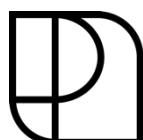


The Parish Church of St Peter, Bengeworth Annual Report and Accounts 2022

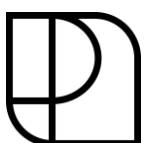


St Peter's
Bengeworth

www.stpetersbengeworth.org

Contents

Item	Page(s)
Incumbent's Report	2&3
Minutes 2021 (Annual Meeting of Parishioners and APCM)	4&5
Agenda 2022 (Annual Meeting of Parishioners and APCM)	6
Administrative Information	7
Objectives and Purposes Achievements and Performance Structure, Governance, and Finance	8&9
Ministry Review	10-19
Financial Statement and Review	20-END



Incumbent's Report

Sometimes it's not the things that are seen, but the things that are unseen that have the greatest significance...

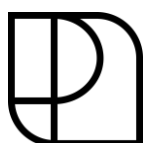
St Paul, when reframing the Church as the new temple described it as being '*built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone*' (Ephesians 2:20). Whilst in the book of Jeremiah it says, '*blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit*' (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

When looking at an impressive structure, little thought is usually given to the foundations underground; the hours of drawing up plans, months of work underpinning what would eventually come to be...Likewise, when we stare up in awe at the canopy of a 500-year-old oak tree, we can barely imagine the work the colossal root system is doing beneath our feet to sustain such a huge living organism.

At first glance, neither foundations nor roots appear to be particularly impressive, and yet without them neither stable structures nor fruitful trees would be possible.

In Autumn 2021 St Peter's celebrated 150 years since our church building's foundation stone was laid. I took this as a prophetic sign that the following year or so would be about laying foundations for growth. My hope was that we could prioritise 'building well', not necessarily 'building fast' and as such, whilst much of the work that's happened throughout 2022 hasn't been particularly visible, I do believe it's been incredibly important and as a result, we're beginning to see some real signs of growth and new life. Here are some of the foundational changes we've made:

- At the start of 2022 **our weekly prayer meeting was launched** by Tim Clack with Pete Rowell supporting. I have been immeasurably encouraged by this on the occasions when I've been present and believe that this has become a crucial 'engine room' for all that we do at St Peter's. In a time where there seems to be much to be anxious about, I think of the words of Paul in his letter to the believers in Philippi which says: '*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*' (Philippians 4:6-7).
- **The Ministry Support Team (MST) was established** early in the year which now effectively operates as the 'staff team' of St Peter's. In order for this team to be established, the PCC has also had to change the way that it works. I'd like to thank members of the PCC and MST for being flexible, adaptable, and open to working in a new way. I am confident that this new leadership structure will bear long-lasting fruit.



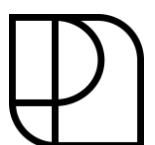
- In January 2022 **Kim was appointed** as our Ministries Coordinator on a 15 hours per week contract to underpin much of the administration of the church. This is a challenging role with Kim having had to self-train and teach herself new skills (along with navigating some challenging Church of England processes!!!). She has done an amazing job dealing with funeral, baptism, and wedding admin along with leading so much positive change related to communication (website, Instagram, Facebook, weekly mailer, TV notices in church, and way more). As things have developed, we realised that we needed more capacity in this area so the PCC supported increasing her contract to 20 hours per week. This has already had a significant and positive impact on how much we are able to do...Thanks Kim!
- **We've made changes to our baptism policy** so that all baptisms now take place at the 11am service and we also offer Thanksgiving Services (sometimes called Dedications) on Sunday afternoons. This has been well received and means that baptism families are now better prepared, and the offer of Thanksgiving Services gives people who are 'explorers' an option to celebrate the birth of their child without making the huge promises associated with baptism.
- We've greatly **strengthened links with both local C of E Primary Schools** continuing to host them for many special services throughout the year. We've also run the first 'Exploring God' course (a bit like children's Alpha) as an after-school club at Bengeworth Academy.
- **We've launched our first two Life Groups** which act as focal points for discipleship, fellowship, and pastoral care and there are plans to launch a daytime group later this year.
- In Autumn of 2022 **we ran a pilot for Alpha**, predominantly inviting members of St Peter's to try it for themselves. This was well received and well attended and although we didn't have enough people to run a course in the Spring, I have no doubt that Alpha courses will gradually become a core part of our missional strategy going forward.

