

St Peter's Church Wolvercote



Reports on our Church life in 2021–2022

*for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
at 11.30am on Sunday 24 April 2022*

**St Peter's Church, Wolvercote
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Sunday 4 July 2021 in St Peter's Church**

Present – 20 church members.

Vestry Meeting (chaired by the Area Dean, Revd Anthony Buckley)

1. **Opening Prayer** – The Area Dean led the meeting in prayer.
2. **Apologies for Absence** – Amanda Saville, Peter Bridges, Diana Pemberton-Piggott, Chantal Gewers, Jo Willoughby.
3. **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 25 October 2020** – These were accepted as a correct record *nem con*.
4. **Election of Churchwardens**

Churchwardens		
Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Wendy Sobey	Edward Wates	Caroline Pepys
Edward Wates	Wendy Sobey	Caroline Pepys

There being no other nominations, Wendy and Edward were elected and welcomed.

The Area Dean expressed warm thanks to Wendy and Edward for their hard work over the last nine months. Wendy Sobey expressed her thanks to Will Capel for his work in connection with the vacancy. She also welcomed Andrew Wright to the clergy team.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (chaired by Revd Anthony Buckley)

1. **Minutes of the APCM held on 25 October 2020** – These were accepted as a true record and carried *nem con*.
2. **Presentation of the Electoral Roll** – Val Tate (Electoral Roll Officer) reported that there were still 165 people on St Peter's Electoral Roll, 6 people having died and 6 having joined the Roll.
3. **Churchwardens' Report** – This was received, having been circulated in advance.
4. **Presentation and Adoption of St Peter's Church Accounts** – The accounts were presented and approved.
5. **Reports from Parish Groups and Committees** – The following reports had been circulated in advance and were received and accepted by the meeting:

Churchwardens' Report	St Peter's Net Report	PCC Report
Music & Choir Report	Safeguarding Report	Communications Group Report
Deanery Synod Report	Stewardship Report	Mission Committee Report
Flying Goose Report	Bellringers Report	Children's Church Report
Music & Liturgy Report	Church Rooms Report	Prayer & Spirituality Report
Eco-Church Report		

Evelyn Bryant commended the efforts that Anne Dorman and her team had been putting in with children's church.

Revd Anthony Buckley praised the work going on in the church despite the difficulties. He thanked Julia Goddard for the excellent report.

6. **Deanery Synod Report** – The report was covered above, under 'Reports from Parish Groups and Committees'.
7. **Reports from the Summertown-Wolvercote-Wytham Church Partnership** – The following reports had been circulated in advance, and were received and accepted by the meeting:

Partnership Enabling Group	Community Outreach
Cotteslowe Church Partnership	FairPlay
Churches Together in North Oxford	Christian Aid
Communications	Traidcraft
Church Partnership Office	Church Partnership Website
Partnership Link	Coffee Cafe

8. **Elections of PCC Representatives**

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Steve Goddard	Julia Goddard	Bill Clarke
Caroline Pepys	Clive Williams	Rosemary Williams
Amanda Saville	Deirdre Grant	Evelyn Bryant
Andrew Clayton	Clare Balme	Gordon Balme
Mary Easton	Gordon Balme	Caroline Pepys
Ellen Hudspith	Anne Dorman	Jo Coney

Wendy proposed the election of all the nominees, seconded by Caroline Pepys, passed *nem con*.

9. **Appointment of Sidespeople**

Mike Appleton	Beth Knowles
Clare Balme	Richard Knowles
Alison Bujic	Caroline Pepys
Will Capel	Sarah Pepys
Sandie Capel	Amanda Saville
Bill Clarke	Wendy Sobey
Diana Clews	Michael Stockford
Michael Daniell	Val Tate
Anne Dorman	Ray Voss
Rodney Eatock Taylor	Jo Willoughby
Henry Flower	Rosemary Williams
Chantal Gewers	

Wendy proposed the election of all the nominees, seconded by Steve Goddard, passed *nem con*.

10. **Appointment of Auditors** – Andrew Dorman proposed that Critchleys be re appointed as auditor, seconded by Christopher Fletcher-Campbell, agreed *nem con*.

