parish in the summer of 2017, the core *Encounter* team of four decided that they would lead the sessions on a rota basis, choosing topics of religious content delivered in a modern context.

We are still very encouraged with how people are engaging with *Encounter*. It has provided a comfortable space for those from a range of backgrounds and faith perspectives to discuss openly and honestly and to begin to make connections between God's story and their own. We continue to give people 'prayer bags' which include a short prayer activity they can do at home.

Due to the lack of resources we no longer meet for *Encounter Extra*.

Please do pray for the continued development of *Encounter*. Give thanks for those who attend, for the space it has provided, and for the committed team of volunteers who make it happen. Pray that it would continue to be a place where people can start or continue their journeys of discipleship. Pray that we would strike a good balance between welcoming new members and deepening relationships with current attenders. Finally, pray that we would always be open to the promptings of the Spirit in how *Encounter* moves forward.

**Suzanne Delegate**