

St Peter's Church Wolvercote



Reports on our Church life in 2017–2018

*for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
at 10am on Saturday 21 April 2018*

St Peter's Church, Wolvercote
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Saturday 8 April 2017 in St Peter's Church

Present – 43 people were present.

Opening Prayer – The Vicar led the meeting in prayer.

Apologies for Absence – These were received from 37 people.

Vestry Meeting (Chaired by Revd Charles Draper)

1. **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on 16 April 2016** – These were accepted as a correct record *nem con.*
2. **Election of Churchwardens**

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Michael Daniell	Peter Bridges	Margaret Williams
Wendy Sobey	Val Tate	Beth Knowles

There being no other nominations, Michael Daniell and Wendy Sobey were declared duly elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Chaired by Revd Charles Draper)

1. **Minutes of the APCM on 16 April 2016** – These were accepted as a correct record *nem con.*
2. **Electoral Roll** – The Vicar reported alterations to the figures as follows, with thanks to Rosemary Williams for all her work on this.

Number on the Roll at APCM in 2016	<u>231</u>
New members	7
Deceased	5
Moved away	1
Ordained and so no longer eligible	<u>1</u>
Number on the Roll at APCM in 2017	231
3. **Churchwardens' Report** – This had been circulated (in the green booklet). Charles told the meeting that, although there was no mention of fabric and ordnance, the Archdeacon had made an inspection in February and had pronounced everything present and correct. He went on to express thanks, on behalf of all those present, to Michael and Wendy for all their work and support.
4. **Presentation and Adoption of St Peter's Church Accounts** – The report of the Treasurer (Bill Edwards) had been circulated in the booklet of reports on St Peter's activities and the Report and Financial

Statement for the year, prepared by the Independent Examiner (Richard Barnett ACA of Critchleys) was circulated before the beginning of the meeting.

- **Income** – Bill spoke to his report. He said that the accounts provided by Critchleys appeared to indicate an overall deficit, while his own showed an overall rise, and he explained that this difference is largely because of the different ways that income and expenditure on the Sparsey Place property are dealt with. He went on to say that he felt that the financial position of St Peter's is reasonably healthy at present, but he did say that pledged giving is about £5,000 down (due to some deaths and some members having moved away) and this will need to be considered in the not too distant future.
- **Expenditure** – Expenditure will increase because of the appointment of the new organist (due to start in June or July) and the plan to appoint an additional children's worker.

Bill then opened the discussion, which was wide-ranging. It included comments on:

- **Some Excellent Work taking Place** – Examples mentioned: *Work with the young people* (tribute was paid to the contribution of Jane Draper, Jack Sobey and Peter Bridges as well as the team of helpers both paid and unpaid); *St Peter's Net*; *The Shaping our Vision Group*. *Income from Church Rooms* – increased this year.
- **Areas where Income is down** – Donations and legacies are down (and many donations were for the Organ Fund rather than for general work).
- **Parish Share** – This is an on-going issue because some parishes are struggling to pay a Share of 4.5%, and some of the bigger churches are reluctant to do so. It has been decided that churches should be asked to give what they are able to.
- **A Stewardship Campaign?** – Peter Bridges said that he feels that we should not delay having a Stewardship Campaign as he said that it is good to keep on top of the finances rather than waiting until there are real financial difficulties. However, it was also said that it was not a good idea to have such a campaign so very soon after fund-raising first for the major development scheme and then the organ appeal.

Bill summed up by saying that he felt that St Peter's finances are in fairly good shape, but that the level of pledged giving "needs watching". He then finished by expressing very warm thanks to Rosemary and Clive Williams and Pat and John Waugh for all their help with the practical tasks associated with dealing with the money. He said that he simply could not have done the job without their help.

There being no further questions, it was **proposed** by Charlotte Fenton that the accounts be adopted with thanks to Bill Edwards. This

was **seconded** by Bill Clarke and **carried** unanimously. Charles then paid tribute to the excellent work that Bill had done as Treasurer. This was met with very warm applause.

Charles told the meeting that Bill will finish after the May PCC meeting and he stressed that we need to think and pray about this as we need to find someone to take on this vital task. Bill commented that the work is not very onerous: the busiest time is in December and January, but during most of the year there is only a need for work on the accounts about once a month.