11. **Looking Ahead** – Revd Anthony Buckley thanked all those who had contributed to keeping the church running smoothly throughout the previous months. He looked forward to the licensing of Kate in September. “We don’t know what will happen in the future. Will church attendance return? Will questions of faith arise? God is our rock and we can trust in him. We can look forward with confidence in our new Vicar and take care of each other”.

On behalf of the congregation, Caroline Pepys thanked Revd Anthony Buckley for everything he has done to help us in the time of the vacancy.

The meeting ended with prayer.

VICAR’S INTRODUCTION

The last year has been one of considerable change for St Peter’s. A vacancy is never an easy time for a church community, and of course this one coincided with the pandemic. I would like to thank everyone who has worked together over this time, to manage the running of the church and to consider its future direction in putting together the parish profile. The following pages are a tribute to the life and ministry of St Peter’s that exists even in changing and challenging times. The base of worship, care and support that comes from the church and its members is a strong one on which to build.

On a personal level, I would also like to thank all who have offered such a warm welcome to me, Russell and Madeleine. We are very much enjoying living in Wolvercote and look forward to the years ahead as we share the life of this parish.

As a worshipping community our primary purpose is to worship God. It is very good now to be able to provide different opportunities beyond the 10am service to do this – from a quiet 8am Eucharist, to the timeless beauty of a BCP Holy Communion; from a fun-filled children’s and families’ pre-Christmas event, to a contemplative evening service.

As well as providing a beautiful home for our worship, we are also keen that our church buildings become a focus for community activity again. It is good to see people returning to the church rooms and as the PCC consider how to keep the church itself more open, we are trialling a welcome space before school pick-up.

Pastoral care is a priority for St Peter’s. We are pleased to be able to start offering coffee after church again and to plan other spaces that bring people together, and to resume meetings of The Net.

Our mission and outreach work extends within our own parish, as we build on existing links and partnership with both the school and Wolvercote Young People’s Club, with whom we are working to restart the community larder. Our mission giving has supported organisations both in this country and overseas, and we have made considerable response to charitable purposes. We have also been pleased to work with Asylum Welcome in donating dictionaries to Afghan refugees arriving in Oxford, and have been pleased by the response of the wider village community to this appeal.

Our e-communications have reached well beyond the congregation and have provided a way of keeping the congregation in touch with each other over the difficult months of the pandemic. *The Flying Goose* is a very well-respected and well-used community resource.

Our partnership links with other local churches remain important. We held a renewal of the covenant of the Summertown, Wolvercote and Wytham Church Partnership in October, and since then have enjoyed some stimulating lectures, with topics including death and dying, experiences of refugees arriving in the UK, and sustainable agriculture. All of these have engaged with people beyond our churches.

Being licensed after the hiatus of the pandemic has been a uniquely strange time to start a new role. So I am working with the PCC to develop some vision as to how we move forwards together. Rhodri Bowen and Yvonne Morris from the diocese facilitated a vision day for the PCC, and a smaller group will be planning how to continue this conversation with the congregation and wider community.

I am pleased to introduce this report and thank everyone who has contributed to its production, but more importantly for all the work and ministry it demonstrates. Individuals and groups are far too many to name, but I would like to pay particular tribute to our churchwardens, Wendy Sobey and Edward Wates, and deputy warden Sarah Pepys; to the ministry team; to Clare Balme who is stepping down as PCC Secretary; and to Anne Dorman who is stepping down as Children and Families Worker.

Revd Kate Tuckett

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Last year, we began our report by recalling the challenges which we, together with the rest of the world, faced at St Peter's as a result of the pandemic. For much of the year, we had been without a full-time vicar following the departure of Charles Draper in 2020. This had resulted in being able to offer only the 10am Sunday service for most of the pandemic – initially online only but once again in church from the summer of 2021 onwards.

We were delighted to welcome our new vicar, Kate Tuckett, together with husband Russell and daughter Madeleine, to the Benefice at a well-attended licensing ceremony on 16 September, hosted by Bishop Steven. Paul Valentin developed a comprehensive induction programme for Kate, during which she was able to meet not only parishioners from both churches, but also key figures in the local community. After six months in post, Kate organised a highly productive vision and strategy workshop for the PCCs of both parishes on Saturday 12 February.

