

## **Opening Statement**

The Parish of Winchcombe includes four churches: St Peter's in Winchcombe, Christ Church in Gretton, St Michael's in Stanley Pontlarge, and St Mary's on the Sudeley estate. We are part of the Diocese of Gloucester, of Tewkesbury and Winchcombe Deanery, and of the large Winchcombe Team which is currently suspended. Our priest-in-charge, John Paul Hoskins, began his ministry here in January 2016, and is ably supported by five Readers and a number of other licensed and retired ministers.

The main purpose of the PCC, as defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, is 'to cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'. The PCC meets six times a year.

During the process in 2015 to appoint a new parish priest, we agreed that we are called:

- to be at the heart of our community, open and accessible to all;
- to participate in the rhythm of local life, reflecting in our relationships the love of God that we see in Jesus;
- to encourage others to join us in a personal connection with God through Jesus Christ.

Building on this work, in September 2016 the PCC adopted a new vision, *Growing in God, growing the family of God*. It sets out a number of areas for development:

- to understand better the needs of our community;
- to review the pattern of some of our regular services;
- to make better use of baptisms, weddings and funerals as opportunities for mission;
- to work with other churches in Winchcombe to continue and strengthen our children's work;
- to employ a full-time family worker.

*John Paul Hoskins, Priest in Charge*

## **Church Membership and Attendance**

The last Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017, the electoral roll then stood at 280.

Combined attendance at our three churches (St. Peter's, Christ Church and St. Michael's) was:

On a 'normal Sunday' 156

Easter Day 440 (including 285  
communicants)

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day 736 (including 366  
communicants)

There were 20 Baptisms (12 infants, 7 children, 1 youth), 7 weddings and 30 funerals (in church, at the Crematorium or the Cemetery).

*Margaret Bearne, Churchwarden*

## **Review of Progress and Achievements**

It seems extraordinary to realise that I am now in my third year as priest in charge of Winchcombe, Gretton, Sudeley and Stanley Pontlarge! It has been very good to continue to lead you in mission and ministry over this past year. The parish is in good heart and there is much going on of which we can be rightly proud.

In particular, we have continued to build on the work begun eighteen months ago when we set out our parish vision, *Growing in God, growing the family of God*. Growing in God - growing spiritually - means finding new ways of deepening our discipleship so that we become more fully the people God is calling us to be. Growing God's family - growing numerically - means reaching out and connecting with more people in order to help them to become followers of Jesus Christ. These twin parts of our vision are closely related to one another. We will naturally grow in numbers the more people see that our faith is meaningful and bears fruit in our own lives. We will find our faith deepening as we reach out to others. The Church does not exist for its own benefit, of course - but to serve the kingdom of God and to give God the glory!

A key element of this parish vision is the appointment of a new full-time pioneer minister to work with children and young families. We know that there are parts of our community with whom we are not yet connecting as much as we would like. We also know that the parish has changed significantly over the past few years, not least with new areas of housing having been built recently and many new people having moved into the parish. The pioneer minister will expand our capacity to engage in mission in these new areas. It will be an outward-facing post - the person appointed in due course will not be working primarily with existing church members, but will rather be 'out there' in the community making new connections and relationships. He or she will nevertheless work as part of a team, acting as a catalyst in drawing others into new areas of ministry and mission.

Our stewardship campaign in 2016 resulted in an increase in giving to support this new appointment. We have also been able to attract grants from two external sources, the diocesan LIFE Development Fund and the Sylvanus Lysons charity. Together these two bodies have awarded the parish a total of £80 000 over the next three years, which is a strong endorsement of our plans by others. The success of this fundraising means that we can now go ahead and recruit our new pioneer minister. We will be advertising in May and hope to interview potential candidates in June, so that the new minister might be in post around the beginning of the new school year.

There is some very good work going on with the two primary schools in the parish, and there is an especially close relationship with our church school, Winchcombe Abbey. Sally Johnson, the new head teacher, and I are exploring ways in which we can continue to grow this organic relationship and do even more things in partnership together. You may not realise that every other week there are 250 children from the school worshipping at St Peter's! Toddler Time on Thursday mornings is growing and now meets every week, including during the school holidays. The new monthly Café Church in Gretton is a very good example of imaginative mission which will hopefully bear fruit in that part of the parish. We continue

to serve the community through the ministry around funerals, weddings and marriage blessings. The number of baptisms in the parish has increased markedly over the last year or so.