5. **Reports from Parish Groups and Committees in 2016–2017** – The reports had been circulated before the meeting, and the following comments and questions were raised:

- **Children’s Church** – Charles told the meeting that Jess Richmond has changed her role from Children and Families Worker to Children’s Outreach, and she has been doing less in church on Sundays but working more out in the community. She now has other commitments and is going to restrict her work to running Explorers’ events (e.g. Easter, Harvest and Christingle) and she will help with Children’s Church at the Family Communion services. He said that we now need to seek a new Children and Families Worker, and it has been agreed to fund this post for five or six hours/week. The plan is now to have monthly family services, which really seek not only to make the children and young people feel welcome, but also to encourage them to have some input. It was remarked that there is no reason why such services should not be Communion services. It was also said that it is hoped that the new Director of Music will encourage children and young people to participate. Thanks were expressed to Jess, Leanne, Jane Draper and all the other helpers.
- **St Peter’s Net** – It was reported that Viv is stepping down from this role after many years’ service. Anne Harries is Chairman and Charles has taken on the care of those who are sick or experiencing bereavement or difficulties. Very warm thanks were expressed for all the work done by the Net, and particular thanks were expressed to Viv.
- **Prayer and Spirituality** – It was said that the some of the events arranged have not been well-attended, but that they have been excellent and much appreciated by those who did attend. Charles expressed appreciation for the prayer-life in the parish – of groups involved in arranging services and events, as well as individuals in their private prayers.
- **Music and Liturgy** (covering several topics)
 - **Clergy Team** – Very warm thanks were expressed to our Clergy, particularly in the light of the great gap left by Rob.

- **Music** – Tribute was paid to all the work that Jackie Eatock Taylor has put in during the interregnum which has meant that there has always been someone to rehearse the choir and to play for the services. Thanks were also expressed to the deputies, and particularly to David Langdon who has contributed so much. The new organist, Christopher Fletcher-Campbell, will join us sometime after the end of June, and thanks were expressed to the Appointment Team.
 - **Flowers** – Following Audrey Valentine’s stepping down, we still need a co-ordinator for the team of flower arrangers. They do a wonderful job, but they do need someone to co-ordinate their efforts.
 - **Shaping our Vision** – Thanks were expressed to the co-ordinators of the various groups, and particularly to Diana Clews, for all their work. The home groups and all the work to develop prayer and spirituality were particularly appreciated.
 - **Servers** – Peter Bridges, Jack Sobey and all the servers were thanked for all that they do to enhance our worship.
 - **The Flying Goose** – This is a very valuable method of communication with every house in the parish, and the great amount of work involved is much appreciated. A ‘postman’ for the east end of Davenant Road is needed.
 - **Bellringers** – Thanks were expressed to the team, and particularly to Jonathan Beale.
 - **Mission Committee** – It was asked whether there were plans to raise more money for Taung, but Sue Smith has reported that nothing is particularly needed at present, but if a need arises then a collection will be made. It was queried whether, if specific charity collections were made, this would mean that we would no longer give as much as 10% of pledged giving to charities. It was explained that specific collections were definitely in addition to the planned giving of 10%. Concern was expressed that it might be necessary to put aside money in case of the need for large expenditure on the Church Rooms. The meeting was reminded that £1,500 is put aside each year to ensure that funds should be available if capital expenditure is required, and it was said that there is strong support on the PCC to continue the 10% giving.
6. **Deanery Synod Report** – Michael Daniell reported that there had been some excellent meetings and that it had been particularly good to welcome the Bishop to the open meeting in Botley. He stated that there are only three nominations for the four places available on the Synod.
7. **Reports from the Summertown-Wolvercote Church Partnership** – The booklet containing these had been circulated before the meeting.

Charles expressed gratitude to Gavin Knight for having taken over the chairmanship of the Partnership Enabling Group from him, but he said that he very much appreciated being a member. He also said how much Samantha Stayte would be missed when she moved to Devon to take up her post as Vicar to no less than eight churches. He also mentioned the new Social Justice Group, started in St Michael's, but which is open to anyone interested in joining.

- **Work in Cutteslowe** – Charles said how very good it was to be working with the new Vicar of St Andrew's and his team. He said that more support is needed for the monthly Sunday services in the Pavilion, and he mentioned particularly that pianists and those who could help with cake-making, serving and washing up tea are needed.
- **Open Fellowship** – Warm thanks were expressed to Tony Lemon and Margaret Williams.
- **Fair Trade Stall** – the meeting was reminded that this is now at the White Hart rather than the School.
- **Christian Aid** – There is a real difficulty now about the house-to-house collection: Wolvercote is now an area where no 'cold-calling' is allowed, so envelopes can be delivered through letterboxes, but collectors may not call to collect them. It is suggested that information about where donations can be delivered should be attached to the envelopes. Charles said that he and Jane will hold a coffee morning on 13 May, 10.30am–12 noon; donations of cakes would be appreciated.
- Bill Clarke reported that Cutteslowe residents are very badly affected by the loss of their bus; he said that funds are needed to tax the Community Bus and drivers are also needed.