As the year ended, we were looking forward to the easing of restrictions, only for Omicron to emerge in December. Sadly, this resulted, amongst other things, in the cancellation of our regular Christingle event as well as Carols4Kids. However, Christmas services were able to go ahead both at St Peter's and at All Saints, with minor adjustments. Restrictions are now beginning to ease once again, although we are taking a cautious approach at St Peter's with the continuation of mask wearing and social distancing in the side aisles.

The churchwardens wish to offer their sincerest thanks to everyone who contributes so much to building our parish life, in particular the clergy team comprising Viv Bridges, Joanna Coney, Shei Crowther, William Whyte, Tony Lemon and Andrew Wright who ensured not only the continuation of services but also the pastoral work of the church throughout the interregnum.

Special thanks must go to Val Tate whose remarkable efforts entailed the production almost single-handedly not only of a regular e-newsletter but also the recording of the weekly service so that it could be viewed online.

We are sorry to be saying goodbye following the APCM to Anne Dorman, who will be stepping down from her role working with Children and Families, and to Clare Balme as PCC Secretary. We thank both of them for their sterling efforts.

We would like to thank by name Christopher Fletcher-Campbell for his musical contribution and for so nobly taking on the role of Treasurer this time last year; Julia Goddard as Administrator; Bill Clarke as Verger; and Caroline Pepys as Sacristan, all of whom do a huge amount for the church. We also express our gratitude to all the members of the PCC, our servers, the choir, the sidespeople, those who arrange flowers, clean and caretake, those who provide coffee, and those who take care of the churchyard.

We are grateful to Gordon Balme and Kevin Minns for their work overseeing this year a number of repairs to gravestones in the churchyard as well as the cross above the south door. Gordon will be stepping down as Buildings Officer once the renegotiation for the lease on Sparsey Place has been completed. In July last year we were fortunate in being able to employ Wayne Prescott as Caretaker/Maintenance Manager for the church rooms, who is now working closely with June Williams.

As noted above, we have a number of vacancies for volunteers. We are conscious of the significant dedication that so many volunteers offer to the parish. Led by Sarah Pepys, we have been looking at ways in which to improve the volunteer experience, while adhering to Diocesan safer recruitment practices. A survey was carried out in January, followed by a workshop with volunteers on 16 February.

Finally, we wish to express our sincerest thanks to Wendy Sobey, who comes to the end of her second term as churchwarden. She will be sorely missed.

*Wendy Sobey, Edward Wates, Churchwardens
Sarah Pepys, Deputy Churchwarden*

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Those who served on the PCC following the July APCM were as follows:

Clergy: Revd Kate Tuckett* (Vicar from 16 Sept.), Revd Viv Bridges (Retired Priest), Revd Shei Crowther* (Associate Priest), Revd Dr William Whyte (Associate Priest), Revd Andrew Wright (Associate Priest); **Licensed Lay Minister:** Tony Lemon*; **Churchwardens:** Wendy Sobey*, Edward Wates*; **Safeguarding Officer:** Sarah Pepys; **Deanery Synod Representative:** Christopher Fletcher-Campbell*; **Treasurer:** Christopher Fletcher-Campbell; **Elected members:** Evelyn Bryant*, Bill Clarke*, Andrew Clayton*, Diana Clews*, Chantal Gewers*, Mary Easton*, Steve Goddard*, Ellen Hudspith*, Beth Knowles*, Caroline Pepys*, Amanda Saville*, Val Tate*; **Children and Families Worker:** Anne Dorman (reporting to the PCC);

Chairman of Fabric and Finance Committee: Kevin Minns (reporting to the PCC); **URC representative:** Mary Horwitz (not attending during COVID); **Secretary:** Clare Balme. [*Members whose names are marked with an asterisk are trustees and have a vote.]

The PCC were delighted to welcome Kate Tuckett, our new Vicar, at the meeting on 21 September 2021. PCC members from both churches have already participated in a Vision Day which was facilitated by two advisors from the diocese. Discussions have already begun about the two churches in the benefice working together more closely and sharing some services.

