

St. Bartholomew's APCM Reports 2019

Ministers Report

The past year, 2019 has been one of many changes for the ministry of the Church. Tom Ringland moved to parishes new and we wished both him and Bev well in this new challenge, with a special service and a meal.

During 2019, both Tom and I continued, as in 2018, to teach on similar themes. We have sought to raise an awareness that the Church exists outside of the bricks and mortar and more recently, the teaching has focused on the "Everyday Faith" theme that Archbishop Justin is encouraging us to look at how each of us can meet and share with those around us. During the year, both Tom and I continued to meet with the ministers from the Ivanhoe group on a weekly basis for morning prayer.

At Kirby Muxloe primary school, we have taken every opportunity to work with them. This has included attending a Remembrance assembly in school, followed by year 6, joining me at the village war memorial for a short public service. We also welcomed them into St. Bart's for their Christmas service along with their parents.

Through last year, we had thirteen baptisms, twenty eight funerals and six weddings. Each of these was an opportunity for the Church to engage with the community around us, sharing the Christian message and showing care for them. We need to continue this important ministry. It is pleasing to report that as a joint parish, we currently have many weddings booked for 2020.

As a Church, we have started to use an online system, created for the Church of England, and offered to us free of charge, to record all the information relating to our occasional offices. From this information, we should hopefully be able to keep in better touch with the families.

During the year, I managed to take advantage of the Bishops retreat at Launde for a day, and also attended a training course to expand my skill base, training as a Youth Mental Health First Aider.

Since October, during the time in vacancy, I have been very grateful for the support of the wardens, vergers and all who assist in leading worship, working with me as we organise the service rotas, endeavouring to continue to provide all of our regular services and as they continue to hold the Church together as the people with the legal responsibilities. It was also good to have the ongoing spiritual support from the Ivanhoe team as we met for morning prayer.

Please continue to pray for all of the ministry team.

Rev. Rob Marsh

Monday House Group

The Monday house group has continued to meet through the year. The focus of our discussions have remained on seeking to work out our faith through Bible study. Towards the end of the year, we focused our energy on a book called "Longing" by Elizabeth McQuoid in which we were longing for God to reveal himself more fully to us, using a variety of scripture passages as guidance.

We are determined to seek God more fully and grow in His Grace.

Jeff Kirkham

The Haven House Group

The group meets at The Haven, 94c Main Street, Kirby Muxloe on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month at 7.30pm throughout the year. The main focus of the group is Bible study. Our current study is a systematic read through the New Testament according to the order normally accepted as a largely chronological interleaving of accounts. So far we have got as far as Galatians which we have just finished.

There are nominally twelve members of the group. New members are always welcome and will find a very inclusive and informal atmosphere. There is a lot of laughter. Nevertheless, the discussion can be deep.

Contact details:- Les or Elwyn Bowles, Telephone:- 0116 239 3031

St Bart's and St Andrews Home Group

Our group has been going a number of years now, in fact since Rev Jane Wood first set it up. It's quite a small group but that has meant there is a good supportive sense of belonging and we often begin with a round up of how we've all been doing. Newish members Ian and Tony from St Andrew's, who have been with us for more than a year now, quickly became part of the group.

Despite having two younger members, that is to say not retired yet, we have recently been discussing Ageing and Spirituality, and it's surprised us perhaps the level of debate and discussion that's been prompted with both the readings and the questions.

Lynne Haywood

Sparkenhoe East Deanery

St Bartholomew's is one of 15 Churches in the Deanery of Sparkenhoe East (which is one of the 5 Deaneries that make up the Archdeaconry of Loughborough). Tom Ringland was Area Dean until Autumn 2019 when, on his departure to Yorkshire, a new Area Dean was appointed: Revd. Richard Trethewey, Rector of Glenfield & Newtown Linford. The 14 Parishes in the Deanery, are: Markfield; Thornton, Stanton under Bardon & Bagworth; Copt Oak; Anstey; Thurcaston with Cropston; Kirby Muxloe; Desford; Leicester Forest East; Peckleton; Glenfield; Newtown Linford; Groby; Ratby; St Crispins Braunstone Town & Thorpe Astley.

Kirby Parish has 3 representatives on Deanery Synod: Charmaine Odlum, Hilary Wheeldon and Janet Carpenter. There are normally 3 or 4 Deanery meetings (called Synods) each year. During the year two clergy vacancies occurred with the departure of Tom Ringland and Simon Nichols, Rector of Markfield, Thornton, Bagworth and Stanton under Bardon; and one vacancy filled with the arrival of Revd Dave Hover as Priest in Charge at St Andrew's, LFE and St Crispins, Braunstone Town.