8. **Elections of PCC Representatives** – The following nominations for members to serve for a term of three years each had been received:

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Michael Appleton	Caroline Harding	Michael Daniell
Beth Knowles	Anne Dorman	Margaret Broadbent
Evelyn Bryant	Caroline Harding	Michael Daniell
Diana Edwards	Margaret Broadbent	Anne Dorman
Megan Carberry	Caroline Harding	Michael Daniell

There being no further nominations, those listed above were **declared duly elected**.

9. **Elections of Deanery Synod Representatives** – There are four vacancies for members to serve for a term of three years. The following nominations had been received:

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Diana Clews	Michael Daniell	Caroline Harding
Michael Daniell	Peter Bridges	Diana Clews
Mark Pyper	Michael Daniell	Wendy Sobey

There being no further nominations, those listed above were **declared duly elected**.

10. **Appointment of Sidespeople** – The list of sidespeople was read out and amendments were made as follows: John and Pat Waugh have stood down, and Ray Voss was added to the list. With those amendments, all the sidespeople were appointed, with thanks for all that they do.
11. **Appointment of Auditor** – Bill Edwards said that the service from Critchley’s had been excellent, and he **proposed** that they be re-appointed. This was **seconded** by Caroline Pepys and **passed** unanimously.
12. **Looking Ahead** – Charles told the meeting that Revd Professor William Whyte (a History don at St John’s College) would be helping at St Peter’s from late May (and also helping at St Michael’s on one Sunday a month).
Charles finished by thanking the clergy team and the congregation for their help and support, particularly since his recent diagnosis of Parkinson’s Disease.
13. **Any Other Business** – Nothing was raised.

The meeting closed with prayer.

CHURCHWARDENS’ REPORT

A great feature of life in St Peter’s Church is that there is such a broad range of people to be thanked for work done during the year. The list must include the bell ringers, the booking clerk for the parish rooms, the caretaker of the parish rooms, the church sitters, the coffee team, the fabric and finance committee, the flower arrangers, the *Flying Goose* team, the Net team, the sacristan, the servers, and the sidespeople and the welcomers. Special thanks should go to Julia Goddard who is a link for many of these activities.

The clergy at St Peter’s do so much not only to lead the high standard of worship but also to carry out pastoral work in the community. Thank you to Charles – and to Jane for your support – for all you do to lead the

team. During the year we have welcomed the Revd William Whyte as a non-stipendiary Associate Priest. William is a highly regarded professor of architectural history within Oxford University: at St Peter's he's already made his mark as an engaging preacher who is quick at learning names. We must note Viv Bridges' retirement from her full-time role. We're hugely thankful for all that Viv has contributed and we're very grateful for the time she continues to make available for the church. Jo's experience makes her contribution most valuable, and we also appreciate all that Tim does taking services. We are also grateful to Tony Lemon who, as a Licensed Lay Minister, offers so much to the life of the church. St Peter's continues to work as an enthusiastic member of the Summertown-Wolvercote Church Partnership. Collaboration in Cutteslowe is an example of the Partnership in action. There the attention our clergy and other Partnership clergy give to the monthly Pavilion services is appreciated, as well as the support we give to the work of St Andrew's Church in youth work in the area. With the Partnership there has been a focus on the issues of homelessness in Oxford, and during March there will be a Partnership Lent course. We should also mention that we work to strengthen existing links with All Saints' Wytham.

In the summer Bill Edwards stood down as Treasurer. We're grateful for all he has done in this demanding role. We've warmly welcomed Andrew Dorman who has identified key financial requirements for the future. There is much to be done to meet the increasing demands on our income.

It's important to note the new appointment of Christopher Fletcher-Campbell as Director of Music. In just a few months Chris has worked his way in, helping the choir, mastering the organ, and setting high standards for the music that has always played such a central role in worship at St Peter's.

The appointment of Anne Dorman as Children's and Families Worker has been widely welcomed, confirming our commitment to this important area.

It is with some relief we report that during the year additional and effective acoustic panels were installed in the Parish Room, and artificial grass was laid in the courtyard to provide an all-weather surface for the play group. Both were paid for by grants at no cost to the church. In October the War Memorial was one of a number in the country selected by Historic England for Grade II status. The memorial was dedicated on 7 August 1919 and was one of the first in Oxford.

The PCC has met regularly and helped frame strategy for our mission, as well as ensuring we fulfil legal requirements concerning safeguarding, employment law, and compliance with new data protection legislation. The PCC has also addressed the pressing need to strengthen the finances of the church.