The PCC has a responsibility to oversee many aspects of church life. For example: work on the churchyard is under consideration with a view to making it more of a wildlife haven; the cross above the south porch has been commissioned after the existing one became unsafe; the wifi system is going to be changed in the church; the service sheets have been agreed; the wardens have masterminded the COVID restrictions as they changed from week to week; the services have been reinstated as circumstances permitted. Future developments include the re-opening of the Wolvercote Community Larder which is an important part of our community action. As another aspect of our community involvement, we welcomed the Climate Change Pilgrimage who stopped for lunch in the Parish Room on their way to Glasgow on 10 August 2021.

Finance is a critical part of PCC responsibility: the PCC had reluctantly decided in 2020 that we would have to reduce our Mission Giving as the financial situation looked dire. Fortunately, we were able to reverse this decision when the proceeds of the Stewardship campaign and the Autumn fete helped us to achieve a useful improvement in our financial situation. Thanks to all those who enabled us to remain more solvent than expected, especially the Treasurer and Peter Bridges.

As she steps down, Wendy Sobey takes with her all our admiration and thanks for the work she has done as a warden for the last six years. Thanks also to Kate, Edward and Julia for their support of the PCC.

Clare Balme, PCC Secretary

SAFEGUARDING

Safer Recruiting and People Management Guidance was implemented in January 2022. This has led to a formalising of our recruitment and safeguarding practices for those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

In January 2022 we sent out a questionnaire seeking views regarding volunteering and how we might better support our volunteers. We received many helpful ideas from the 85 replies received. These ideas led to a workshop on 16 February 2022 and plans are in place to implement changes.

Safeguarding Training within the Benefice: we continue to require Safeguarding Basic Awareness and Foundation training for all. Many volunteers undertake the training online and arrangements were made for in-house training in January 2022. This was attended by six members of our Benefice churches.

The Parish Dashboard provides the PCC with an online record of our Safeguarding Action Plan, highlighting outstanding issues. It was signed off on 15 March 2022 by the PCC.

Policy documents were reviewed on 15 March 2022 and endorsed. These include the Safeguarding Policy, Ex-Offenders Recruitment Policy, Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance and Social Media practices.

Sarah Pepys, Parish Safeguarding Officer

STEWARDSHIP

This report covers the year ending 31 December 2021. Total regular donations including Gift Aid were £89,551 compared with £88,367 last year. At the end of the year we had 102 members, of whom 71 give through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), 26 through Standing Orders and 5 through weekly envelopes. A sum of £8,910 including Gift Aid was raised through the Stewardship Campaign, which ran from 28 February to 21 March. This included £5,991 in one-off donations (including Gift Aid), and the rest through increases to our 2021 PGS donations following the campaign. These increased PGS donations will supplement our future annual income by £3,810 including Gift Aid, plus the yearly inflationary increase from those who have opted in for that under the PGS scheme.

One area the committee has focused on is asking donors to move from Standing Orders paid through the bank to join the Parish Giving Scheme. The advantages to the parish and the donor of doing so have been well rehearsed before both verbally and in writing, and we will continue this piece of work as we go through 2022.

I would like to thank the Stewardship Committee for their support and commitment and also Rodney Eatock Taylor for all the work he does as Stewardship Recorder and PGS contact.

Peter Bridges, Chair of Stewardship Committee

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

Sunday Explorers meets in the Old School Room (OSR) for children up to the age of 10 during the 10am service. We have breakfast and Bible activities and join the congregation for Holy Communion and a time of sharing. We are happy for children to join us without parents, but since returning after lockdown, parents have generally joined the sessions with their children. In September, we celebrated our first monthly All-Age Service for the first time since February 2020, when children and families join the church family to worship together.

Explorers Plus has run on some occasions and is an area for prayerful development. It would be good for the church to have a dedicated Explorers Plus leader to work in partnership with Peter and Jack, who lead the servers.

In November, we ran an afternoon Children's and Families' Event on the theme of Light and Darkness with activities, a short service led by Kate, and a family tea which was well attended. By Christmas, in view of the rising COVID risks, we decided not to run the Explorer Christingle Event in church but handed out at least 70 Christingle packs to children coming out of school. Similarly, the Christmas Eve Children's Carol

Service was cancelled, and we ran a Zoom event with an interactive story 'Jesus Christmas Party'.

