



ANNUAL REPORTS 2019

APCM Sunday 7th April 2019

The Vicar's Report

Reverend Jon Randall moved on from St. Peter's Church at the end of September 2018. St. Peter's Church is currently in an interregnum.

Churchwardens' Report

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; server and a second upper room.

Tenders have been received, with the lowest at ~£124,000 (tbc – some questions have been raised and answers are still awaited). This figure doesn't include the architect fees at £10,000 max; the windows at £7,300; and the intended 10% towards Mission (£14,000). The total works (priced on the basis of keeping the church open for the three months or so it would take to complete) would therefore cost ~£155,000 (excluding any VAT – which is recoverable), which results in ~£101,000 would still need to be raised).

Submissions have been made to obtain Historic England's permission and the Faculty to be granted.

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, has not been resolved, as 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 discovered.

Bells

An annual check of the bells took place in June, all seemed in good order, with all necessary greasing and oiling carried out. It was decided that the headstocks did not need painting this year, but we will keep a check on these and will repaint as and when deemed necessary.

3 ropes were taken over to Ellis rope makers at Melton Mowbray for an appraisal as to whether they were worth repairing. After some consideration, it was decided to repair 1 rope and order 2 new ropes - the repaired rope has been returned and we await delivery of the 2 new ones.

No signs of water ingress or problems with doves getting into the tower.

General

The problem with the pump which operates the drainage system, resulting in it 'tripping out' and the alarm sounding in the toilet, continues, but we are awaiting a further visit from the plumbers to resolve it...!!

Replacement bulbs are on order to change the uplighters to LEDs, and we hope the upgrade will be completed shortly.

Fire extinguishers and roof alarm continue to be inspected on an annual basis.

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

Our 2018 accounts are shown in a different format, taken directly from our new accounting system. Some of the names and headings may appear slightly differently, so please do ask me if you would like clarification on anything in them.

Expenditure includes insurance premiums of around £4700 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. We did review this with a Green Energy provider during the year, but as the outcome appeared to be more expensive, we decided to stay with the existing scheme.

We paid our Parish Share to Ely of £44000 in full and on time.

We continue to fund Berthe's ministry in Rwanda and also make regular payments to sponsor Hope: we also support Christians Against Poverty, both locally and nationally. This year, we have made a new commitment to support an organisation called Life in Abundance (which has the involvement of our old friend Jonathan Lamb). We have also raised funds for Brother Andrew's work for persecuted Christians worldwide.

And I say this every year, but it does not make it any less true or sincere:

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, in counting cash and administering gift aid data and weddings.

Debbie Jarrett
PCC Treasurer

Report of the Proceedings of The Parochial Church Council

The PCC have met six times since the 2018 APCM. The meetings have discussed a variety of matters and are always concluded with either a prayer or The Grace.

Matters discussed include:

- The work with children & young people, including Junior & Youth Church, Youth Group, Soul Survivor, Holiday Club, Sparks, SPREE, the creche and Admission to Holy Communion
- Financial Matters, including our charitable giving, 2019 Budget and YTD figures
- Stewardship
- Our Vision (Letter to SPC)
- Communications including Digital communications, our PCO, welcome pack, Yaxley Gazette Articles
- Foodbank
- Community Projects & Community Sunday
- The Impaired Senses Group
- Mothers' Union
- Encounter
- Christians Against Poverty
- Alpha Groups
- Extension to Upper Room & Servery, including Storage Review
- Safeguarding
- The Electoral Roll
- Social Events
- Holme with Conington
- The purchasing of more Bibles
- Wedding Fees
- Church Away Weekend
- The Interregnum, including methodology, Parish Profile, Parish Representatives, Advertising & Cover for Services
- 24 Hours of Prayer Days
- Building Maintenance & Repairs including Re-leading of Windows & Uplighters
- Signed Services
- Badges for volunteers
- Rota coordination
- Open Church
- Training Opportunities
- Band Resources
- Christmas Planning & Review
- Church Cleaning
- TFM Summer Conference
- ALMs/LLMs
- 2019 Calendar of Events
- PCC Members Publication, Information Database & Circulation of Minutes
- Welcome Teams
- Gas & Electricity
- Electronic Donations
- The Deanery Plan
- Project: REACH Ely
- Christian Venue Hire
- Easter Planning
- Prayer Stations
- Computer

Laura Ashley
PCC Secretary

Children's Ministry Report

Sparks

We have had a change at Sparks this past year. After Ingrid and Jon left us Sparks was in need of a leader and Ingrid asked me to take over this important group in our Church's life. So, after 9 years of helping Ingrid I became leader. We continue to do Sparks as it was set up, with the addition of a Storytelling team and a couple of new volunteers. Numbers have dropped during the year but we have noticed a small growth in the last few weeks. All of the children were given a bible story book for Christmas and will get a small Easter gift. I would like to thank all the volunteers for their help over the last few months and hope to continue Sparks for our

little ones for as long as it's needed.