During the year thought has been given to identifying our priorities as a church. Outreach to the community has emerged top of the list. This is set to become a significant and exciting challenge as major new housing projects are implemented within the parish.

Michael Daniell and Wendy Sobey, Churchwardens

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Those who served on the PCC during the year were: **Clergy:** Revd Charles Draper (Vicar), Revd Viv Bridges; **Licensed Lay Minister:** Tony Lemon; **Churchwardens:** Michael Daniell and Wendy Sobey; **Deanery Synod Representatives:** Diana Clews, (Michael Daniell also listed above), and Amanda Saville; **Treasurer:** Andrew Dorman; **Secretary:** Caroline Harding; **Chairman of Fabric and Finance Committee:** Kevin Minns; **Elected Members:** Clare Balme, Evelyn Bryant, Megan Carberry, Bill Clarke, Diana Edwards, Beth Knowles, Jack Sobey, Val Tate; **URC Representative:** Mary Horwitz.

The PCC met in May, July, September, November and January (with, at time of writing, one meeting still to come in March).

We have, of course, discussed routine affairs, such as building concerns and maintenance, but a lot of the work on these issues is done in other committees, freeing the PCC to discuss more central issues such as our services, outreach, pastoral care and the work with children and young people. However, this year we did have to address the fact that our expenses are rising and our income has dropped. We have agreed that there will be a Stewardship Campaign beginning after our APCM. This will include, for the first time, the option for members to agree to the amount they give being increased annually in line with inflation.

One particularly important and valuable exercise was when all members of the PCC were challenged to rank various aspects of the work of St Peter's in order of importance. The Team meeting had already undertaken the same exercise, and the results were, apparently,

remarkably similar. The results showed that the four aspects of the church's ministry ranked most important were:

Being a church for our local community

Nurturing our congregation

Prayer and spirituality

Learning more about our faith/Caring for the world (ranked about equally).

I would like to conclude with thanks to our Parish Administrator, Julia Goddard. She is a joy to have in this role because she is not only efficient and helpful, but she is always cheerful and kind.

Caroline Harding, Secretary to the PCC

DEANERY SYNOD

Since April 2017 there has been one closing meeting of the old Triennium (a celebration of the Eucharist at St Michael at the North Gate in May) and three meetings of the membership of the new Triennium. The Triennium got off to a poor start in July as elections of clergy officers were not possible because the House of Clergy was not quorate. However, that was compensated for by an excellent address from the Sub-Dean of Christ Church on how the cathedral combines support for the diocese while also hosting the 450,000 paying visitors that come to the cathedral each year. A joint synod in September with Cowley Deanery was an opportunity for Bishop Steven to outline his diocesan vision: *Contemplative, Compassionate, Courageous*. The synod in February heard updates on the Parish Share, the work of the General Synod, and the Oxford Winter Night Shelter.

The Deanery Synod provides an opportunity to meet members from other Oxford churches and to discuss issues of common concern. St Peter's is currently under-represented. Do consider whether you might join the team. Nominations are needed at the APCM.

Michael Daniell

STEWARDSHIP

The table below shows the income received by St Peter's during 2017 from donations made under the Stewardship Scheme with the resulting Gift Aid refunds. Our total donation income for the year under the

Stewardship Scheme was £63,215, and this was augmented by £1,784 from one-off donations made in the white and blue envelopes in the pews. The tax recovered from Gift Aid refunds and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS – see below) amounted to £15,921, which raised our total income from donations and gift aid refunds to £80,920.

In 2016 our total stewardship income was £82,417, so that our income of £80,920 in 2017 showed a fall year-on-year of £1,497. Encouragingly, this was substantially less than the drop of £5,661 from our income in 2015 to our income in 2016.

Donors		£	£
Pledged	tax-payers	57,500	
	non-tax-payers	<u>5,715</u>	63,215
Non-pledged	tax-payers	1,784	
	non-tax-payers	<u>0</u>	<u>1,784</u>
Sub-total			64,999
Tax recovered			14,821
GASDS refund			<u>1,100</u>
Total			80,920

Under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) charities are able to claim payments similar to tax refunds under Gift Aid, at the same rate of 25%, on individual donations of up to £20 in the open collection plate at church services. This Scheme runs with the tax year, so the refund of £1,100 shown above was based on donations in the collection plate received during the nine months from April 2016 and the first three months to March 2017, and it was received in April 2017.