There are a few changes in the team. Megan Carberry is stepping down from the team and we thank her for her enthusiastic and talented work and support for the children's ministry over many years. I am stepping down from leading the children's and families' work at this APCM and look forward to continuing on the team and welcoming the new leader. I would like to thank Beth, Patricia, Cherry, Teresa and Andrew for their ongoing support for the children's work.

Anne Dorman, Children and Families Worker

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

As with all activities, opportunities to come together for prayer are having to be rebuilt. However, it is good to be back in a regular rhythm of worship. Thank you to all who contribute to our services – to the ministry team, readers and intercessors as well as to those who clean and prepare the church, provide flowers and make the space beautiful, to the choir, to sidespeople and welcomers.

We aim to be a welcoming community that works with our sister church of All Saints' in Wytham to offer something to anyone in the parish who wishes to be spiritually resourced. Over Advent and Lent we have experimented with some contemplative evening services and have been pleased that these have reached some people beyond our existing congregation.

Plenty of prayer has happened around the parish outside of regular services! The parish prayer group has met faithfully every month, and worked through a list of prayer concerns. The Julian group, led by Will and Sandie Capel, has resumed its meetings on a Tuesday morning in church. Regular points for intercession are prepared and shared with those leading the prayers in church. We enjoyed a refreshing Quiet Day at the start of Lent at the Cherwell Centre led by Sister Carolin Clare.

The weekly e-newsletter became the monthly *Messenger* from Christmas, and often includes material for spiritual reflection.

We have provided opportunities for prayer at particular times of the year. These have included a simple vigil at the time of the COP 26 climate conference, and opening the church on the second anniversary of the COVID lockdown. We been moved by the response to the prayer station for Ukraine.

We are sorry that Anne Dorman is stepping down from her role as Children and Families Worker, and as a parish are committed to resourcing children's spirituality. We are grateful to all who lead Sunday Explorers and look forward to building on the success of a pre-Christmas day with children and families, including a time of prayer and worship in church.

Thank you to all who work so hard to maintain our spiritual life. It is at the heart of who we are and provides the foundation for all our activity.

Revd Kate Tuckett

MUSIC IN LITURGY

While the ongoing situation with COVID has meant that plans have sometimes had to change at the last minute, we are glad that music has formed an integral part of our liturgy over the last year. The choir were joined by partnership friends for my induction service as well as for the renewal of the partnership covenant and the Advent carol service. The Christmas carol service was inevitably muted by Omicron, but the choir still provided wonderful musical input and helped to create an uplifting service at a time that felt particularly dark and uncertain.

We have enjoyed several sung evening services, including the feasts of Epiphany, Candlemas and the Annunciation, as well as an Evensong in February.

We continue to experiment with and expand our repertoire of hymns, especially for all-age services, and are grateful to Christopher for helping us to do this.

Thank you to all who make our church a place where music forms such an integral part of the liturgy – to Christopher, David and the choir, whose dedication is very gratefully appreciated. We also extend grateful thanks to our team of bell ringers whose ringing announces our services to the wider village community.

Revd Kate Tuckett

ST PETER'S NET

The Net has again had a quiet year as a result of restrictions. However, we have kept in touch with one another and have been able to offer help, such as transport, when needed. We are hoping that the coming year will enable us to be more active and that members of the congregation will feel able to request our help.

We were very glad to welcome Kate in the autumn and are grateful for her active interest, as well as that of Shei. We look forward to more contact with the church community.

Anne Harries

MUSIC / CHOIR REPORT

It has been a huge relief to all choir members to be able to return to regular activities over the past six months. The deprivation of singing over such a long period has promoted regular attendance at rehearsals and services; this has enabled the successful revival of some old favourites and the exploration of new repertoire. The Advent and Christmas carol services were, with David Langdon's valued assistance, the highlights of recent activity, even if COVID concerns caused the postponement of the traditional party.

Several choir members usually enjoy attending the annual RSCM Area Festival. However, due to the RSCM's substantial administrative reorganisation on a national scale, the new-in-post organisers left the arrangements very late, and too few participant applications led to its cancellation. Fortunately, the previous organiser has re-emerged, and we hope for greater efficiency in 2022.