Liz Spooner
Sparks Leader

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

A big thank you goes out to all our Leaders, parents and young helpers, who continually support the children's mission within St. Peter's. We pray for those Leaders that this year have stepped down from their roles and we thank them for their contribution to our children's ministry. Going forward we pray that new people will receive a calling from God and will step out in their faith to join our children's ministry team.

We continue to meet upstairs three Sundays of the month, with the first Sunday being an All Age Service.

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.

Youth Church

Our lively Sunday morning youth group meets in the vestry, following Scripture Union's Youth curriculum. It has recently been decided that we will try some new resources for this group such as the Mission Academy course. We used this two years ago for the Tuesday night Youth and the young people really engaged with this particular material.

The children produced a wonderful nativity service at Christmas and some children continue to participate and interact within the All Age Service.

Suzanne Delegate
Youth ALM

Youth Group Report

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

In summer 2018, we took 4 young people to Soul Survivor. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

From March 2018 to July 2018 we ran a 10-week stand-alone Mission Academy live course for all children between the ages of 11 -18-year olds. This was an evangelistic course and encouraged the young people to talk to at least six of their friends about their faith. We then invited them to bring their friends along to a Glo party at Kingsgate Church. In total there were around twenty of us that attended that evening.

Since September 2018 we have been running a Youth Alpha. This is being held once a fortnight in the upper room at St Peter's and three young people have attended all sessions.

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.

It has been decided, that the period between March and July 2019 we will not be meeting. The young people will be in exam season. From experience this time has had low attendance.

We have yet to decide what resources we will be using in September 2019.

Suzanne Delegate

Youth ALM

Foodbank Report

Another year has passed and the foodbank continues to thrive. Indeed, we have noticed a gradual increase in demand, especially in the months since Christmas. We are fortunate to have a number of new volunteers who have recently joined us.

Donations of food from Yaxley and the surrounding villages continue to be very generous. Over the year to September 2018 we received 7145kg of food, giving out 6546kg of food in parcels, to families in crisis. Our team of dedicated volunteers enable us to be open throughout the year.

During the summer holidays we gave out 42 parcels of food to families who would otherwise struggle to feed their children over the summer. At Christmas we gave out 30 Christmas hampers with lots of Christmas goodies in addition to the usual foods.

We have had several new organisations requesting to be voucher holders including the Annabel Davis Centre and CAP Open Doors Centre.

Working together with local churches, schools, 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.

We remain immensely grateful to those who donate items, those who give their time as volunteers and also Yaxley Parish Council who support us in many ways. We have seen a rise in demand this year as benefits changes take place. We have recently developed a relationship with Woodgreen Animal Centre, who provide us with dog and cat food supplies for those families in need with pets. They can also provide pet welfare support and subsidised neutering services for families struggling financially. We continue to look for ways to tailor our service to the needs of those in crisis in our community.

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone who makes this all possible.

Chris Grant

Foodbank Coordinator

Mothers' Union

During the past year we have tried to follow in the footsteps of Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union and in the coming year to follow our theme of "Listen, Observe, Act, in step with God".

We have promoted Mothers' Union campaigns such as the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence", "Make a Mother's Day " and our AFIA Holidays. Our coffee morning in August and the stall at the Christmas Fayre enabled us to send much needed funds to various projects in this country and worldwide. We have collected many items for local women's aid refuges and children of prisoners in Littlehey prison. Mothers' Union information has been posted on the St. Peters Facebook page and the E newsletter has a link to the monthly "Family, Faith and Fun" worksheets which we hope families are finding interesting.

There are 30 members of the Mothers' Union in St. Peters, several have roles which help in various ways to support our church family. Our MU-Engage group holds some very lively discussions on a variety of subjects and our monthly meetings include Mothers' Union news, song, prayer and various topics based on our annual theme. This year we are very pleased to be able to lead the Mothering Sunday service in St. Peters.

Irene Porter
Mothers' Union

Care in the Community Report

Hebrews 10:24-2

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Community Sunday 2018

This year the Care in the Community team had another excellent turnout on Community Sunday – with 59 volunteers completing 18 jobs in the one day, serving a total of 11 households.

I truly believe through prayer, God had a big hand in the success this year, with the majority of jobs being staining and painting outdoors, we had continuous rain for the previous week, with it finally stopping about 7am on the Sunday morning The day drying up sufficiently to complete all the jobs on time rain resumed the following day when the jobs had dried and the bar-b-que finished.... Praise be!!