Clive Williams, Stewardship Recorder

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The vision for Children's and Families' Ministry at St Peter's is to make the gospel accessible: taking the church out to the community and bringing the community into the church. St Peter's welcomes children and families into the church, providing a family-friendly event each week and a variety of outreach events.

Every month there is an All-Age **Family Communion Service** with an interactive talk, children and parents involved in leading the prayers, and an all-age choir to support a combination of contemporary and traditional music. Children's groups run on all other Sundays at the 10am service to include **Sunday Explorers** for children up to the age of ten years, and **Explorers Plus** for the older children.

Sunday Explorers runs weekly. There is a talented and reliable team of volunteer co-leaders: Beth Knowles, Megan Carberry, Cherry Douglas-Jones, Patricia Dass, Diana Clews and Teresa Woodbridge. Robin Lipsey also supports the music at some sessions and special events. We have thirteen registered children and 3-10 generally attend (we ask parents of children age 3 and under to stay). We are flexible in approach to suit the different age groups: we meet in the Old School Room from the start of the service for songs, games, art and craft based around a Bible story and simple prayer. The group returns to the church for communion and the children enjoy presenting their activities at the end of the service. We have new Explorers logo thanks to Val Tate and Nathan Shelton (Bread and Butter Creative Ltd).



Special events have included a **Families curry lunch** and fundraising event for Yasmina O'Sullivan, **Nativity Play** and Christmas Party and the much-loved **Children's Carol Service**.

Jane Draper runs **Explorers 10+ and Explorers 13+** monthly groups for older children including games, food, discussion and preparation for confirmation, and liaises with the Servers leaders, Jack Sobey and Peter Bridges.

Outreach includes:

- **The Explorers Christingle** on the last day of the school Christmas term. It was very well supported by church members including

Explorers leaders, St Peter's Net (Charlotte, Audrey and Lorna), Jess Richmond and Val Tate. Michael and Wendy were safety officers, Robin played guitar and Charles gave the talk to the children. Approximately 40 children with parents/ carers attended and we raised £47 for the Children's Society.

- **Mini-Explorers** on Wednesday afternoons is the church's drop-in stay and play group for parents and under-fives run by Leanne McClements.
- Charles regularly leads **school assemblies**.

A leaflet about children-friendly activities at St Peter's and Wolvercote Baptist Church is available and includes further information about the **Friday morning Toddler group** and **St Peter's Playgroup**.

Further Explorers' Events are planned for the last day of each full term when the school finishes early. Children and Families activities are planned for the Wolvercote and Wytham Festival and the Church Fete. We also hope to have a permanent Sunday Explorers display area in the Old School Room.

Anne Dorman, Children and Families Worker

ST PETER'S NET

St Peter's Net is a group that helps with pastoral care in the Parish. Hospitality is one of its functions.

In 2017 the Net hosted three lunches, which are always extremely happy events, providing a good opportunity for people to get to know each other better and meet those who go to different services. We invite newcomers to these lunches as a priority, but keep a list of when people come so that everyone on the Electoral Roll is invited on a rota basis. Members also provided refreshments after the Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance and the Remembrance Sunday Service.

Members of the Net try to keep in touch with the sick, those unable to get to church for some reason, and people going through a particularly difficult time. There is a group of members who meet to plan lunches and discuss how we can assist people whom we have heard are in difficulty or would like a visit from one of us.

We are well aware that many members of the congregation also keep in touch with those in need and we appreciate being advised about such people. Pastoral care is one of the most important parts of the ministry of the church and it is impossible for two or three people to do it by

themselves in a parish of our size, so we are extremely grateful for all that members of the congregation do.

Anne Harries

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

There are various opportunities for prayer in the parish. Our worship provides many such opportunities, and people often come in to light a candle and say a prayer when the church is open at the weekends.

The 'Exploring Spirituality' group led 4 meetings during Lent and 3 in the Autumn. One of the aims of these last 3 meetings was to try to discern what sort of meetings would be most useful to the members of our congregation and the wider community. We each try to deepen our relationship with God (pray) in our own way and so it is difficult to provide opportunities that cater for everyone, but the Exploring Spirituality group will be focusing on providing opportunities for meditation (including much silence), discussion, and exploring different styles of prayer. Our thanks go to Val Tate and Carol Binnie.

St Peter's Prayer Group meets faithfully once a month to pray for particular concerns.

In 2017 our Lent Quiet Day at the Cherwell Centre was led by Revd Canon Angela Tilby and was hugely appreciated.

We responded to the Archbishops' initiative 'Thy Kingdom Come' by making sure that there was an opportunity for prayer every day between Ascension and Pentecost, each with some focus on the Lord's Prayer. There are plans to do the same thing this year.