Our parish vision for growth fits in very well with the new vision being embraced by the whole Diocese of Gloucester of which we are a part. It has at its heart the words of Jesus in John 10.10 – ‘I have come that they may have **LIFE**, and have it to the full’. The four strands of this diocesan vision, which fit very well with our more local parish plans, are: **L**eadership – committed to transformation; **I**magination – opening new paths to faith; **F**aith – living as adventurous followers of Jesus; and **E**ngagement – living out Christ’s love and hope.

One aspect of our involvement in the wider diocesan family is our membership of the Winchcombe Team Ministry. Julia Hook left us last year to take up responsibility within the team for the parishes of Alderton, Dumbleton, Great Washbourne and Wormington. Although the team has been suspended for the past three years, Julia, John Newcombe and I continue to meet regularly and support one another where we can. There is some discussion going on about pastoral reorganisation at the northern end of the team, which may result in the closure of one church and the transfer of another parish to the Diocese of Worcester. But once this work has been completed, the agreed plan is to re-establish the team and breathe new life once more into our relationship with our neighbouring parishes.

I am as always immensely grateful to the very many people who contribute to the mission and ministry of God in this parish as part of our shared commitment to being the body of Christ in this place. Stewart Aylward and Margaret Bearne have given distinguished and dedicated service as churchwardens, and I hope in due course to add to our team of deputy wardens. Fliss Hall and Chris Haslam were licensed as Readers last autumn and are thriving in their new ministry alongside Nigel Sharp, Cliff Cocks and Steve Carter. Steve in particular is now exercising a creative new ministry through the day-to-day leadership of Christ Church.

Fiona Brown will be leaving us at the end of August. She has been an inspirational Director of Music at St Peter's and we will miss her and Melvin tremendously. But Fiona leaves the choir and our music generally in excellent shape, and after a remarkable 26 years with us it is right that she should have more time and space to share her musical talents more widely. She will be a hard act to follow, but nevertheless we will be advertising for her successor in June and expect to hold interviews and auditions in early July.

We are hugely looking forward to welcoming Rachel Murray as our new assistant curate when she is ordained deacon on Sunday 1 July. Rachel is training for ministry at Westcott House in Cambridge and comes to us following a previous career in theatre and the media. It will be very good to have Sue Pestell ordained the following year as well!

*John Paul Hoskins, Priest in Charge*

## **Diocesan Synod**

The Diocesan Synod met three times during the year. All the meetings were chaired by Bishop Rachel, with either a Eucharist or opening prayers before the commencement of business.

The first meeting was on 4<sup>th</sup> February at St John's, Churchdown. The discussion on safeguarding was held, and a little pocket-sized folder was distributed to members who should be able to find useful contact telephone numbers. Safeguarding is considered to be a very important factor for all Churches.

A long discussion took place on Shared Conversations on Human Sexuality; it was described how a group from the Diocese had taken part in regional "Shared Conversations", and how work is being done to produce resources to enable further conversations to take place.

The second meeting took place on 21<sup>st</sup> June at The King's school, Gloucester and Bishop Rachel welcomed the members. Bishop Rachel introduced the item heard at the National Renewal and Reform programme, a programme

aimed at helping us become a growing Church for all people and for all places. It was explained to members how the Diocesan vision was not developed “top down”, but at “grass roots” level. It was emphasised how the overall vision was to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that people may know life in all its fullness.

It is interesting to know that the Children’s Society was originally founded in a Church Sunday School, and that the Church of England supports the work of the Children’s society with £3.7 million in donations each year.

The Annual Accounts were introduced and approved for the year 2016.

The third meeting took place in November at St John’s, Churchdown, and Bishop Rachel again welcomed members.

The Church in Education was on the agenda and Bishop Robert explained his role as chair to the Board of Education. He shared the plan to share in leading worship within schools, and noted how the last time education appeared on the Synod agenda was around two years ago. It was explained how education is constantly evolving, and that there is a real need for support to the Church of England schools across the Diocese. It was also described as the “jewel in the crown” for the Diocese; the Life Vision is for greater engagement with children. We were informed how the Vision has changed in the last two years.

The Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance 2018 budget was agreed.

*Tom Hancock, Diocesan Synod Representative*

## **Deanery Synod**

As usual the Deanery Synod held 3 meetings during 2017 – in January at St Michael’s Church, Bishops Cleeve, in June at Holy Trinity Church, Tewkesbury and in October at Winchcombe Methodist Church.

Each meeting discussed **Further focus towards the Deanery's Response to the Diocesan Vision: L.I.F.E.** prior to

the Synod business.

<b>Leadership:</b> Committed to transformation	<b>Imagination:</b> Opening new paths to faith	<b>Faith:</b> Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ	<b>Engagement:</b> Living out Christ's love and hope
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At the January meeting responses were requested to the following three questions being raised with the four different aspects of **L.I.F.E.** as noted above:

- i **Anything you are currently doing?**
- ii **What would you like to be doing** (hopes and dreams)?
- iii **What is stopping you?**

At each meeting responses were also requested to:

**Sharing our Joys and Struggles.**

At the June meeting Deanery Officers were elected for the Triennial 2017-2020:

- Deanery Lay Chairman - Dr Julie Fay requested that she be allowed to continue as Lay Chairman until the October meeting to allow continuity of Deanery Synod business during the Area Dean's sabbatical\* until the end of August 2017. This was agreed.
- Deanery Synod Secretary - Anna Venables was re-elected.
- Deanery Synod Treasurer - election deferred to October meeting.
- Elected Diocesan Synod Representative - Dr Stephen Grindrod was elected to replace Tom Hancock.

At the October meeting:

- Dr Stephen Grindrod was elected as Deanery Lay Chairman to replace Julie Fay.
- Bob Sims stated that, it was with regret he would be resigning as Deanery Synod Treasurer as soon as a suitable replacement could be found.

Your Deanery Synod representatives are Nigel Bearne, Tom Hancock and Alan Thomas.

\* During Revd Malc Allen's sabbatical Revd John Paul Hoskins was acting Area Dean.

## **Fabric Report**

### ***St Peter's, Winchcombe***

We were at long last able to embark upon the major project of resurfacing the driveway which had been in the planning stage over the previous 12 to 18 months. We had expected this work to be completed by the end of June. Sadly, at a very late hour, we had to deal with a complaint from a local organisation which meant that the work which we were planning to start immediately after Easter had to be delayed. The complaint was resolved pretty quickly but unfortunately, by the time we had dealt with the complaint, our contractors were booked on other projects. This resulted in the commencement of works being delayed until after the annual church fête had taken place at the end of June.

The first stage of the project was completed by the end of August. A clear four weeks needed to elapse before the Rocbinda finish could be applied as this material can only be used when dry and warm weather conditions are guaranteed. Unfortunately, the elements were against us; the contractors tried to lay the final surface in late September but they had to abandon the work as it was too cold. We are thus left with the project being incomplete at the end of 2017 but we expect it to be completed by the end of May providing the weather conditions are suitable.

We have been fortunate in obtaining grants to cover the full estimated cost of the project and we are grateful to the many people who helped us source these grants. The following grants were obtained:

The Friends of St Peter's	£20,000
The Gloucester Environmental Trust	£15,000
The Dent Brocklehurst Trust	£6,000
The Allchurches Trust	£1,000
	<hr/>
	£42,000

Part of the driveway project has included the provision of a duct below ground which is designed to carry cables across to St Peter's Centre. This will enable us to improve the quality of sound which is transmitted through our streaming service and in time, provide the capability for the transmission of video. We are grateful to Rob Davies for the considerable amount of time he has spent designing and implementing this new network.

The quarter chime mechanism for the church clock failed during the year and after taking advice from the clockmakers, we were advised that the motor which drives this mechanism needed a complete rebuild. This was completed just in time for Christmas and we are grateful to the Friends of St Peter's for making a significant grant towards meeting the cost of this work.

The delayed installation of the new chairs and tables in the West End of the church was completed early in the year and this has left the church looking more welcoming and appealing to visitors. A children's area has also been provided along the south wall of the church and it has been sited in this area so that children can feel part of the worshipping congregation during services.

