



ANNUAL REPORTS

2020

APCM Date TBC (Due to Lockdown)

The Vicar's Report

I am writing this after our sixth Sunday of lockdown when the church left the building due to the Coronavirus pandemic. A strange place for a new Incumbent to be as a virtual Priest in a new Parish! It is however so encouraging to see the Holy Spirit working through the people of God, not just in the building. Our church building remains an amazing asset and we are able to continue to run Foodbank at this time. We pray that we will be a light in the community of Yaxley for the people here. The 22nd March 2020 marked our first Sunday out of the church although at that point, I was able to lead recorded worship in the building. As we joined that evening in the national wave of prayer, we also lit the stars that sit in the windows of St. Peter's every Advent and Christmas period. We lit them to show the community that we are still here and we will be back in the church building when we are able to be, but these lights are there as a reminder of the light of Christ and the light that we want to be on the hill in Yaxley.

I was licensed to the post of Priest-In-Charge of Yaxley and Holme with Conington on the 3rd September 2019 and at the start of 2020, the pastoral re-organisation was completed, and I became Vicar of the Benefice of Yaxley. St. Peter's, Yaxley had been in Interregnum for about a year. It is wonderful to see how people have developed in that time and members of the community of all ages had stepped up to lead groups and services and new gifts and skills were developed and vocations discerned, so many positive things during this time. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to enable the church to continue to worship and engage in the community.

At my interview I was asked what I would do to build on all that was going on in St. Peter's. My first answer to this was to do some checking of foundations and how solid these are and then to build on the four areas that the church had identified of worship, welcome, prayer and encouragement. I have spent my first 6 months here getting to know people, attending all of the groups and activities (nearly!) and getting to know the community and have been warmly welcomed into the church and community.

At the start of 2020 we started a monthly series looking at each value that had been identified by the church starting with encouragement, moving on to worship, then welcome and we should have been focusing on prayer this month and are doing some of this virtually in the current circumstances.

I am grateful to many people who have helped me find my feet and get to know about church and village life. I would particularly like to thank Paul and Mark as Church Wardens and Laura our Parish Communications Officer who have all spent a lot of time with me getting me up to speed. I am grateful also to Sue and Simon Grant as Parish representatives and Sue is now training as a Pioneer LLM. Our Occasional Offices have continued to be a very valued ministry thanks to Liz Spooner as Pastoral ALM and Baptism Co-ordinator and Fran Russell as Wedding Co-ordinator. We are blessed with children and youth ALMs and an ALM and LLM in training as well as Simon Hare being licensed as LLM Reader in October 2019 after transferring with me from Hereford Diocese. I am grateful also to Rev Gordon Limbrick, Rev John Harper and

Rev Richard Longfoot who have PTO in our Parish and have done many different services and officiated at Occasional Offices and continue to be involved in our church and community.

At the start of 2020 we commenced a monthly prayer meeting which has been well supported, and we had a time of 24-7 prayer in October 2019 and we are planning a virtual 24-7 prayer for May 2020. Monday morning revival prayer continues, and our prayer ministry team continue to provide prayer support at the 11am and 7pm services until our services face to face were discontinued in March.

I have a real heart for school's ministry and have been welcomed in to Yaxley Infant School, William De Yaxley C of E School and have had some minimal contact with Fourfields. It is wonderful to be working with Suzanne Delegate who is doing an amazing job of building links with our schools through PTA, assemblies and The Lighthouse Club which has been running in both Fourfields and William De Yaxley School. We are also building links with Hampton Gardens School where the majority of our young people go at present for years 7-11. Our Sparks group and Children and Youth ministries work hard to support the discipleship and growth in faith for our children and families.

I am grateful to Sue Marsh who carries a large workload as our safeguarding co-ordinator supported by Nikki Harris and Sue Grant. Louise Cleaver will be taking up the role of Deputy safeguarding co-ordinator as soon as possible to support the church in this important function of the church. As far as we are aware, the PCC of St. Peter's, Yaxley have complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 and have had due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. We are working on a rolling programme with training, DBS and documentation completion to ensure that people in key roles have the correct training and checking before starting any role and that these are revised and updated in a timely manner.

Going forward during and hopefully following this pandemic will (and probably should) look different to where we thought we might have been going. God has been speaking to me in this time and I am sure to many others and we need to collect all that God has been saying to people and hold and test and discern where God is calling us to go. It will be exciting and scary, but we are called to be bold in Jesus name as St. Peter was when he stood up on that first day of Pentecost. I am looking forward to the adventure together as we look to work out our calling in this community and the places where God has put us.