There are many other ways in which I think we've put down good roots for growth but there are too many to list here. I'm so thankful for everyone that's supported the work that's taken place over the last year, and I'm looking forward to all that is coming in the future. I'm so aware for the need to discern the future direction together; to collectively seek God for his vision of who we can become as a community, doing what we can to practice the way of Jesus. I have every confidence that exciting times lie ahead.

Hold on tightly (to Jesus) everyone!...

Every blessing,

Andy (Curate in Charge)



Parish of St Peter, Bengeworth Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes Sunday, 15th May 2022 at 3.30pm in Church House.

Attendance: was 34 plus Revd. Andy Smith in the chair.

Opening:

- o Andy welcomed those attending and explained the roles and responsibilities of Churchwardens and of PCC members.
- o Apologies were received from Carole Thomson, Julian Bomyer, Marie Bomyer, Chris & Emma Pettifer, Tim Clack, Heather Uncles, Michael Grylls, Julie Westlake, Kim Gunn and David & Janet Osborne.
- o Prayer and a variety of items people felt thankful for were shared; such as the renewal project and the gradual emergence from the pandemic.
- o The approval of the minutes of 25th April 2021 was proposed by Jenny Law, seconded by Sandra Cockram and agreed unanimously.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Thanksgiving:

- o Andy expressed a massive thanks to Dave Cockram for his work as warden over the last year and especially for all his help with making the vicarage ready last summer.
- o Marie Bomyer was recognised again for her tireless work particularly during the pandemic before she stepped down as a warden last autumn.
- o Tim Clack was thanked for his work after being elected as a warden in January 2022.

Nominations:

- o There were 2 nominations for Churchwarden for 22/23:
David Cockram & Tim Clack. They were duly confirmed in office.
The approval of the minutes of 25th April 2021 was proposed by Jenny Law, seconded by Sandra Cockram and agreed unanimously.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The approval of the minutes of the 25th of April 2021 was proposed by Lucy Vincent-Davis, seconded by Dave Cockram and agreed unanimously. There were no matters arising.



Electoral Roll:

o Wendy Coles, electoral roll officer, confirmed the numbers on roll as 90, with 67 residents in the parish and 23 non-residents.

Treasurer's Report:

o Mike Freer, Treasurer, presented a few thoughts on the audited accounts (published in the Annual Report) and offered to answer any more detailed questions afterwards.

o He noted that the telecommunications aerial in the spire uses a lot of energy for which we are reimbursed.

o Mike has managed to obtain three-year utilities deal for the parish. Although costs are higher than before, this will provide some protection against the soaring cost of energy.

o Andy expressed his thanks to Mike for his work on behalf of the parish. A view endorsed by all those present.

Thanksgiving:

o Andy thanked members of the current PCC for their welcome to him and the support & challenge which they give.

o He particularly thanked Anne Malpass who had reached the end of her term of service.

Elections:

o There were 3 places for 3 years available for lay representatives to serve on the PCC.

There being only one application proposed and seconded, Steve Bramley was confirmed on the PCC.

o Elections for Deanery Synod representatives will take place in 2023.

o It was proposed by Steve Bramley, seconded by Mike Freer and agreed unanimously to appoint Boyd's of Worcester as the parish's independent examiners.

o The process of appointing a new organist will be discussed at the next PCC meeting.

Questions:

o Andy invited questions from the floor. These concerned:

→ the use of the lectionary

→ the possible reinstatement of the second reading at 9.15am

→ improvements to the weekly sheet

→ the possibility of Evensong

→ the growth of youth work.

These are all under consideration.