For 2019 our Bishops, Martyn and Guli, were encouraging every Church and Deanery to build on the Diocesan Vision to be a Diocese 'Shaped by God' and to consider how they resource Christians for 'Everyday Faith'. Therefore, it was decided by the Standing Committee to base Deanery meetings on this theme, considering ways in which churches and individual Christians could more effectively live out their faith every day – in Everyday Prayer, Action and Witness. Meetings exploring each of these topics were held at Kirby, Glenfield and in November at Ratby Church, where the evening began with the Licensing of Revd Richard Trethewey as Area Dean by Archdeacon of Loughborough, the Venerable Claire Wood. Deanery Meetings are open to any parishioner who wishes to attend. Just ask any of the representatives for details.

Janet Carpenter

St Bartholomew's Church Hall

The Church Hall is intensively used and there is now very little capacity for further 'regular' bookings, although one-off bookings such as parties, can still be accommodated. The Hall Management Committee is grateful for the efficient work of Rachel, who administers the bookings and payments, and Roy, who works around everybody to keep the hall clean and welcoming, a feature often commented on by regular hirers. Activity 'behind the scenes' adds to the appeal of the venue, thanks to Gill and Jane for the weekly washing of tea towels (which they have done for several years!) ... and Malcolm for the many hours given to creating the garden and maintaining it and the surrounding area, no mean task!

Every day of the week sees baby, toddler and older children's groups making good use of the hall's facilities, together with several adult fitness classes and social groups. Bart's Tea Shop, Book stall and Fair Trade shop continue to attract a large number of customers who appreciate

the new layout, enabled by the new wide doors. A Kitchen Refurbishment Fund has been launched with the estimated target in the region of £18,000. The Star Barts scheme, with around 50 contributors, together with a substantial gift, is expected to raise over half of the cost .. with fund-raising events and donations providing the remainder. Please let us know if you are able to help!

Janet Carpenter and the Management Team: Joy Sell, Val Highton and Gill Bower

Digging Deeper .. a discussion group: exploring contemporary Christian thinking

We are a small informal house group of Kirby folk who meet approximately monthly. Some attenders are regular church-goers, some not so and none of us are 'experts', though we enjoy addressing questions and voicing varied thoughts on 'God, the universe and everything'! This is done in a non-judgemental and warm atmosphere, one in which those within the group can exchange ideas and are able to agree to disagree with one another.

A wide range of interesting material is used: articles and YouTube videos by modern scholars and theologians (e.g. John Dominic Crossan, Jack Spong, Mark Oakley), are sometimes used as a basis for our discussions. This year we have accessed sessions from the Omega Course from OCN (Open Christianity Network), focusing on helping us encounter the diversity of thought within the religious tradition and deepening our own reflections.

The group is open to anyone interested in this type of discussion, and further information is available from: Janet on 2392913 or Roger on 2387674.

Roger Stead

Saturday Drop In ..

After 25 years or so, this continues to be a relaxed gathering in the Church Hall on the first Saturday of each month, with tea, coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits being served from the bar. It is a low key event and was never intended as a fund raiser, although income does exceed expenditure with the modest profit going into hall funds. There is a fairly regular 'clientele' of church members, giving an opportunity for a relaxed hour or two of conversation and 'catching up' with news and events. But village friends and Lantern subscribers know that it is open to all and they can drop in for a friendly chat ... or to buy cards or gifts from the Fair Trade shop and also Marilyn's Pickles and Preserves when available.

The regular team of Jane and David, Joy and Janet has been augmented in the past year by Eleanor, a new, young and enthusiastic multi-tasker whose input has been very much enjoyed and appreciated.

Once again, in April, the regular team was given a break when Kirby Muxloe W.I. took over for a Drop In Special. On this occasion, W.I. cakes are provided and the resulting increased proceeds gifted to the Church Hall Kitchen Fund, for which we are most grateful.

Janet Carpenter

Brass Cleaning Rota

Once again, I am happy to say we have regular loyal band of Brass Cleaners. If anyone would like to help at any time I would welcome them to our fold. It can be very rewarding we all agree and to be in our lovely church when we are busy / the calm and peace is very fulfilling. Thank You all so much for your loving continued support. Love and many blessings to you Pam

x

Pam Shuttlewood

Pastoral Care

Last year the Group were involved in helping or organising the following events:

Pam and Marilyn from Pastoral Care and Mary, Jean, Charmaine were involved in organising a very successful 'Sunday Teas' in the month of July 2018. All money raised went towards the refurbishment of the Chancel in Church;

A boat trip was organized for those who lived on their own on the 11th June at Leicester Mariner in Thurmaston.