The Quinquennial inspection of the church was carried out by Basnett Associates in December. The condition of the church was found generally to be in good order but recommendations were made for a detailed inspection to be carried out of certain pinnacles on the roof and tower of the church and this is currently in hand.

The twice-yearly maintenance days at St Peter's have become a regular feature in the church calendar and we are very grateful for the fantastic support which people in our town to these days. We are also grateful to Simon Andrews for his leadership of these days.

### ***Christ Church, Gretton***

In preparation for the church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June this year, the angel corbels in the church have been repaired and re-gilded. We are grateful to the trustees of the Dent

Brocklehurst Trust for their grant towards the cost of carrying out this work and for the many people who have supported the fund-raising efforts held over the past few years towards this project.

### ***St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge***

This has been a quiet year and very little ongoing maintenance has been required. Gill Badger has continued with her planting work in the churchyard and plans are underway to deal with some masonry bees who have nested within the fabric of the building.

### ***St Mary's, Sudeley***

No significant maintenance issues have arisen in respect of St Mary's during the year.

### ***Other buildings***

The fascia boards of St Peter's Centre have been replaced during the year as these were in a poor condition. Discussions have also taken place with the residents of Old School Buildings which are adjacent to Teacher's House concerning some work which needs to be undertaken on the shared wall between Teacher's House and Old School Buildings. We expect to complete this work later this year.

We are grateful to the Deputy Wardens, Graham Taylor for Christ Church and Tom and Rosemary Hancock for St Mary's and St Michael's respectively for all the help they continue to give.

*Stewart Aylward and Margaret Bearne, Churchwardens*

### ***St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge***

Fabric Report: The work to the Churchyard looks good, the plants have all settled in well and look healthy. One of the trees, the crab apple, did in fact turned up its toes, but has been replaced, at no cost, by the supplying nursery.

SPAB came and gave a talk about the best way to maintain this ancient place of worship, and we try to keep the building up to scratch by following their instructions and suggestions.

Services continue to be held twice a month, Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month, and also on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday when one occurs. John Paul takes one of the services each month and we have different members of the Clergy on the other Sundays.

The Church is still in good repair following the work done three years ago. A swarm of masonry bees have moved in to a home on the outside of the West Wall, and the Deans are arranging for a “bee man” to move them when the time is right. After that the hole will be filled.

*Rosemary Hancock, Deputy Church Warden*

### **St Mary's, Sudeley Manor**

Six Sunday afternoon services took place on the fourth Sunday of the month between April and September (although one was changed to the fifth Sunday). Two were led by St Peter's Church choir, one by the J.P.H singers, one by the Sudeley singers, one by the choir of St Andrew's, Toddington, and one by the Isbourne singers. The numbers in the congregation were about the same as in the previous year. It was very good that the Methodists led one of the services.

The numbers of visitors has increased, particularly as people take an interest in the tomb of Queen Katherine Parr as she is the only Queen to be buried in a non-royal setting. The collections were slightly down on those of 2016; it is hoped that they will be higher this year.

Some people find it difficult to walk the distance from the car park to the Church, although they could spend a little time to look at the gardens on the way to the Church.

During this year (2018) the Evensong services will be held on the last Sunday of each month at 3.30pm - 29<sup>th</sup> April, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 26<sup>th</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> September.

We are delighted that there is an excellent relationship with the authorities of the Castle and their help is most appreciated.

*Tom Hancock, Deputy Warden*

## **Bellringers**

We are very lucky in that we started 2017 with 12 ringers on the books, and we finished with a possible 17!

We started the year with our usual post-Christmas meal at the Wesley House in January, although unfortunately quite a few of us were ill at that time so missed it!

Unusually it was a very quiet year for weddings, with only 2 at Winchcombe, and one at Toddington (for which we are also responsible). 2018 however, looks more promising with a possible 9 weddings at Winchcombe, and 2 at Toddington.

Our original initiative the previous year to hold “have-a go” sessions after the All-age service on the first Sunday of the month unfortunately passed into oblivion. However, we held an open morning as part of the Winchcombe Music & Arts Festival in May and this proved very popular. We had nearly 20 people who visited us, so we were kept busy all morning. As a result of this we now have one additional ringer and two learner ringers, who are both coming along well. We have since had visits from another two ringers who have recently moved to the Parish, so this has really boosted our numbers. We hope to partake in the Winchcombe Music & Arts Festival again next year (2019), by which time we should be able to cope with more learner ringers, should we be so lucky again.