Reflections:

o Andy closed the meeting with a reflection on how far the parish has come in the past year towards 'making Christ visible in Bengeworth' and a few thoughts about the year to come.

o Everyone who was present then enjoyed a cream tea



Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 2nd April 2.00pm at Church House

Agenda

Welcome, Introduction, Apologies and Worship

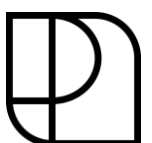
Annual Meeting of Parishioners

- 1). Approval of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly the Vestry Meeting) from 15th May 2022
- 2). Election of Church Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1). Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting from 15th May 2022
- 2). Matters arising from the minutes
- 3). Receipt of the Annual Report and Accounts 2022 and the Ministry Review
 - a) Electoral Role Report
 - b) Treasurer's Report
- 4). Election of lay representatives to the PCC
 - a) Election of PCC representatives
 - b) Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
- 5). Appointment of independent examiners for the year to December 2023
- 6). Questions?
- 7). Curate In Charge's Report

Closing Prayer



Administrative information

Curate In Charge

Revd Andy Smith, 1 Broadway Road, Evesham. WR11 3NB.

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC, 50 High Street, Evesham. WR11 4LX.

Independent Examiner

Boyd's Chartered Accountants, 20 Sansome Walk, Worcester. WR1 1LR.

Architect

Stephen Sedwell Esq. Stephen Sedwell Architect Ltd. Grove Hill House, 30 St Anne's Rd, Malvern, WR14 4RG.

PCC Membership 2021-2022

Wardens (one year term)

Timothy Clack (elected 2022)

David Cockram (elected 2022)

Deanery Synod Representatives (three year term)

David Cockram (elected 2020)

Heather Uncles (elected 2020)

PCC Members (three year term)

Sandra Cockram (elected 2021)

Michael Freer, treasurer (elected 2020)

Peter Moore (elected 2020)

Jane Richards (elected 2021)

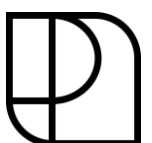
Revd Andy Smith, (Incumbent and chair from 19th September 2021)

Julie Westlake (elected 2020)

Simon Cooper (Co-opted 2022)

PCC Secretary

Kimberley Gunn



Objectives and Purposes

Our primary objective and purpose is laid out in our vision statement:

‘Making Christ Visible in Bengeworth’

Colossians 1:15 describes Jesus as *‘the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation’*. In other words, when people see Jesus, they see God. It is therefore incumbent upon the Church to point people to Jesus in order that they might ‘see’ God and enter into a loving relationship with him. Whilst this is the mission of the Church globally, our expression is local, primarily to the people of our parish, and for this reason Bengeworth is the main focus of our mission to the world.

Achievements and Performance

Details of our achievements and performance for the year 22/23 can be read about in the Ministry Review.

Structure, Governance and Management

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. PCC members are appointed in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All committed members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to consider standing for election to the PCC. The Parish of St Peter, Bengeworth, is a parish in the Pershore and Evesham Deanery within the Diocese of Worcester.

The PCC is responsible for health and safety, safeguarding, child protection, and prevention of discrimination. The PCC is responsible for supporting the clergy in promoting the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical in the parish. The PCC also has responsibility for the upkeep of both the church building itself and of Church House on Broadway Road.

The PCC delegates some business to other groups:

Standing Committee

Comprised of Church Wardens, Treasurer, stipendiary clergy, and two PCC members (nominated by the PCC). It is responsible for making certain decisions on behalf of the wider PCC, particularly decisions that are required urgently but have been agreed in principle by the PCC and who have duly authorized the Standing Committee to make a final decision.

Ministry Support Team (MST)

The MST was created out of a desire to have a dedicated team made up of a diverse group of people that would enable and empower the church in ministry and mission whilst



freeing up the PCC to focus on broader strategic activities more typical of a board of trustees. The team is responsible to the PCC and was established with unanimous backing from the PCC early in 2022.

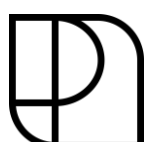
The MST has responsibilities including but not limited to:

1. The planning and delivery of seasonal service programmes, drawing in and working with other people across all congregations to do this.
2. Planning and organising one-off events.
3. Working with the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Ministries Coordinator to ensure the day-to day safe recruitment and training of volunteers.
4. Planning and organising social events such as quiz nights, pancake parties, youth and children’s activities etc.
5. Co-ordinating pastoral support for members of the congregation in times of need.
6. Developing and implementing structures and programmes for enriching discipleship, learning and community (i.e. small groups, marriage courses, parenting courses, Freedom in Christ etc.)
7. The planning and delivery of evangelistic courses such as Alpha, Pilgrim and Christianity explored and other mission and outreach activities.
8. Communication, including keeping the website and all social media platforms up-to date, the production of regular printed communications including the pew sheet and church magazine, the design and printing of banners, posters, postcards etc. for events and seasonal services.