A Christmas trip was organized at the beginning of December at Desford Church for those in Parish who live on their own. This was to see the Xmas tree festival.

The Team also supported the clergy with the Bereavement Service on the 4th November, which was held at the new time of 4 pm, which enabled parishioners to attend during daylight hours.

Other activities to note

A lot of work is done throughout the year in elderly support visits by Pam, Elwyn, Sandra and Liz and they have ensured that their needs do not go unnoticed. They inform the clergy if help is needed from the church family such as home communion for instance or whether a parishioner would like to join some of the church organisations or need maybe lifts to church etc.

Marilyn Price is doing and has done a great job sending cards to Parishioners on behalf of the Team and clergy to recognise key life events or pass on get well wishes.

The Prayer Chain has been amended to ensure better communication between Parishioners.

Thanks to Tom, Rob and Liz.

Absent Friends to the Church

It should be noted that this year saw the passing of two significant and very caring figures in the community that of David Fox and Peter Hubner. As you will know more than I they helped a significant number of people in the community with events and gave of their own time very

graciously to helping people directly. I will miss them and particularly the discussions I had with them in the Men's Church Group at the pub. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sandra and Chris. The current members of the group are Chris Fox, Liz Prior, Joan Charles-Cowan, Marilyn Price, Elwyn Bowles, Pam Shuttlewood, Sandra Hubner and Marlene Hurdley. Thanks to the above who do a wonderful job and thanks to Rob for being part of Team and the direction and guidance he gives at the regular Pastoral Care meetings held most of the time at the kind invitation and home of Chris Fox.

Charles Alyward

Mission Committee

At St Bart's we support Ben and Katy Ray and family working with the Church Mission Society at Neema Crafts in Iringa, Tanzania.

Over the year we had fund raising efforts such as the Church Quiz and our open garden as well as people supporting Ben and Katy as individuals. Ben and Katy were in England during the summer months for the birth of Julia, their third child. We were thrilled to see them and hear them as a family for afternoon tea on one Saturday in August. Zachary and Alesia played happily with Marilyn and Paul Eales' grandchildren.

As I write this Ben and Katy are away from Neema as it has closed for the coronavirus infection. They are undecided whether to return to the UK or stay in Tanzania. Do pray for them at this time. Thank you.

Jan Kirkham

Open The Book

The Open The Book team is made up of nine volunteers from St. Bartholomew's and St. Andrew's.

We visited two local primary schools: Stafford Leys and Fossebrook on the first Thursday morning of each month during term time. We prepare and rehearse on the Monday of the same week at St. Andrew's Church.

Each story is introduced and concluded, using the notes provided in order to help children understand the relevance to their lives. A prayer is read at the end, and the children are invited to say Amen if they wish to make it their own prayer. This year, we have been performing two stories in each assembly.

One person narrates the Bible stories from the Lion Storyteller Bible and the rest of the team act the story in costume, adding their character's lines as appropriate. We always use a few props and basic scenery to help children to focus on the story.

All of Year 4 children from Stafford Leys came to St. Andrew's Church to hear the Easter story, in four parts: The Great Parade, An Important Meal, A Dreadful Day and A Happy Day. We dressed

the children in biblical headgear and they joined the Palm Sunday procession singing and waving palms which they had made in school.

Cathy Goddard

The Open Church

In normal times, the Church is open on Saturdays for five or six hours to allow access to all visitors, whether for sightseeing, as a quiet place to pause, or for prayer or meditation. It is unlocked around 10am and open until 3pm, (from October to the end of May), or 4pm, (from June to the end of September). Thanks are given to the sixteen loyal individuals/couples who keep it open, by rota. Take the opportunity to visit the church other than on Sunday, and encourage others to do so also.

Andrew Crabtree

Messy Church

During 2019, we met several times, normally every other month, with the occasional change to accommodate special services in Church, such as the unity service in January. We have a regular core of 10 children and 10 adults attending and a group of regular volunteers who help with the craft activities. Both Jill and I, are extremely grateful to our regular volunteers for their help and support.

We are very aware that, when we do have to miss a month, it creates a long gap between seeing the families. It would be wonderful to meet on a monthly basis, enabling a more regular contact, but for many of our current volunteers, this would perhaps be too much. If we could have more volunteers available, then this might be something we could consider.