Planning and producing the Prayer Cycle has been handed over to the 'Early Birds' group – Anne Dorman, Beth Knowles, Diana Edwards and Philippa Gibbs. We are grateful to them, and to Evelyn Bryant, Margaret Williams and Lorna Logan for all they did to support the Prayer Cycle in previous years.

Our weekly and monthly intercessions lists are regularly updated (thanks again to Evelyn Bryant), and we take notice of names put up on the Prayer Board in church. We are always happy to receive requests for prayer, and members of the clergy are always happy to meet with

anyone who would like to talk about prayer – their own or what is happening in the parish.

We are very aware that many people in the parish spend much time individually in prayer – including praying for the needs of others. Prayer, however we do it, should be at the heart of our lives as Christians. Deepening our relationship with God strengthens us as individuals and is the true source of strength for everything we do in parish life.

Revd Viv Bridges

MUSIC AND LITURGY

Our main news this year has been the appointment of our new Director of Music, Christopher Fletcher-Campbell. We have been delighted to welcome Christopher and his coming has enriched our worship and our church life in many ways.

Perhaps the greatest change in our worship this year has been the introduction, in November, of monthly Family Communion services. We are grateful for the support of our Children and Families Worker Anne Dorman, Christopher Fletcher-Campbell, and our new All Age Singing group who have all helped to make these services a success.

After our Advent Carol Service this year, we bade farewell with many thanks to David Bannister and the Duomo singers who have supported this service for many years. From here on all the music for this service will be provided by our own Partnership Choir, and similarly our Choir at St Peter's will provide all the music for our Tenebrae Service in Holy Week – again our thanks to the Vespri Segreti who have supported this service in the past.

As always we are deeply indebted to many who support our worship and our musical and liturgical traditions at St Peter's, especially the choir, Caroline Pepys in her wonderful work as sacristan and in preparing our service sheets, Peter Bridges and Jack Sobey in co-ordinating and supporting the team of servers, the bell ringers, the flower arrangers, and those who look after the altar cloths and clean the brass, as well as the readers, the intercessors, the sidespeople, the church cleaners, and those who prepare the church for our services. We are also hugely grateful for all our ministry team, Viv, Jo, Tony and Tim, for their ministry of preaching and leading worship – and this year we have been delighted

to welcome to our team Revd Dr William Whyte whose contribution has been much appreciated.

Our Music and Liturgy at St Peter's is overseen by the Music and Liturgy Committee, consisting of Christopher Fletcher-Campbell, Viv Bridges, Jackie Eatock Taylor, Caroline Pepys, Clare Balme as Secretary and myself. Our thanks to all in this committee for all their detailed work in overseeing our music and worship.

Charles Draper

MUSIC & CHOIR REPORT

It was a privilege both to join the worship and music team in July, and to have the regular opportunity to play the wonderful Jennings instrument, a triumph of the organ-builders' art.

Choir members have continued to support the eucharists with their vocal leadership and communion anthems. Several members attended the RSCM Festival Service at St Helen's Abingdon in October, and re-visited most of the musical items for St Peter's choral evensong a couple of weeks later. The Advent Carol Service set an appropriate tone for a season of preparation with a mainly traditional repertoire; the Christmas Carol Service was enhanced by the helpful presence of most of the 'occasional' choir members and some new settings alongside traditional ones. By the time this report is read the choir will have contributed to the liturgies of Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter.

An initiative has been taken to facilitate exposure for the new organ: a monthly series of musical events, with retiring collections in aid of Wolvercote Young People's Club. Unfortunately, the first of these had to be changed at the last minute due to illness, but a hopefully entertaining series of concerts will continue through the year.

Jackie Eatock Taylor has continued her sterling work as choir co-ordinator, keeping the Director of Music in line and ensuring that all choir members are kept up to date with the schedule of practices and services. This has helped to secure a pleasing attendance on regular Sunday mornings. Thanks are due to all the choir members for their hard work throughout the year, and in particular to David Langdon for his welcoming support and deputising.

Christopher Fletcher-Campbell

SHAPING OUR VISION

The Shaping our Vision process has moved at a more relaxed pace this year, particularly at a time where we have been short staffed and prioritising making new appointments. However, there have been many very positive outcomes of the process, for example the launching of Home Groups in early 2017 and the start of Family Communion at the end of the year.

The work of the "Exploring Spirituality" group is reported elsewhere on page 14-15 above. Our thanks to Viv and all the members of this group for taking this forward.