MST membership

The membership of the MST was appointed by the incumbent with approval from PCC. People were selected based on their character, role(s), gifts, and experience and their ability to carry out the activities required. The team is large enough for a diverse range of skills and knowledge to be present in the room, but small enough to be dynamic in its ability to make decisions. The MST at St Peter’s is currently:

<p>Andy Smith – Incumbent Dave Cockram – Warden Tim Clack – Warden Chris Pettifer – IT, Tech, Worship Emma Pettifer – Life Groups, intergenerational worship</p>	<p>Simon Hill – Youth and Children Julie Westlake – ALM, Worship Jane Richards – ALM, Worship Kim Gunn – Ministry Support Peter Rowell – Prayer Lead</p>
--	--



Ministry Review

An Initial 'Thank You!'...

I know I said this last year but it's hugely important so...

- Thank you to everyone who cleans, hoovers, dusts, tidies, and puts kneelers away...without you, our wonderful church would be a dirty, messy, health and safety hazard. Because of you, it's a wonderful space where people can come and meet with Jesus, safely and with joy. Well done good and faithful servants!
- Thank you to those who care for our grounds and gardens and look after the amazing outside space we have. It is beautiful and you all keep it that way. You are amazing and so appreciated.
- Thank you to anyone involved in putting together beautiful flower displays, setting up Easter gardens and nativity scenes. The seasons just wouldn't be the same without you.
- Thank you to anyone that's ever served a cup of tea or coffee or biscuits or cakes. We all know that the church is fuelled by prayer, but it also runs on coffee...lots and lots of coffee (praise God for his bountiful provision!)
- Thank you for anyone who's ever guided one of our children in how to read the Bible, led a youth activity, sung a song, strummed a guitar, set up sound equipment on many Saturdays, attended a prayer meeting, played an organ, preached a sermon, joined in enthusiastically and positively with a meeting...(oh, so many meetings Lord!), or just managed to make it to church on a Sunday and join in with something when they're tired, anxious or depressed, and struggling.

Church just wouldn't be the same without you.

Andy Smith

Safeguarding Statement

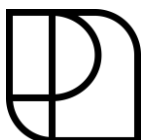
The PCC of St Peters Church, Bengeworth, is aware of its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. In 2022 the PCC will be using the "Safeguarding Toolkit" provided by the Diocese as a way of self-assessment to seek to ensure it fulfils that duty.

Safeguarding Report

I was appointed to the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Peter's in May/June 2022. Since taking up the post I have completed the Church of England safeguarding training requirement up to leadership level. I have attended several Diocese Safeguarding meetings and found the team at Worcester very helpful and supportive.

Due to the Covid Pandemic much of safeguarding requirement for St Peter's was out of date. People in existing roles requiring repeat DBS checking have now been checked as well as those who are new appointees and those in newly created posts, since the planting team arrived.

I have been in touch with many of you to inform you about safeguarding training requirements. Many thanks to all those who have replied and completed training.



It is everyone's responsibility to be aware and vigilant of safeguarding issues. Some training is available online and some is via zoom. At other times, in-person training is available such as the one St Peter's hosted in March this year. Please note, I have no way of checking when people have completed their training so PLEASE! PLEASE! can I ask you to let me know when you have completed training so that we can keep our records updated. All those in leadership roles are required to train to at least foundation level and renew training every 3 years but I would encourage anyone who volunteers to do some basic awareness training so that we make our church a safe place to be. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any safeguarding worries or want more information.

Julie Rowell (PSO)

Electoral Roll Report

The electoral roll currently has ninety-six people listed. Since the previous revision of the electoral roll at St Peters Church there has been an increase of six people. The percentage of non-resident members has also slightly increased, with thirty-three now listed. The number of parish residents currently stands at sixty-three.