We had a very good outing in October, which was organised by one of the ringers. This entails ringing at four different towers, with the highlight of the day being a good pub lunch somewhere!

We are very lucky to have Edward Kain as Steeple Keeper as he ensures that the bells & their fittings are in good repair and safe for us to ring.

*Clare Pritchard, Tower Captain*

## **St Peter's Church Stewards**

The last twelve months have indicated how resilient the Stewards can be as there has been a considerable amount of ill health, meaning that several of the rota slots have had to be vacant. We assume that the siting of the desk and the

map have contributed to the feeling of welcome when visitors arrive, even if there is no Steward to welcome them. We most certainly need to have more Stewards which would provide improved flexibility for the rota.

A request was recently circulated to the Stewards asking for any ideas they might have which would improve the welcoming experience for the Visitors. This brought quite an interesting response, and relevant action will be considered.

The map of the world has given a great deal of interest, and it is considered to be quite large enough for the area where it can be easily viewed.

2017 has proved to be a good year with a total of 8,917 visitors of which 6,647 came from the United Kingdom and 2,270 were non-U.K. visitors from 52 countries. The number of visitors is slightly less than in 2016 when we had 9,022.

We are pleased to confirm that Adrian Barlow, the expert on ecclesiastical stained glass, has agreed to do two roving tours of St Peter's windows on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. He has even agreed to reduce his charges as he just loves studying our East Window. We are intending to charge £5.00 per person (Stewards being charged £2.50 as this will be a training session for them). As numbers will be limited it is important for people to give us their names as soon as possible after the announcement of the event. We will be promoting the 22<sup>nd</sup> June to the Friends of St Peter's, the Town Guides, the History Group, U3A and the Probus Groups.

Finally, a big Thank You to all the Stewards for their support over the last year.

*Tom Hancock and Lynn Gorman*

## **Ladies' Breakfasts**

We have been meeting at the Rectory on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month throughout 2017. We have a buffet style continental breakfast between 8:30 and 10 am and ladies are

welcome to drop in at any point for an informal time of fellowship.

This is a great opportunity to get to know one another better and a good place to bring friends; everyone is very welcome, do join us!

*Liz Hoskins*

## **Men's Breakfasts**

The Men's breakfast club has been meeting once a month for many years now. We enjoy a full English breakfast (with vegetarian option) at the Corner Cupboard, where the fare had been consistently good and generously provided. Having been low on numbers a couple of times, we decided to move away from the first Sunday of the month and see what happened. The last two occasions we had around a dozen takers so it looks like we'll be staying on second or third Sunday from now on.

Breakfast is a light-hearted affair, just a chance to socialise and get to know each other better, but we do discuss issues affecting St Peter's and we do support each other in prayer as the need arises. We are currently considering branching out with other activities such as a walk, sporting activity or cultural visit, which could incorporate a more bible led discussion, if there are volunteers to lead. We're looking for any ideas to enjoy fellowship.

Dates for breakfast are on the website, and a reminder is in the notices a week before. The next one is April 15th, followed by May 13th. If you would like to go on the mailing list, please contact Mike Ferris on [mike@mferris.co.uk](mailto:mike@mferris.co.uk).

*Mike Ferris*

## **Music**

This year included a number of particularly joyful occasions. The Choir Concert, with the theme 'On the Farm', was a very jolly affair. It was good to see the youngest members of the Choir enjoying themselves greatly; and we were very proud

of our three excellent young basses as they joined David Banks and Mike Ferris in some close harmony.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to longstanding and wonderful young choristers Robert Shurmer, Nick Hall and Harriet Davies, as they were leaving to go to university/on 'Gap' years.

The beginning of September saw a first: a Choir 'seaside' weekend at St Davids. The juniors and some parents, plus Penny Kain, my husband and I stayed in the Whitesands Youth Hostel; the other adults in other accommodation. We sang three services (Saturday and Sunday Evensongs, Sunday morning Mattins) in the inspiring Cathedral, ably accompanied by John Wright and Andrew Horton. Much fun was also had on the beach at Whitesands, and I will never forget marching back to the Youth Hostel singing 'Turkey in the straw' and rehearsing the psalms around the kitchen table. Many thanks to Lynne Banks and a number of parents for their help and support.