The Social Justice group has also been very active. Three lent lunches took place in 2017, following suggestions and using material provided by Open Doors. Each lunch focused on a different country which has experienced extreme or greatly increased persecution and which has a special connection with a member of the congregation. The first lunch, focusing on India, had genuine Indian food generously cooked and donated by Shanti. At the next lunch Nigerian and Korean food was served after which we watched a very moving DVD about the plight of Christians in North Korea. Finally, at our third lunch we had Syrian food and learned that since the start of the Civil War the number of Christians has dropped from 8% of the population to less than 1%.

The Social Justice group has met twice during the last year and at the second meeting another Homeless Sunday service was suggested. Organised by the Partnership and held in the Wolvercote Baptist Church, this was a very well attended service: there were refreshments in the church hall followed by two formerly homeless people speaking about their experiences. Andrew Bunch spoke about the work of The Gatehouse and I explained what NOAAH has done. Our thanks to Diana Clews and all the group for taking these important areas forward.

In the autumn, we had two meetings consulting the Team and the PCC about our "Vision and Priorities". Both our Team and PCC independently arrived at the same conclusion that our top priority is "Being a church for our local community". A second priority which our Team believed should receive more attention is "Prayer and Spirituality". We therefore intend to prioritise both these areas across every part of our church life in the next couple of years, working in conjunction with the continuing "Shaping our Vision" process.

Our thanks to all who have been involved in Shaping our Vision and have contributed their enthusiasm in taking the process forward.

Charles Draper

SERVERS' REPORT

During this last year there have been a few changes to the team. Amelie Cooper is taking a break from serving for a while and we hope to welcome her back in the near future. Julien Godard has completed his Masters Degree at Sheffield and is now back home so will be able to serve more often. Congratulations to Martha Gutteridge for gaining a place at Imperial College, London. She will continue to serve in the vacation. We are grateful to Isabel Edwards and thank her for her extra commitment. She has now learnt how to prepare everything for the 10am service, look after the service, clear up afterwards and set up the 12 noon service. Serving is part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award commitments and therefore she is serving most Sundays. We look forward to welcoming Shadi Yanni as a server soon.

The 10+ and 13+ groups have been working well with many thanks to Jane Draper for the time and skill she puts in to making them enjoyable and interesting. These are not exclusive to servers and we hope others will join in.

We were delighted when one of our long-serving members, Joseph Rimmer, was married during the summer. Congratulations!

Finally, a warm thank you to Jack who now effectively oversees the Sunday services, leaving me to do the rota and be there on Sundays to fill in as required!

Peter Bridges

MISSION COMMITTEE

In 2017 the Mission Committee had over £11,000 to allocate, comprising 10% of all donations plus the money raised by the 100 Club. This enabled us to increase most of the donations to previous beneficiaries, and also to donate to additional charities. Priority was given to local organisations and to those with connections to members of our congregations.

Money was also collected in other ways, benefitting the Children's Society, Christian Aid, Mission to Seafarers, Open Doors, Project Trust, as well as others. As in previous years, members of the church have been very generous in giving their time, support and money to a number of charities.

Diana Clews, Chair of Mission Committee

Mission Committee – Donations 2017		
Charity	Parish Connection	£
Local Charities		
Asylum Welcome		500
Blue Skye Thinking	Diana Pemberton-Piggott	500
NOAAH (North Oxford Action Against Homelessness)	Diana Clews	600
Oxford Street Pastors		500
Simon House		500
Wolvercote Young People's Club		500
Oxford Winter Night Shelter		500
National Charities		
Children's Society	Beth Knowles	500
International Charities		
Anti-Slavery International	Diana Clews	500
Christian Aid	Paul Valentin and others	500
Mission Aviation Fellowship		500
Open Doors	Diana Clews	600
Papua New Guinea Church Partnership	Jo Coney	800
Shelter Box		500
Standing Voice	Caroline Harding	500
USPG		2,000
One-off Donations		
Blackbird Leys Church		500
Mekelle Youth Centre	Anne Dorman	500
Project Trust	Yasmina O'Sullivan	500
	TOTAL	11,500

THE FLYING GOOSE

An increase in unsolicited articles submitted for publication in *The Flying Goose* suggests an engaged and supportive readership. Such articles have covered the farm at Wytham, the work of NOAAH, the history of Wolvercote Lakes and the history of the Kidlington Gap *inter alia*. Most recently a crossword puzzle with both 'easy' and 'cryptic' clues was offered for publication.

Otherwise coverage of the commissioning, funding and building of the new organ culminated in a report on its dedication, and regular updates on the work of the Neighbourhood Forum and the Wolvercote Commoners encourage readers to stay abreast of this important work. We are indebted to Ann Spokes Symonds for her regular articles on local history and to Michael H. Stockford for his variously informative and entertaining pieces; and to all our other regular contributors. Valerie Barnish has helped the editor with proofreading this year, saving him from a number of egregious blunders.