This year the number of volunteers were slightly down with 59 turning out on the day, down from 75 the previous year due in part to people being away on holidays.

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

Care in Community programme during the year 2018/19

Ad hoc jobs continued through the remaining part of the year with a good variation of work being requested ranging from freeing up a front door lock and shower valve to hanging shelves, building sheds and installing log edging to borders.

A big thank you to the pool of keen and active volunteers I rely on (sometimes at short notice) that help out on these jobs.

If you feel you are called upon to help please contact me with your details in church, it doesn't require you to be a DIY professional or master craftsman, just a willingness to learn 'on the job' and be part of a friendly and pro-active team.

Community Sunday 26th May 2019 – 10am at St. Peter's Church in place of 11am service

As we draw near to the main event this year I need all members of the congregation to be looking around your community and talking to your neighbours who may be in need of help this could be someone needing help due to a disability, medical operation, age or the fact the job is simply too big for them to manage alone. It could be it's a joint project with a local school or organisation If you are aware of any, please let me know asap so we can schedule the teams.

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

Andy James

Care in the Community Coordinator

Impaired Senses Group

The Impaired Senses group has been running, in partnership with Deafblind Enablement (DBE) for 6 years now. The aim has remained the same: to bring people with a hearing loss, Deaf, Blind, visually impaired, without speech and deafblind people together from Yaxley and the surrounding areas for conversation and fellowship.

The meeting has taken place every third Saturday in the month, (apart from August 2018 and Feb 2019 from 2-4pm. With 10 sensory impaired people committed to coming to each meeting, 2 family members and 8 regular dedicated volunteers.

Most of the impaired senses members come from outside Yaxley. We publicised the group in the local Gazette, to encourage further hearing and/or sight difficulties to attend. Four volunteers came forward. We would like to see more sensory impaired people from Yaxley attend.

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 15 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 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 braille's the hymns for the group and large print copies are always available. Prayers at the end of the group are given by various members.

This year's annual trip in July, started at Sandringham Estate before heading to Hunstanton for fish and chips. It was a great day out paid for by our monthly raffle, donations and DBE. Unfortunately, the coach broke down at Sandringham, God was with us as we bumped along to the coach park with broken suspension, the sun was wonderful whilst we had coffee and cake another coach arrived without waiting too long. 19 people attended. Fish and chips, sitting on the prom, 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.



The Queen's Birthday – June 2018



This year swept our fun little group all the way to Hunstanton for a day by the sea. "I love attending. It helps keep me sane as my own sight and hearing deteriorate." Roger

Debbie James
Impaired Senses Coordinator

Encounter

Encounter has now been meeting regularly on alternate Friday mornings for almost three years. We have been pleased to welcome new people this year and sadly said goodbye to one or two folk who are no longer able to attend - the average number meeting remains around 15. We are encouraged that several friends from outside the 'core' church family find Encounter to be a safe and comfortable place to meet and discuss issues of faith and life that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to do.

The group continues to be led by myself, Sue Grant, Richard Hilliard and Suzanne Delegate on a rota basis.

Encounter is open to absolutely everyone – men, women, older and younger, those with children to bring along (simple toys and activities are provided), those in couples or single. It is a time of shared friendship, discussion, support, encouragement and a listening ear along with the added extras of coffee, cakes and refreshments.

Please pray that Encounter would continue to be welcoming and open to those seeking a safe place to explore their faith in surroundings which are relaxed, open and comfortable. If you, or anyone you know would like to come along please simply check the church diary and turn up, anytime from 9.15 on alternate Friday mornings (not school holidays).

Pauline Wallace
Encounter Coordinator

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Report

In July 2018 we ran a CAP money course on four consecutive Tuesday mornings at St. Peter's church. We were encouraged that three ladies attended and were helped with the ongoing management of their household budget and finances.

In the summer term we were again invited to run a CAP Money Course for children in year six at Farcet School. The children were a joy to work with and whilst it is extremely difficult to measure what impact the course will have had we know and trust that God can use everything done in his name for his kingdom. We hope the opportunity arises to offer the course again in 2019 to year six children at Farcet or indeed at either of the Yaxley schools.

We remain convinced that the benefits of the CAP Money course are immense. Attracting potential delegates and reaching those people who would most benefit from the course remains a challenge. If you, or anyone you know would be interested in attending a CAP money course please speak to myself, Sue Grant or Marilyn Butcher. To find out more about the ongoing work of CAP and the CAP Money course visit www.capuk.org

Pauline Wallace
CAP Money Coach