Another Cathedral-and-Seaside weekend, at Exeter, is planned for the last weekend of the Summer holidays in 2019. We also look forward to singing Evensong at Bristol Cathedral on June 2<sup>nd</sup> this year, and to visiting 'We the Curious' and having a meal together in Bristol that day while we are there!

Advent and Christmas were rich musically for the Choir, the Carol Services and Christmas morning service being well attended and enthusiastically sung, and the Midnight Choir wonderfully swelled by at least 15 visitors/returners.

This year has seen two highly enjoyable social events: Choir dinner at the Corner Cupboard, kindly organised by Lynne Horton, and the juniors' trampolining at Airborne, Cheltenham.

The annual recruitment drive was successful: 4 choristers who joined at that point (3 junior, one mother of a junior) are still happily members. A later recruit brought the number of adults aged 19-45 to 7 (5 Full members, 2 Associates) - a good increase. However, sadly 7 juniors left in the

Autumn/Winter: one Year 4/5, one Year 6, the other 5 aged 12-18. The total number of choristers under 18 is now 12. This is well down on previous years: we had 25 about 10 years ago, at least 20 recently and 17 near the beginning of September. From the adults, we sadly lost Merleen Watson and Daphne Davies. The alto numbers are generally fine but we do need more tenors and especially basses; fortunately several good basses living locally are sometimes kindly able to 'help out'.

Many thanks to Andrew Horton for all his help, and to Shelley Everall for her expert coaching of a number of older and younger choir members (mostly for solos).

After 26 years working at St Peter's as Director of Music, I have thought hard and decided it is time for me to step down at the end of August. Thank you so very much to all the clergy, choir members and congregation with whom I have worked. My family and I will always be immensely grateful for the wisdom, love and support that we have received. The Choir, in particular, has been a great source of inspiration, fun and enjoyment, and I have been particularly glad to be able to include people of all ages. It is wonderful that St Peter's values music in its ministry, and has been able to fund two major pieces of work on the organ.

I will be continuing with my work as a visiting piano and organ teacher at the Ladies' College and accompanist for Charlton Kings Choral Society, and also taking any attractive freelance opportunities that arise. In the near future, this will include a little work for the Association of British Choral Directors; fund-raising concerts with the family; and deputising for church organists.

While there is some sadness in my leaving, it is also rather exciting for all of us! May God bless all who make music at St Peter's: may the music they create always be apt for the praise of God, and may it heighten awareness of the presence of God for all those who hear it.

*Fiona Brown, Music Director*

## **St Peter's Pastoral Team**

The Pastoral Team has again had a busy and interesting year, during which the Bereavement Support Group was launched. This self-help group is open to all in the Parish and is led by Sheila Broderick. Its monthly meetings have been well attended and we have had some interesting speakers.

Speakers at the Caring Professions' lunch included Iain Robertson, Station Commander at Winchcombe Fire Station, whose October talk was intriguingly entitled, 'Emergency response in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Cats up trees to Syrian Refugees'. At our March lunch we were very pleased to welcome Rhiann Morgan, whose talk, 'More than just food!' updated us all on the ongoing work of the Food Bank.

Again, with the help and generosity of the Winchcombe Rotary Club, we distributed 10 lovely Christmas hampers to local families and we hope that this is a partnership that will continue.

In 2018 we urgently need to recruit new visitors - the number of people in our Parish who would benefit greatly from even an occasional visit is growing rapidly. It is not an onerous task and is very rewarding - please contact Margaret Batterbury if you would like to know more.

*Margaret Batterbury*

## **St. Peter's Flower Guild**

We have continued to arrange flowers at the Altar, North Door and the Lady Chapel with our group of 10 ladies. Our wedding fees have stayed the same but we were only involved with 4 weddings in 2017. It is still important to impress on brides to make an early decision on the choices offered.

For Christmas 2017, we spent over £100 less than the previous year as our funds were running low. This is the result of fewer weddings and a slight drop in donations. However donations for Easter Lilies and two generous amounts from the son of a late Winchcombe resident, help to

eke out our PCC grant. We were pleased to receive £600 again this year.