I feel that we were quick to react to the changes brought about by lockdown restrictions and are building on what we are doing week by week. Our mission and ministry may have changed through this pandemic, but we believe that we are a church that reaches out in faith and love, due to the faith and love shown to us by a God who loved us first. Laura, our Parish Communications Officer has been pivotal in our communications particularly in digital means and we will need to look at how we enable our digital communications to continue as part of our mission and evangelism as we have recognised the reach that this can have during this time. This post is partly funded by the growth fund and the PCC have made a commitment to fund this post fully after the growth fund money stops in 2021.

Thank you to everyone in the church for all that you do in so many different ways and in ways that people may not often notice. Everybody's contribution is invaluable to the life and work of St. Peter's Yaxley in God's mission. There is much to celebrate, but there is also much to do as we discern God's mission and ministry at this time and beyond. As you read the reports, may you see the life of the Spirit of God alive and well in our church and our community.

Rev Sarah Hare
Vicar of St. Peter's Church, Yaxley

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 early 2020.

Project Fund

Plans have been drawn up (for new toilets, servery and a second upper room), have been approved by Historic England and the Faculty has been granted - so works may commence just as soon as the funds are available.

We would take this opportunity to thank everyone for their ongoing generosity –with a total of £106,000 already donated or pledged over three years.

The total works are expected to cost a total of ~£180,000 (allowing all costs, including window refurbishment, fees, 5% contingency (£8,000) and 10% donation towards 'mission' (£16,000), but excluding any VAT – which is recoverable).

This means that we still need to raise ~£74,000 – or a minimum of £50,000 – before works may commence.

We pray that these funds may be available in the form of grants towards the cost of the works – thank you Chris Grant for your hard work applying for any grants available – but, failing that, we will need to raise it ourselves.

With that in mind the Churchwardens consider it is unlikely the works will be able to commence in January 2021, as planned, but instead may have to wait until 2022.

Terrier

Most of our historic documents are 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 with the boiler(s) has been resolved, so we now enjoy efficient heating once again.

Organ

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

Clock

You will have noticed that the clock is not currently striking, the gear mechanism has been repaired once, but only worked for a few days before succumbing again to old age – we await its return from the repairers.

The Churchwardens would take this opportunity to thank Andrew Burgess for his continued commitment to keeping the clock running.

Bells

An annual check of the bells took place in November.

Roger Austin and Ray Porter checked over the condition of the bells and were pleased with the look of the headstocks which were repainted in September. The stays were in good order which is pleasing considering the introduction of new ringers to the tower who have to be taught the art of bell control.

Some of the ropes are beginning to wear, but at the moment do not seem to need replacing, we still have 2 new spare ropes and 1 spare stay.

The clapper on No. 5 bell was in need of adjustment and has been made secure.

There were some signs of water ingress but this was to be expected after the recent spell of wind and rain, and had dried out within a week.

There were no signs of doves getting into the belfry.

The Churchwardens would take this opportunity to thank Roger and Ray for their fantastic work in maintaining our bells.

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 a new plumber to resolve it...!!

Replacement bulbs have been installed so now most of our lighting is LEDs, only the highest bulbs remain to be upgraded, but they were beyond the reach of our volunteer steeplejacks.

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 us throughout the year.

Paul Russell & Mark Jarrett
Churchwardens

Treasurer's Report

May I start by saying, as I do every year – everything that we do, as shown in our accounts, is possible thanks to your generous giving, whether by standing order, weekly envelopes or one-off donations, or indeed the giving of your time.

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.

2019 was always going to be a challenging year financially, having been in Interregnum for 12 months from September 2018. Traditionally congregation numbers tend to dip, having a knock-on effect on income from donations. This was down by around £3000, with a commensurate reduction in tax recoverable on Gift Aid. There was also a drop in wedding income by a similar amount.

At the same time, our running costs are unchanged – indeed utility bills increased, as they did for most of us. General maintenance costs were £3000. We chose to pay the same amount (£44000) of Ministry Share to the Diocese of Ely, in faith that they would find us a new incumbent. As they surely did – hooray and hallelujah!

We have continued 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.

Amazingly we recorded just a small loss of £650 on the year. Of course, writing this report now in the light of our 2020 global crisis, we realise that we shall now face even greater challenges.

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 2019 APCM. The meetings have discussed a variety of matters and are always commenced with prayer and concluded with The Grace.