We are very aware, that unfortunately, many in mainstream Sunday worship, perceive Messy as a nursery and want to know when the children and parents are going to start attending “proper” Church. We need to accept that Messy is a form of church that suits a particular group within our overall Church family, and that the fact that they may never attend on a Sunday morning should not be something to worry about.

Rob & Jill Marsh

Safeguarding

In January 2019, in keeping with a new guidance issued by the National Church with the Charity Commission, the PCC adopted a resolution delegating the responsibility for reporting Safeguarding-related Serious Incidents to the Diocesan Board of Finance on their behalf. The PCC also appointed a small number members to oversee the process.

Implementation of the Action Plan from the last APCM on the 11 April 2019

All Hirers and users of the Church hall have provided a Safeguarding Policy/Risk Assessment in relation to their activities, the Risk Assessment for the Youth Group is being updated. Seventeen volunteers have been DBS cleared to work with Adults and Children

Safeguarding Level 1 Action Plan from Safeguarding Dashcam:

- All PCC members and new volunteers must complete Basis Awareness Training
- A safeguarding Report must be provided for PCC twice a year
- All PCC members to be DBS checked.

Charmaine Odlum, Safeguarding Coordinator

Teashop

Teashop continues to flourish thanks to the six teams who serve the tea, make the delicious cakes, and do the washing up. Without them tea shop would not happen. Those who visit the tea shop each week come from the village community and further afield. Some are supported by carers as we are named on Blaby District "places to go" list. The book shop run by Joan Charles -Cowan and Mary Mozley's Fair Trade stall along with my cards are an added attraction and well supported. We have this year added Jigsaws puzzles to our list. This year we have agreed that once a quarter we will have a free tea and donations to charity. Our first charity afternoon raised money for Leicester Multiple Sclerosis Therapy centre. Unfortunately the present crisis has put our next charity event Rainbows on hold. We look forward to the day when we can open Teashop again.

Jean Evans

The Lantern

Ten issues of the magazine were produced and distributed to some 530 homes by a network of over fifty volunteer deliverers. About fifty complimentary copies were also given out to care homes, doctors' surgeries etc. The purpose of the magazine is to promote the Kingdom of God by encouraging a sense of community, as well as individual spirituality and news of church activities. We regularly print news from the library, local police officers and community groups. At the same time the wider world is not forgotten, with regular coverage of charities such as Christian Aid, and our link missionaries in Tanzania. Black and white photographs are frequently included, with very good print quality. We are grateful to our excellent and very helpful printers at R.S. Print. We are also fortunate in having a good supply of interesting articles from regular and occasional contributors.

To cover printing costs, as well as subscriptions ideally we need two pages of advertisements, but currently little more than half of the spaces are filled. There is a need for a new advertising manager who could be pro-active in drumming up advertisers. The number of subscribers also continues to decline slowly but steadily as readers move away and newcomers are less likely to be interested in

printed media. However, we know from feedback that the magazine is much appreciated by existing readers.

Carolyn Winkless

Solo'ne Rangers

Sunday can be lonely for those living alone, particularly if living away from family and friends. This group which was formed twenty years ago for such people continues to meet on the second Sunday of the month for lunch at the Royal Oak. We always welcome new members. Our only rule is that you live alone and can get yourself to the Royal Oak. We meet at 12.30. If you are interested in joining us phone me Jean Evans 0116 2394847 for details.

Jean Evans

Social Committee

The Social Committee continues to be busy throughout the year with various events including a harvest tea in the church, mulled wine and mince pies after carols, a lent lunch with Dave Hover as the speaker and of course our farewell supper for Tom and Bev shared with Desford congregation. This evening was so special, and we managed to cater for 80 people. The entertainment was spectacular with a song, a poem and a hymn all focused on Tom and Bev. To top it all a Rector teddy bear was presented to Tom to keep in his new study and remind him of his ministry with St Bartholomew's and St Martin's.

A new kitchen is planned for the church hall and our Committee is involved with fund raising for this project.

Sandra Hubner and Hilary Wheldon

Flowers

Our theme for Christmas was shepherds and sheep. Fantastic imagination was used to portray this Christmas message. Did anyone notice the artificial Christmas tree in the church? This will be more economical and easier to manage. A tree in the church hall is also decorated each year.

One of our church family has knitted some more colourful fish. These are helpful for church decoration and Open the Book.