Prayer

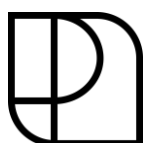
In Ephesians 6:17-18 we read:

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people”.

As members of the Body of Christ we are called to pray. St Peter's prayer group has been meeting for over a year now with a regular faithful number (8-10) gathering each Tuesday evening at 7:30pm for an hour. It is almost unknown for us to finish by 8:30pm and more often than not it is closer to 9:00pm. Prayer times have been varied from very quiet sessions to times when it has been difficult to break in a pray due to the way that the Holy Spirit is leading us. Although we may start with a scripture reading and a brief chat about particular issues for prayer, we leave it open for the Spirit to lead our prayers.

One of our major themes has been praying for protection for leadership and all those who are part of the fellowship and that the Lord would accomplish all that He desires within the church and throughout the town. We have seen prayers for healing answered and other prayers where we possibly sense the Lord saying “be patient.. not just yet”. God's timing is perfect. We look forward to welcoming more of you to join us in this friendly, open and informal dedicated group. Prayer can be exciting ... honestly!!

Pete Rowell



Worship at 8am

The 8.00am service on Sundays is a very quiet one using the language of The Book of Common Prayer. It is very reflective time and calm time. It lasts about half an hour and is supported by about eight to ten people every Sunday. They are a very friendly group and support each other fully.

Julian Bomyer

Worship at 9.15am and Choir

The format of worship has continued largely unchanged over the past year with communion taking place on the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays and Julie and Jane continuing to lead Morning Praise on 2nd Sundays. I've hugely appreciated the support of everyone who has contributed through reading, interceding, and helping with communion and it's been great to welcome Phil Cooper onto the preaching rota!

Andy Smith

Morning Praise

As mentioned above, second Sundays are 'Morning Praise' - a service with no Eucharist, which can be conducted by non-ordained people who have undertaken some training. Many of you will know that Julie Westlake and I are both Authorised Lay Ministers and that Julie is now nearing the end of her Licensed Lay Ministry (Reader) training.

As its title implies, this service consists of hymns, readings, prayers and a talk. I have greatly enjoyed being part of this worship and have been considerably challenged by some of the titles for talks, especially since Andy arrived! I feel that this has deepened my faith and certainly increased my knowledge.

This all sounds rather selfish on my part, but Julie and I really hope that the congregation also finds the experience of this worship meaningful and fulfilling. The format for these services, with changes appropriate to each church season, originally arose from a collaboration with Hampton, Sedgeberrow, and Hinton chaired by Revd Nick Wright, which still continues. I know that Julie joins me in expressing thanks for your support for this ministry and we look forward to welcoming you on the second Sunday each month.

Jane Richards

Choir

It has been an eventful year for the choir, but I am delighted to report that we are continuing to enjoy our singing and holding together as a cohesive group. We have been very sorry to see the departure of a few long-standing members, reducing the alto line somewhat, and of course the retirement of our organist, Keith Biggin after 14 years at St. Peter's. The PCC are committed to actively pursuing the appointment of a new Organist, but this is not an easy task. A good church organist is a rare find, but we do have an excellent instrument for them to play. In the meantime, we have got to grips with music for hymns via Spotify.



We are delighted to welcome Keith back on the second Sunday in the month and to have recruited Ken Pawson, who has rekindled his organ skills and plans to play for us once a month. Thank you, Ken.

The choir are in good heart, I think, and fully supportive of the music at the 9.15am service. If you would like to join us, you would find a warm welcome. Just have a word with Andy or me. Remember, singing is good for you, mentally and physically!

Jane Richards

Worship at 11am

Worship at 11am is about encountering God through sung worship, hearing from God's word, prayer, and breaking bread together as family. The current pattern of worship is that the young people are in their groups on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month meaning the young people get to have a great time with their leaders at Church House and there's time for more in-depth teaching in the church. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays, everyone is together with communion being celebrated on the 2nd Sunday.

There's increasing diversity among the people preaching, reading, praying, and leading sung worship but it would be great to widen this further in the coming months. God is so good all the time and it's great when worship in all its forms is led by a diverse group of people!