Before Christmas the Guild was asked by the Friends of St Peter's to put on a Flower Festival in 2018; the dates suggested by the Revd John Paul are Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, Sept 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. All our arrangers have agreed to give their time to design and prepare their individual arrangements. A lot of planning has already gone into this event. We have agreed the title: "A Festival of Flowers Celebrating the Church Year".

*Helen Morgan, Chairman*

## **PCC Accounts**

Once again our thanks go to Stewart Aylward for using his accounting expertise to produce the attached detailed accounts. As I said last year most people don't look much beyond the bottom line to answer the question "Did our income exceed our expenditure in 2017?" Well good news - it did because in 2017 we again had an apparent surplus of income over expenditure of £27,908. However this data is potentially misleading; there are reasons why this surplus arose and why we cannot expect it next year.

With regard to our receipts as detailed on Pg 3, the overall surplus of receipts over payments in terms of unrestricted funds amounts to £182,249 less £154,355 which is £27,895. Of this, the actual increase in giving (including the tax recovered through Gift Aid) amounted to £17,830 over that raised in 2016 (£86,671) representing an increase of about 20% reflecting the successful stewardship campaign which was run for the full year. Anticipating a surplus of income over expenditure in the year, the PCC decided reduce the liability on the accounts for loan repayments with regards to Teachers House. As a result £9000 worth of loans were repaid but £14,150 of Teacher's House loans were converted into gifts during the year. This was not anticipated and a further £3,100 of tax was recovered through the converted loans being released as Gift Aided donations. Most of the remaining surplus of about £11000 arose because we did not

incur the pioneer ministry costs as we had expected at this time last year.

Net Parochial Fees Income was only about 50% of that achieved in the previous year. The actual amount received net of payments made to third parties and the Diocese was £7,377 against £14,641 the previous year. Income from Solar Panels was down below where it should have been due to a reading being missed in the autumn; this was rectified in January 2018 and the £1237.18 credit received included in the 2018 accounts.

Of the expenditure side of the accounts, I can advise that the Parish share payments include an additional amount of £3,591 which was approved by the PCC for clearing a shortfall in Diocesan receipts prior to 2016. Administration costs are higher as this includes £3,234 for the purchase of a new printer/copier for St Peter's Centre. Previously we had rented our photocopier.

During 2017, new seats and tables were purchased for the West End of St Peter's. The total cost was £8,500. This was funded out of a grant of £6,500 from the Friends of St Peter's, £700 from restricted funds received specifically for this purpose and £1,042 from funds previously designated by the PCC for that purpose. Talking of restricted funds, note 1 Analysis of restricted Funds, shows the movement on restricted funds during the year. The work at St Peter's Centre fully utilised the funds which had accumulated for SPC; this meant that only £1064 out of total expenditure of just under £3k needed to be funded out of unrestricted funds. Also the Restricted Funds of Christ were fully utilised against the repair of the angels. Note 2, Analysis of Designated Funds, includes the balance of that expenditure which was funded out of general fundraising initiatives.

An unexpected maintenance item was the repairs to the clock chime in the tower of St Peters. The cost of this extensive repair was £1326 which was met from a donation in January 2018 by the Friends of St Peters and others. Another big-ticket item of expenditure was the church driveway. In

respect of these works we received grants of £42,000 but have only paid out £24,915 in costs so far because the weather has been unsuitable to complete the works to date. These items have been carried forward to this year so that last year's accounts are not distorted and this can be seen on the balance sheet. If the final contract price ends up being what was originally tendered, the total cost of the project including the balance of architects' fees which will be due will be £43,068 inclusive of VAT. This would imply that there could be about £1,000 of costs to be paid from our funds in 2018.

Looking ahead to 2018 we have transferred the £11000 surplus from 2017 into Designated funds to offset the cost of employing the Pioneer Minister later this year. I am expecting substantial repair bills for the pinnacle on St Peters, a repair to a grotesque, and works associated with Teachers House. Furthermore our assessment of Parish Share for 2018 by the Diocese has risen substantially above the 2017 figure. So currently I am looking at a deficit forecast for 2018 but I said much the same this time last year. Perhaps I will be proven wrong again this year.

*Geof Adlington, Treasurer*