The most recent edition has been published with four colour pages, which marks a welcome new development.

The voluntary distributors who post the magazine through every letterbox in Flying Goose Land are a crucial resource and I thank them, and my colleagues on the editorial team, on behalf of us all.

Stephen Drew

WOLVERCOTE BELLRINGERS

It has been another busy year for St Peter's bell ringers. The hand bell ringers have again increased the number of venues and community events they frequently play at and they also continue to expand the range of music they play; also, a set of 8 boom whackers has been added to the large collection of hand bells so this year may well see them mixing it up a bit.

Again, the tower bells have rung out most Sundays and for major church celebrations, including half muffled for the Remembrance Day service, as well as for 3 weddings and a funeral. We provided a band for most of the Christmas services and chimed "Twinkle Twinkle" for the start of the Carols for Kids service. Since the new year the Westminster chimes may also have been heard at around 8pm on a Thursday evening.

Our portable dumb bell simulator is still well utilised to teach learners and further the progress of our current ringers, and has made an appearance at the fete and the festival for a second time where, this year, we were live streamed by a person having a go, a first for many of us. In September the simulator also went to the village hall for a talk and demonstration to the WI about bells and ringing.

This year was our turn to hold the ODG's City branch AGM where our ringers did us proud. Ringers from around the city were not only able to enjoy ringing our bells but were also given the opportunity to try out our hand bells and have a go on our dumb bell simulator whilst enjoying a glass of mulled apple juice. This was followed by an impressive spread, provided by our ringers.

Enjoyment of ringing the bells has not been limited to the city branch: on two separate afternoons in October visiting bands, one from Gosport and one from less further afield, the Oxford University Society of Ringers, had a go on our bells.

Due to the many other ringing commitments, there have been fewer purely social events this year but the Christmas dinner was, again, enjoyed at the bowls club. This year we hope to have a few more strictly social events on our calendar, and we are currently considering bringing back the teddy bear zip wire for the fete, possibly with a few refinements.

Jonathan Beale

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Charles, Julia Goddard, Stephen Drew, Val Tate and, more recently, Caroline Pepys have been meeting regularly since early 2017 to consider how best to use our communication vehicles, e.g. *Partnership Link*, *The Flying Goose*, our website, to support St Peter's vision and mission. Our regular reflections have been very helpful in clarifying who our priority audiences are (i.e. our congregation and local community), what our key messages are (what we're doing), and how people can take part. We acknowledge that St Peter's is a diverse community with a variety of visions, each of which needs consideration when communicating what the church is and does in and around Wolvercote, Wytham, Cutteslowe and North Oxford. We've been able to identify areas where we are not communicating as effectively and have put plans in place to improve matters.

The group oversaw the revision of St Peter's Welcome leaflet about a year ago. We have considered how to effectively use social media, principally Facebook, to spread information about St Peter's activities in the local area. Our greatest, ongoing challenge is updating St Peter's website which has become infirm with advancing age and hard to revise. After considerable prayerful thought, we are moving forward: the text is gradually being edited, and a brighter and more illustrative visual appearance is in development. We hope this project will be finished within 2018. The congregation is encouraged to approach any group member with comments and suggestions about how and what the various parts of St Peter's are communicating.

Val Tate

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION GROUP

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) takes effect in May 2018. It replaces the existing Data Protection Act 1998 and gives individuals more rights and protection in how their personal data is used by organisations. Like any other organisation, St Peter's must comply with its requirements. Failure to do so may result in a large fine.

The underlying principles of the law include the requirement that all personal data – names, postal and email addresses and telephone numbers – must only be used for the purpose that the data subject (you) has been aware of and no other, without further consent. Data must be accurate, kept up to date and not stored longer than necessary.

Accordingly, from May 2018, you will need to give your consent *before* St Peter's is able to send you any further communications. You will have rights, including that of knowing how your data is used, what information is held about you, and the right 'to be forgotten'. The PCC is developing a Privacy Notice setting out your rights which will be available on St Peter's website or on request from the Parish Office.

You will find a Consent Form and return envelope inside the APCM envelope. Please read, complete and return the form as requested before the end of April. If we don't receive a Consent Form from you, St Peter's will no longer be able to communicate personally with you by post, phone or email.

For further information, speak to Val Tate (St Peter's Data Compliance Officer), the Churchwardens Michael Daniell and Wendy Sobey, or Julia Goddard (Parish Administrator).

Val Tate