Andy Smith

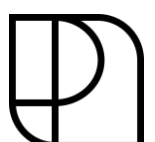
When we gather at church our focus should always be on giving Glory to God and making space for the Spirit to move. Singing is one way we can do this but resourcing this can present some challenges! The Sound system is now fully functional but requires some tidying up so in the coming months the Sound Desk will be moved near the back of church and housed in a new cabinet. This will make monitoring the sound far simpler and will mean the chancel area can be less cluttered.

This year we bought a brand-new drum kit in faith that God would provide a drummer and within a couple of weeks Greg Chick appeared! It's been great to have some percussive backing to fill out our music. In addition, Rob Anstey has joined the team who is a gifted pianist and we've bought a suitably decent electric piano for him to use. The cost of the sound system, cabinet, drum kit, and electric piano has all been covered by the resourcing church fund, so St Peter's hasn't had to foot the bill for any of this praise God!

With the band growing, it's hoped that we can have a full band at least once per month and as more people join in, it's hoped that this can become even more frequent.

The list of songs we use is a mixture of some very new and some older ones and we're constantly reviewing and updating it. Our hope is that the songs are theologically rich whilst also being great musically and that they lead us all closer to the heart of the Father.

Chris Pettifer



Midweek Communion Services

On most Wednesdays, this gathering includes 10-12 people – some who are also Sunday regulars and some for whom midweek at 10am is a more accessible time. We are grateful for these opportunities to support one another pastorally and to share concerns and needs for prayer, as well as being nourished in Word and Sacrament. As with the rest of the Church family, we are now offering Communion in both kinds, but encouraging those who are still wary of sharing the common cup to slip back to their places after receiving the bread.

The service is usually ‘said’ (although occasionally we sing a hymn on a saint’s or Feast day!) and can feel more intimate and meditative than our main Sunday services. Since returning after the Covid hiatus, we have met in the nave – so people could keep their distance. But we are going to experiment now with a return to the north chapel – which provides a circular, and less cluttered space.

There are some of us still considering how the church might be open more often during the week, and it may be that offering some simple refreshments after these Wednesday services might be an option in this regard.

If you haven’t tried a Wednesday morning service, you might find it a refreshing addition or alternative focal point of nourishment on your Christian journey. Lent can be a good time to try a new pattern or fresh commitment as we seek to draw nearer to God, but you would be very welcome any Wednesday.

Nick Wright

Children and Youth Report

Groups for Children and young people continue to operate on the first and third Sundays of the month. All children of school age are invited to join us to walk over to Church House for a time of games, craft, Bible reflection and prayer. We regularly have between 8 and 10 children at each session and have recently enjoyed a series looking at the fruit of the Spirit, during which we’ve also eaten a variety of fruit snacks.

In the last year, it has been wonderful to add Hillary Earnshaw and Debbie Smith to our leadership team. They join Claire Hill, Jane Richards, and myself. Two of our regular members, Phoebe Smith and Tom Hill have become junior leaders, taking responsibility for organising much of the Sunday morning activities as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

We are just at the point of considering how we engage our Youth beyond Sundays, beginning with a trip to the Unite youth event in Worcester at the beginning of March. Please pray for our children and young people, that they might grow towards a full and living faith in Christ.

Simon Hill



Administration

During the past year, I have been working to improve administrative practices at St Peter's church in several ways. The main aims have been the reduction of waste, the introduction of more efficient processes, and enhanced communication.

I have consciously worked to decrease the paper waste produced through administration. Wherever possible records are now stored through secure digital methods and duplication of prints is kept to a minimum. Similarly, only essential posters and notices are printed. It is recognised that a section of the church members prefer communication through printed methods or are unable to access online resources. The pew sheet remains an important means of disseminating information.

The implementation of increased digital communication has enabled faster transmission of information and supports efforts to become more eco-friendly. Since April 2022, there has been a significant increase in the number of church attendees signing up for digital communication. A newsletter email is now sent to subscribers with weekly updates on church activities, along with additional event information and urgent notices as required. We are also now using digital sign-up methods for church events. This streamlines the booking process, reduces time compiling data, allows for better communication and real-time updates on attendees.