Matters discussed include:

- The work with children & young people, including Junior & Youth Church, Youth Group, Holiday Club, Sparks, SPREE and work with the schools
- Financial Matters, including our 2020 Budget, YTD figures, Legacy Gift, Local Fees & Parish Share
- Stewardship
- Cover for services
- Rev Sarah's Appointment
- The Church Building, including storage, toilet pump, bells, roof repairs, cleaning, creche, noticeboards, Quinquennial Inspection, lighting, heating, Clock, Boiler & The Vicarage
- Signed Services

- Servery Fundraising Launch
- Communications Issues
- Foodbank
- Community Projects & Community Sunday
- The Impaired Senses Group
- Mothers' Union
- Encounter
- Christians Against Poverty
- Alpha Groups
- Extension to Upper Room & Servery
- Safeguarding
- The Electoral Roll
- 2019 & 2020 Events (preparation & review)
- Yaxley Benefice/Holme with Conington
- Men's Breakfast
- Deanery & Diocesan Synod
- Marshalls & Yaxley Charity
- Badges for volunteers
- Training Opportunities
- Resources for the worship team and for Junior Church
- Christmas Planning & Review
- Roles within SPC, including ALMs, LLMs, Chalice Assistant, Sound Desk, Parish Communications Officer
- Welcome including, the Welcome Teams and Welcome Desk
- Use of the Upper Room
- Avery House Care Home
- Annabelle Davis Centre
- Prayer Stations
- PCC Meeting Structure
- Confidentiality
- Eco-Church Initiative
- Church Representation Rules
- Fostering & Adoption Support
- Yaxley Birthing Hub

Laura Ashley
PCC Secretary

Parish Communication Officer's Report

Communications take many forms in St. Peter's; Notice Sheets, Weekly E-Newsletters, Social Media, Notice boards and more. With so much going on at St. Peter's (Praise the Lord), I'm not sure there's ever a moment when something is not in need of an update!

We have experienced a wealth of problems with our website over the previous year. We have recently been blessed with Adrien, who is currently looking at building us a new website, with new functions! Whilst work is underway, we will continue to use the existing website.

As our congregation continues to grow, so does our digital audience; in the past two years our Facebook followers have almost doubled from 200 to now over 400. Our social media has become an important part of our ministry and we hope to build on this as the year continues. It gives us the opportunity to expand on the learning from the Sunday service, reach new people with the 'Good News' and encourage those who've never been to visit us, to come along. It also allows us an opportunity to connect, support one another and 'be social' outside of our Sundays together. Due to the lack of followers on Twitter, we discontinued this profile in 2019 and instead focussed efforts on Instagram, which seems to be encouraging more interactions. During 2021, we will be looking at how we can use different platforms, such as YouTube, to reach even more people.

Sarah's Licensing Service and the Christmas Tree Festival helped us build good links with the community and through these connections the collaboration with the Birthing Hub was formed. Although this year there will not be a Christmas Tree Festival, I hope to maintain and build on these community links.

Thank you to everyone for all the support you give me in this post.

Laura Ashley
Parish Communications Officer

Children's Ministry Report

Junior Church

Our key focus as Junior Church Leader's 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 Leader's, parent's and young helper's, who continually support the children's mission within St. Peter's. We pray for those Leader's that this year have stepped down from their roles and we thank them for their contribution to our children's ministry, and we thank any new people who have received a calling from God and have stepped out in their faith to join our children's ministry team.

We continue to meet upstairs three Sunday's of the month, with the first one being an All Age Service. We split into three groups, Bubbles being pre-school – Year two, Splash being Year three – Year six and Grid being Year 7 and upwards.

We are using Scripture Union, Light live resources, this gives us a continual structure and a starting point for our session planning. However, Scripture Union have recently notified us that these resources are going to be limited. We are in the process of looking for new resources. Most leader's seek other craft activities from different resources, however keeping within the theme of the main session.

Debbie Jarrett has continued to organise the JC and Youth rota. Since Sarah has been at St. Peter's the JC team and Youth have met to discuss this ministry within our church.

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 Work

We are very blessed as a church to have children and young people as part of our family. We have Youth ALMs and a Children's and families ALM in training. As part of our Sunday worship, we have a youth group on the Sundays that are not All Age Sundays and there had

been a Tuesday evening Youth Group. This has served variable numbers of young people, but we found that towards the end of 2019, our numbers of young people were dwindling and two of the leaders wanted to stand down, feeling that God was calling them into other ministries. Thank you to Immy Moore and Malc Delegate for their work with our young people.