By the time this report is published the choir will have sung its first choral evensong for at least two years, at the experimental 'cathedral' time of 4pm. It intends to repeat this roughly once every 3 months.

Grateful thanks are due to all choir members for the time and effort which they voluntarily devote to St Peter's worship, and particularly to Jackie Eatock-Taylor for keeping everyone informed and in order.

The organ has continued to attract young organists in the north Oxford area keen to have the opportunity to practise locally. The quality of its workmanship has been demonstrated by its emergence from many months of silence with no faults and its tuning has held remarkably well, requiring only a brief visit to attend to the 'reed' stops.

We look forward to developing the musical provision under our new Vicar.

Christopher Fletcher-Campbell

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

While COVID restrictions kept many at home, the Group's focus was on ensuring the congregation and broader community were supported with online worship, information, and church news. A mid-year survey confirmed how valued this was for many. Since Kate Tuckett joined St Peter's, we've been working together to establish more sustainable regular communications, reintroducing the weekly Partnership Link and a monthly electronic newsletter – The Messenger.

Members of the group have been working with the Partnership Enabling Group to build a new website for the Summertown Wolvercote & Wytham Church Partnership (www.swwcp.org). This went live as the member churches renewed their covenant in October 2021. We've also been pleased to share expertise, supporting the promotion of church events, special services, and warden-led initiatives.

Val Tate

MISSION GIVING

As in all previous years, 10% of congregational giving, plus the profits from the 100 Club, were available for donations to other charities, making a total of £13,250 to be donated.

The Mission Giving Committee has tried to balance the number of local organisations being helped with international charities receiving grants.

Diana Clews, Chair of Mission Committee

Charity	Donation
LOCAL	
Asylum Welcome	£761.76
Blue Skye Thinking	£761.76
Community Emergency Foodbank	£761.76
The Gatehouse	£761.76
Homestart Oxford	£761.76
The Porch	£761.76
Wolvercote Young People's Club	£761.76
NATIONAL	
Children's Society	£761.76
The Woodland Trust	£761.76
INTERNATIONAL	
Anti-Slavery International	£761.76
Christian Aid	£761.76
Mission Aviation Fellowship	£761.76
Mission to Seafarers	£300
Open Doors	£761.76
Papua New Guinea Church Partnership	£761.76
Shelter Box	£761.76
Standing Voice	£761.76
United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG)	£761.76
Total	£13,249.92

THE FLYING GOOSE

The easing of the COVID threat has enable us to publish all four editions in hard copy this year.

Our key welcome has been to Kate, our vicar. There have been farewells to the Keebles as they left The Post Box; to Revd Pauline Main, URC minister in Summertown; and to Revd Sarah Flashman, who gave us so much time and care during the vacancy. We have also covered the 90th birthday of a choir tenor and the arrival at Wolvercote Mill of some of its early adopters.

Three obituaries were published during the year – for Valerie Barnish, John Brown and Michael Stockford, all of whom had contributed markedly in their various ways to the church and to their community.

The editorial committee is indebted to writers of regular articles – the Wolvercote Commoners, the Head of Wolvercote Primary School, the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum and the Wolvercote Local History Society. We also acknowledge, again, Troglodyte's crosswords. We have been glad to publish more frequent articles from those living on the canal and are pleased that new residents on the CALA estate at

Wolvercote Mill have begun to write for us. Every quarter brings other articles about goings-on in the area and matters of local interest. Anybody and everybody is welcome to offer an article and it is very helpful to the editorial committee when proposals are sent in – please keep them coming!

The Flying Goose is underwritten by St Peter's Church, but we aim to cover our costs with advertisements. If you would like to advertise, please contact Sarah Pepys.

We seek a volunteer to help with editing the magazine: if you are confident with your computer's publishing software, or are happy to learn, this could be you.

'I always enjoy *The Flying Goose*!' I was recently told by a reader in Hayfield Road, well out of Flying Goose Land, whose copy is passed on to her by an FGL resident. I saw a copy sticking out of the bag of a lady on the Parkway station platform last month: she evidently agrees with Lady Bracknell that one should always have something sensational to read in the train. *The Flying Goose* gets around, which is very encouraging. If you deliver the magazine in your road, or in someone else's, thank you: we need more like you!