I have also been working to improve the social media presence of the church. Updates on big events are now regularly posted on the St Peter's Instagram account and a new Facebook page is being set up. We have also created a YouTube channel for creating videos related to church activities and will increase the variety of content this year. The TV screen in church now also has regular updates, including a welcome screen and notices.

The St Peter's website has also undergone changes to become more user friendly. After valuable feedback from church members the printed weekly Pew Sheets are now available in an online archive. Other notable updates include new webpages for Church House, upcoming events, and regular groups. The website is still very much work in progress, however after recently being granted additional administrative hours, there will be more time for development going forward. Thank you to all of you who have been so welcoming and helpful during my training period in this role.

Kimberley Gunn

Church House

2022 has seen several changes in the running of the Church Hall. In July 2022 the pre-school who had operated from the hall for many years closed its doors and no longer operates from the hall. In addition, Shine out of School Club also found an alternative venue. The hall is now available during weekdays and the Committee are hopeful that new classes and groups will start in the near future. Hall booking enquiries can be made via the St Peters website or by calling 01386 48936.

Regular maintenance is ongoing, with a new partition to separate the boiler room from the Ladies Cloakroom being fitted and repairs to the flat roof to stop water ingress.



After many years of service on the Hall Committee, the Treasurer, Secretary, Chairman, and Mike Freer, are hoping to step down when replacements can be found. The committee wishes to thank them all for the loyalty and support to the hall in keeping the community asset a viable concern through very difficult times.
Thank You.

The Hall Committee

Julie Westlake, Janet Osborne, Carol Thomson, Mike Freer, Chris Green, Dave Cockram, Heather Uncles.

Care Home Ministry

As we look back over the last year, many of the restrictions and precautions we had to take have now been eased, worship has become much more relaxed, and we are able to mix with residents once again.

Visiting the Hawthorns Care Home in Evesham has been difficult due to outbreaks of COVID and other illnesses so the regular visits which we used to make have not been possible. Apart from our Christmas visitations, which have been one offs, we have not been able to restore regular services after the COVID outbreak, mainly because there was no Activities Co-ordinator to liaise with. The lady recently appointed is on maternity leave so perhaps when she returns, we shall be able to visit for worship more frequently. It has not been possible to join in a service of Holy Communion due to the restrictions and the wearing of masks.

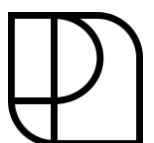
We are welcomed at Cavendish Park Care Home each month where we join with staff and residents in worship following the calendar of the Church year. A short service of Holy Communion follows the first act of worship and is taken quietly in a small area for residents, and although we have only just been able to reintroduce this, after three months it is growing in numbers and for all who come it is very important to them.

Quite a lot of the Cavendish Park residents had belonged to a church before coming to the Home so appreciate our being able to take the sacrament to them once again.

I would like to thank the Reverend Nick Wright for all the work he puts into these occasions making it a very meaningful time for all residents, carers, and helpers. Thank you to all helpers who have come along serving so willingly over many months.

As members of St Peter's Church, we are guided to bring the joy of the Lord to The Hawthorns and Cavendish Park. Other Care homes in Evesham are under the support of a church in other areas of the town. May God bless and give peace to all residents and carers, and may all homes and communities be seen as compassionate and caring.

Sally Ashton



Schools Ministry

I've continued to get to know the young people from the two C of E primary schools on our 'patch' and have spent time with several classes supporting the schools RE curriculum, explaining the meaning of the Christian faith and helping to make Christianity accessible and relevant. The children regularly visit St Peter's and it's a great (but slightly mad!) sight, seeing over 500 children in the church at a time!

I'm on the board of governors at both schools with Simon Hill being a governor at Bengeworth Academy whilst Jane Richards and Cathy Awadzi are both governors at St Richard's. St Richard's recently had a fantastic SIAMS inspection (like the C of E equivalent of Ofsted, but with a focus specifically on how the Christian faith impacts the culture of the school and the learning of the children) and was graded 'good' overall but with the impact of Collective Worship being describes as 'Excellent'. This is a great result for the school and is indicative of a lot of work by the staff but also of the great support from St Peter's.