As a new Incumbent in post, I met with our Youth ALMs and leaders to talk about where we are at present. We decided that we needed to meet with the young people to talk about what they feel would support and equip them in their faith journey. At the beginning of 2020 we had a meeting at Krispy Kreme with our young people and our youth leaders and we discussed different things that we could do. The young people particularly liked sessions on hard questions which Sof agreed to lead in her week which is the second week of the month. Nicky will continue to run the youth session on the third week of the month and on the fourth Sunday, it was decided that the young people would stay in church and we would look to discern with them, the areas of church that they would like to take part in such as sound desk or Junior Church.

We also discussed provision of an additional space for the young people and they decided that they would like an hour once a month on a Tuesday evening with Christian input as well as some games. We ran the first evening in March 2020 using Youth Alpha. Since this time, we have obviously gone into lockdown and are now looking at how to connect with our young people through social media and are hoping to have a zoom gathering with them very soon.

I am very grateful for all that our youth leaders bring to this ministry which can be challenging at times, yet our leaders give their time and gifts and skills in the nurturing and discipling of our young people. We are so grateful to our young people for what they bring to our church family and that they choose to be part of our community so thank you to everyone who is part of this ministry which we will continue to look to build and strengthen with the help of God over the next year.

Rev Sarah Hare
Vicar

Work within our Church School and Community School

We are now regularly going into Yaxley Infant School and William De Yaxley to take assembly. We have been invited several times to do an assembly within Fourfields, although this hasn't been established into a regular occurrence, we pray that relationships are building between this school and St. Peters.

At Yaxley Infants, Suzanne introduced Mortimer the story bear, the assembly consists of a simple Bible based story and pray. Suzanne and Sarah are continuing to work together with this assembly.

At William De Yaxley, Sarah is taking three assemblies a month and Suzanne covering one a month.

The Lighthouse Club

This club is aimed for children that are interested in learning more about the Bible, what it looks like to follow Jesus and how to lead a Christian life.

Suzanne aims to provide a 'modern' and informal space for the children to explore their faith, using material that is age appropriate, alongside some art and craft activities. Suzanne has been doing this club at William De Yaxley since the summer term 2019. This is now an established club within school with a regular attendance of around 12 children. Some of the Lighthouse Club members have said prayers in assembly, and for the second year running Suzanne is involved with Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge supporting the school's RE co-ordinator.

The same club started after school at Fourfields School in the Autumn term 2019. This club existed of four key stage 1 children. In the winter term it increased to 15 children, this club now requires two members of St. Peter's to run for safeguarding reasons.

Suzanne and Sarah continue to support the schools in whatever capacity the schools wish and try to accommodate and serve their needs.

Suzanne Delegate
Youth ALM

Sparks

Sparks has now been going for 12 plus years and it keeps attracting new members. We lost several children in September 2019 to school and nursery but have gained a lot of new members. The children, parents, grandparents and minders enjoy the crafts especially when we ice cakes or biscuits. For the first time since we started Sparks, we closed for August which gave everyone a break.

My thanks go to all the team for all they do to help me deliver Sparks in the way it was set up for any children in our community and beyond.

Liz Spooner
Sparks Coordinator

SPREE

Spree had some lovely events last year including Messy Easter, games on the field, Firework Hot Chocolate, Advent Wreath Making and Beer & Carols. We were also happy to organise and distribute the refreshments during Community Sunday.

After consideration regarding the support we feel we have received, it has been agreed that we will limit our events this year. Advent Wreath Making will take place on November 29th 2020.

Anneka Alexander
SPREE

Foodbank Report

The foodbank has had another busy year. At our stocktake in September we calculated we had given out 6.8 tonnes of food to local people in crisis over the previous 12 months. That left our stocks very low after the summer holiday parcel scheme, but thanks to the huge generosity of local people, we have been able to maintain our stores throughout the autumn and the Christmas period.

We gave out 37 Christmas parcels to those in need, with which, for the first time this year, thanks to the generosity of the East of England Co-op and its customers, we were able to offer new toys and games for each child of the families being helped.

Spring 2020 has been busier than usual, especially in recent weeks, giving out up to 200kg of food some weeks. We hope that the need will lessen after the summer holidays to enable us to rebuild our stocks before the summer holidays again.

We would like to again thank all our volunteers who cheerfully give so much of their time, all those sites that host collection baskets, and all those who contribute and give to the foodbank. Without all of these, we would not be able to keep going.

Chris Grant
Foodbank Coordinator

Mothers' Union

St. Peter's Mothers' Union currently has 31 members, most from St. Peters, with a few from others local churches. Our MU-Engage group meetings regularly have 10 to 12 people.