Stephen Drew

WOLVERCOTE BELLRINGERS

As everyone is now getting back to some sort of 'normality', and with the easing of pandemic restrictions, we have begun to sound the bells once again. Thankfully, we all seem somewhat reenergised, following our 'covid break', to the extent that we are experimenting with a number of more complicated methods at both practice and on Sunday mornings.

Jonathan Beale

SERVERS

2021 was a start/stop year for serving. When we were serving our role was somewhat diminished due to COVID restrictions. As the clergy were not able to go amongst the congregation to exchange the Peace, we could not lay out the Central altar and have an Offertory procession. COVID also restricted servers clearing the Central altar post-communion and washing up at the High Altar during the last hymn. No Gospel processions have happened when incense is used. These restrictions to our work did not dampen the willingness the servers showed in getting involved and adapting to the changes.

Hopefully, at some point in 2022 we can get back to our full support for the clergy and the Peace can be exchanged again as we used to.

During the year we welcomed two new servers, Bella Adams and Ewan Hudspith. They have both settled in well and are valuable members of the team. We also welcomed back Lysander Hagmann-Smith who has come to back to the UK for teacher training. Ewan is serving for his MY FAITH scout badge.

I would like to thank all our servers for their time and commitment and also Jack for his unfailing support.

Peter Bridges

ST PETER'S CHURCH ROOMS

The Church Rooms have had a very quiet time during lockdown, but bookings are starting to come back again this year.

Wayne Prescott was appointed maintenance manager last year and this has relieved June of some of the maintenance work. Rosemary continues to keep the diary for bookings.

Rosemary Williams

FLOWERS

The team was once again operating at reduced capacity while St Peter's was closed or under tighter control due to COVID. Despite this, there were simple, fresh flowers in the church nearly every Sunday. For special services – Easter and Christmas – the church was once again fully decorated and glowing with colour.

Sadly, we waved farewell to Audrey Valentine as she moved away to be closer to family. Her eye for colour and design, and dedicated service, will be much missed. Deep gratitude and thanks to her, and to all our volunteers who have offered their time and skill across the year. I am standing down from leading the team at this year's APCM, handing the responsibility to Mary Kinnear. With several people leaving the team there is space for more to join. Please contact Mary or me if you'd like to learn more about being a volunteer and how you can play a part, even if only once or twice a year.

Val Tate

DATA COMPLIANCE

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into law in 2018. Along with all other organisations across the UK, St Peter's adopted procedures to protect personal information in whatever format it was held. If we ask anyone for their personal details, we are obliged to use that information solely for the purpose to which it relates. Personal information, such as telephone numbers, is no longer freely available to anyone who asks for it. Computers must be kept securely, and access controlled with passwords.

Many will remember that when the law came into force we asked everyone's permission to hold their personal information even if we had known each other for decades. We continue to do this with newcomers to the church. If anyone wants to collect information, such as who volunteers for a particular job, they will be asked to explain what the information will be used for, how long it will be kept, and how it will be secured. If it is not within the scope of St Peter's Privacy Policy, approved by the PCC and published on our website, either the data collection cannot go ahead, or the Church's Privacy Policy must be updated. Several initiatives have been audited for their compliance with GDPR in the past year, and processes devised and approved to protect individuals' personal data.

Thanks to all concerned for their ongoing cooperation.

Val Tate, Data Compliance Officer

FAIRTRADE

During COVID restrictions it was not possible to run a Fairtrade stall in church. However, Lorna Logan ensured that St Peter's renewed its Fairtrade Church status, with a commitment to use Fairtrade products wherever possible and to support Fairtrade Fortnight each year.

Now restrictions have been lifted, a small group (Val Tate, Phillipa Hardman, Chantal Gewers, Beth Knowles, Lorna Logan) aim to hold occasional Fairtrade stalls after the 10am service at St Peter's and at the Wolvercote Community Sunday Market, selling goods supplied by Traidcraft traders David and Sue Smith, and concentrating on special events (Fairtrade Fortnight, Christmas, Wolvercote Midsummer Festival, etc.).

Phillipa Hardman