In the Summer term, Andy and Emma Pettifer ran an afterschool club called 'Exploring God' which gave 11 young people an opportunity to hear and discuss the claims of Christianity and to respond to the good news of Jesus if they wanted to take things further.

Andy Smith

Life Groups

Life Groups are still at the early stages of getting together, but relationships are building which is great! We have 2 groups lead by Julie and Peter Rowell and John and Margaret Darby who I would like to take the opportunity to thank. As leaders they have gone through a training programme I wrote and have had many discussions over the structure of the groups. They have all embraced the challenge of leading Life Groups and are amazing, putting their energy into these groups and doing life together with the people within the groups they lead. Both groups have around 9-10 people in them, and they spend time regularly eating together, worshipping together and building relationships as a group.

Both of our Life Groups meet on different days around two or three times a month. As leaders we all meet together, sometimes with Andy Smith to have some training, pray together and share ideas. We have already had one of these meetings which has gone well and outside of this, I regularly check-in with the leaders, seeing if all is okay and if anything is needed or if they would like to be prayed for.

Our Life Groups are using this structure to frame their gatherings:

Welcome – Each time groups meet they eat together - this doesn't have to be onerous, and everyone can share in preparing something

Worship – This can be done through a song, psalms, poem etc...

Word – Bible study and other reading

Witness – Life application for the week ahead

Wellbeing – Listening to one another, praying for each other.



This is going well, and our leaders are using the structure flexibly so that it works in their context.

It would be great to have more leaders for Life Groups as I have around 5 people waiting to be allocated a group that would suit them. We're looking at establishing a daytime Life Group next but also possibly another evening group. It is fantastic to see Jesus already at work within these groups, bringing generations together across the whole church family and building relationships too!

Emma Pettifer

Buildings and fabric

This is an abbreviated version of events and activities involving the Building Team Subcommittee from the last APCM to the time of writing.

Bostock Room/extension roof: Since the last APCM report the Bostock room experienced further water ingress during a spell of exceptionally heavy rain despite the roof having been 'fixed'. The roofing company returned in January 2023 to rectify the issue and we are hopeful that the worst of it has now been fixed. The corridor, Bostock Room and toilets will all be refurbished this year as the church increasingly needs to be able to use this area so any further issues that materialise can hopefully be dealt with in isolation whilst keeping the area useable.

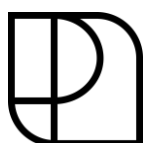
Spire: Since the last report:

As agreed, Dawsons have acquired the necessary materials for the netting of the spire, which we have paid for.

We have been advised that a faculty will be required for the netting of the spire which has caused some delay. A meeting was held involving Peter Moore, Dave Cockram, Andy Smith Mark Carter (Diocesan Church Buildings Officer) and Archdeacon Robert to discuss the delay in issuing the faculty documents and move things forward.

Our Architect, Mark Evans, has advised us that he has decided to adjust his workload with a view to retirement in a couple of years' time. He has therefore decided to reduce the number of churches to which he is appointed as quinquennial architect. Given that the spire works haven't progressed for a couple of years, and we don't currently have any other projects in hand, he has decided to notify the PCC that he will be withdrawing as our church architect. He suggests that there is a six month notice period in case anything arises in the next few months. If the PCC decide to appoint another architect, then he would withdraw to suit our timetable. We therefore will now have to appoint another architect. We will consult the Diocese regarding the correct procedure, and any preferred architects they may have. We need to do this as soon as possible to be able to source quotations for the full structural repair of the spire from recommended specialist contractors. We will ask the new architect to effectively act as Project Manager on our behalf.

As we were expecting to be able to proceed with the netting before the end of 2022, we



did not commission any further surveys to confirm the condition of the spire.

Given the subsequent developments noted above it is now considered desirable for a routine survey to be carried out at an early opportunity, with particular reference to any change in the lean/movement of the upper part of the spire.

As time passes, the matter of the repair of the spire becomes ever more urgent - this is not just a question of the maintenance of the structure, but also crucially important from the point of view of public safety. There remains the potential for a serious accident which must be removed as a matter of very high priority. As part of forward planning, it should also be borne in mind that the church may have to be closed for some time during the works.

Peter Moore and Andy Smith