During the year we aim to promote the work of the Mothers' Union through displays on our notice board, highlighting campaigns on the St. Peter's Facebook page and we hope people use the monthly Family Faith and Fun sheets on the St. Peter's E-newsletter.

We had a wonderful time at the Yaxley Festival with our Baby Change tent, which, over the weekend, was used by over 50 families. During Advent our travelling Nativity sets were available at Fourfields and Yaxley Infant schools. From our stall at the Christmas Fayre we were able to send a donation towards AFIA (Away from it all) holidays. The Ely Diocese Mothers' Union provide free holidays in Hunstanton for families in need of time away. Members collected items for the local Women's aid in Huntingdon, Cambridge and Wisbech.

We look forward this year to the return of our Teddy Bear Picnic and our Wedding Prayer group, praying for couples on their wedding day.

Irene Porter
St. Peter's Mothers' Union Branch Leader

Care in the Community Report

Hebrews 10:24-25

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 2019

This year the Care in the Community team had a drastic drop to 17 volunteers for Community Sunday, however due to their dedication the volunteers still managed to complete 11 jobs at 8 households. 3 jobs were cancelled on the day due to homeowners not being prepared, and 2 jobs due to lack of volunteers. As a comparison we had 59 volunteers in 2018 completing 18 jobs in the one day serving a total of 11 household and 75 volunteers in 2017.

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

Care in Community programme during the year 2019/20

Ad hoc jobs from St. Peter's viewpoint has ground to a halt due to lack of requests and referrals and shortage of willing volunteers. I have continued to help those in need within the congregation more as a friend rather than a St. Peter's community service, this will continue on this basis, if however there are requests from people I will look at these on a case by case basis and try and organise volunteers to cover.

From the outreach perspective I now help out once a month at the Council run 'Yaxley Repair Café'. This is starting to take off, this offers help to members of the Yaxley community to repair items rather than bin them.

Community Sunday 2020

There will be no Community Sunday this year – after 10 years we will be taking a break and re-focussing.

The weekend of 16th /17th May will now be a community focused 24 Hours of Prayer, with possibly a Bring and Share meal after the 11am Sunday service.

Andy James
Care in the Community Coordinator

Impaired Senses Group

The Impaired Senses group has been running, in partnership with Deafblind Enablement (DBE) for 7 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 May, August and November) from 2-4pm. With 9 sensory impaired people coming to each meeting, 2 family

members and 4-6 volunteers. 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, with Domino Bingo and a raffle. Norman sets the pitch as the leader for singing 3 hymns. 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. An outing to the seaside did not take place this year, due to lack of volunteers.

Due to the complex needs of sensory impaired people it is essential that we have volunteers or paid staff. Therefore, after June 2020, we will be running the group quarterly i.e. March, June, September and December. St. Peter's volunteers are needed to continue running this group as a joint venture.

A big 'thank you' to everyone for all their support over the last year.

Debbie James
Impaired Senses Coordinator

Deaf Church

Working alongside Cambs Deaf Church, St. Peter's has been facilitating signed services for over a year. Starting small with 2-3 deaf people attending regularly, last month (February) 8 people attended, all enjoying worship, the band and making new friends. Deaf Church takes place on the 4th Sunday of the month or changed to a different Sunday if there is no worship band present.

Debbie James
Deaf Church Coordinator

Encounter

I am pleased to report that Encounter continues to meet on alternate Friday mornings from 9.15am, with an average of 15 people coming along. We have welcomed a couple of new friends to Encounter this year which has been lovely. Suzanne has stepped back from being involved but myself, Richard and Sue have led the group with Louise also leading a couple of sessions.

We were pleased to lead an 11.00am service last year during the period of vacancy and feedback from that was very encouraging. We also produced an Encounter tree for the Christmas tree festival.

We believe that Encounter offers a safe, relaxed and informal environment for people to discuss, explore and share their faith and lives together and we would love to welcome more people to the group. Dates for Encounter are always included in the church diary sheet and website.

Pauline Wallace
Encounter Coordinator

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Report

Sadly we have not run any CAP money courses during the past year. In the past it has proved difficult to attract potential delegates to the course and this has been the primary reason for not putting on any courses this year.

In the summer term we were again invited to run a CAP Money Course for children in year six at Farcet School. The school are extremely welcoming, and it was a privilege to work with the children who were enthusiastic and willing to engage with the course. We have already been invited back to the school to run the course in July 2020. We had hoped that opportunities would arise to work with the schools in Yaxley, this has not materialized but we are open to this in the future.

Myself and Ken Pullen, the Debt Centre Manager for CAP in Peterborough, led an 11.00am service at St. Peter's in August which was well received.

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