If anyone would like to join our flower team for the weekly rota and festival decorations, we would love to hear from you.

Sandra Hubner, Mo Wooding and Mavis Fisher

Bellringing

I am very pleased to say that two adults have contacted us who say that they would like to learn the art of bellringing. Surprisingly, they live outside the village and so, therefore, were not responding to our recent advertising campaign for adults to come along and learn what campanology is all about. We have put an advertisement in "The Lantern" and also in the window of the Post Office, but sadly no response as yet. I would urge anyone who is even remotely interested to get in touch with me (0116 2386640) so that I can briefly explain what is entailed. Bellringing does not require a lot of strength and is no more than a gentle exercise with the benefit of mental stimulation.

Many bellringing teams arrange visits to other towers, and during the year we have welcomed visits from other areas as follows:

17th June - Durham University Society of Change Ringers

5th October - team from the West Midlands

18th March - team from the Nene Valley

I am most grateful to all our ringers for their camaraderie and regular support.

Stan Gardner, Tower Captain

M.U.

The MU has continued to flourish during 2019 and each first Tuesday in the month we are pleased to welcome members and non-members from the parish and from St Andrews. We have had some great meetings hearing about the Peter le Marchant Trust, The Miracle of Dunkirk, Around the World in 80 days, and a fun evening at the home of Heather Tigh on a very wet evening. The Rev Pam Harvey and Julie Ann Heath both gave us interesting and inspiring talks. Before he left us, Tom Ringland enrolled 4 new members, taking our total to 29.

Perhaps the highlight of 2019 was the visit of Bishop Guli, Bishop of Loughborough who spoke at the September meeting in front of a packed audience including the Diocesan MU President. Thanks to the committee for their work behind the scenes and on the night.

Do join us if the topic is of interest to you. We meet at 7.30pm in the Church Hall on the first Tuesday of the month.

Joan, Mo and Jan

Churches Together

Christian Aid --This year St Bartholomew hosted the fund raising events and the sum of £3033.95 was raised from a Coffee Morning, Christian Aid Week and a Tea Party

On Good Friday cross buns were handed out to members of the public in Kirby Muxloe and Leicester Forest East

-The Good Friday Service was held at St Andrews Church, the collection of £250 was donated to 'Sound Cafe' the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

-The Fun Day on the 8 September went ahead and it was of moderate success

- The United Service was held at The Free Church on the 6 October, and was led by Tom Ringland

-The Churches Together Christmas Cards with details of the Services in all the churches were delivered to every house

Currently the Kirby Muxloe Free Church, Beacon Life, the Churches of St Bartholomew, St Andrews and the Blessed Sacrament make up the CT Membership and it is proposed that in view of the appointment of the Revd Dave Hover to the Benefice of St Andrews and St Crispin, a new configuration of Churches Together membership is needed, but this discussion will take place when the new Rector of St Bartholomew is appointed.

Charmaine Odlum

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee have met quarterly over the last twelve months. We have reviewed the services we provide, discussed Outreach and the planning of the Mothering Sunday and Christingle Services. The Christingle Services were well attended, as always, and the families joined in to celebrate the wonderful Christmas message and light their Christingle oranges. Mothering Sunday was also well supported.

We will meet regularly in 2020, bearing in mind that we are in the middle of an interregnum, but should there be any concerns or suggestions you may have please speak to one of the Committee and we will try and help.

Mo Wooding.

Youth

Throughout 2019 we are pleased to report there was a steady growth in the attendance of the Youth Cub. We started at the beginning of the year with an average Thursday evening attendance of five young people and by the end of the year we were averaging thirteen. Over the three school terms we slowly became better acquainted with the young people and likewise they with the youth club volunteers and so we saw between us a steady building of relationships.

There were three significant events starting with a guest speaker the Rev Tim Phillips, Team Vicar at Holy Trinity, Ashby de la Zouch who came to give a presentation on “Science versus The Bible, an evening that after a slow start” finally ended with him being bombarded with questions as he struggled to make his escape. The next event was the barbecue held at the beginning of the Autumn term that, although hard work in the planning and doing, attracted nineteen young people and probably helped fuel the success of the increased numbers attending the Autumn term. The year finished with the Christmas dinner and some memorable photographs capturing a great evening of fun and a growing friendship.

We reported at the end of 2018 that “We ended the year amazed with what had been achieved, sometimes feeling out of our depth, still on a learning curve but with considerable optimism going forward into the New Year.” I think we were still feeling exactly the same at the end of 2019!

Melvyn Cavanagh