

*St Peter's Church
Abbots Morton*



*Annual Report
2018*

St Peter's, Abbots Morton Annual Report 2018
"To show our love for God and You"

Incumbent

The Reverend Richard Thorniley MATS, BA
The Rectory,
Station Road, Harvington,
EVESHAM WR11 8NJ

Bank

Lloyds TSB
19 High Street
EVESHAM WR11 4DQ

Independent Examiner

Christine Adkins
North Pines,
Grange Lane,
HARVINGTON WR11 8NL

Church Architect

John Middleton

Churchwarden

Kevin Clarke

Musical Leader

Lynne Pemberton (pianist)

Lay Service Leaders

Terry Brewster,
Lynda Payne, Colin Pemberton

Eucharist Assistant: Lynda Payne

Sides persons: the PCC

Number on Electoral Roll: 14 (December 2018)

Average Weekly attendance: 9 Adults; 1 child

Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council of St Peter's, Abbots Morton is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission. It aims to cooperate with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church... pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical (PCC (Powers) Measure 1956)

Members

Incumbent	The Reverend Canon Richard Thorniley	Chair
Churchwarden	Kevin Clarke	Lay Chair
Deanery Synod rep	Vacant	
Elected members	Lynda Payne, Lynne Pemberton, Colin Pemberton, Peggy Clarke, Roma Jones, Terry Brewster.	
Treasurer:	Terry Brewster	
Electoral Roll Officer:	Lynne Pemberton	
Honorary Secretary:	Colin Pemberton	

Review and thanks for the year 2018

I would first like to thank all those people in the parish who diligently and willingly lock and unlock the church on a daily basis. It is important to us that the church is always open for anyone to talk to God, whether in formal services, in private prayer or quiet contemplation. That so many are prepared to be on our unlocking rota is a heartening sign of a community giving to others and our thanks go to Lynda Payne for her work in gathering people together onto the locking rota.

It is a shame that we need to lock the church at all but everyone appreciates the need for security, and during this year there have been instances of metal thefts at churches elsewhere in the Diocese. We consider ourselves fortunate and we thank all those who keep a vigilant eye on any suspicious activity.

People are the church and many have served God diligently in the parish of Abbots Morton. One of them is Terry Brewster. Terry has been the Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council for many years and also given quiet, unheralded service behind the scenes, whether it be putting on the heating ahead of services or sweeping the aisles and footpaths and generally assisting the churchwarden in tasks that needed doing.

Terry had forewarned for several years that he would be giving up the Treasurer's post. We would like to place on record the PCC's thanks for his dedication and diligence over the years in making sure that St Peter's always paid in full its Parish Share and was always in financial health.

Audrey Dunstone indicated at the annual meeting of the PCC last year that she was standing down from the PCC after many years and, in this report, we pay proper tribute to all that she has done. Her wise observations and comments at PCC meetings have been invaluable; she assiduously ran the Flower Fund from which we send flowers to anyone in the parish who has been in hospital for whatever reason. Sadly, Audrey is leaving her home on Goom's Hill very shortly to live in her brand new apartment at Wood Norton, near Evesham. When she's there, we hope that she will enjoy the farewell gift from the PCC expressing our gratitude. She will not be able to escape us as we visit her in her new home and we wish her well in the next phase of her long and richly rewarding life.

Roma Jones has completed a year on the PCC and become a valued and active member, not least taking on the running of the Flower Fund.

Floral arrangements continue to be a feature of St Peter's but they don't just happen. Peggy Clarke does a tremendous job in organising the Flower Rota, as do the many people on the rota who produce very attractive floral displays. Our thanks to you all.

We are extremely fortunate to have the services of Lynne Pemberton as our church musician. Her skill on the Clavinova is much appreciated by everyone and her reflective pieces at the end of services are an added delight. She has also proved to be an effective and keen Foundation Governor at Church Lench School.

Last, but not least by any means, we are indebted to Kevin Clarke for his service as Churchwarden. On top of his "day job" it can be onerous at times, looking after the

maintenance and smooth running of the building and the other responsibilities the position of Churchwarden brings. Kevin does it uncomplainingly and, this year in particular, he has worked closely with the Rector and the church architect, John Middleton, on the current project to replace the drains and the guttering to eliminate the damp which is intruding into the walls.

The drainage project, costing almost £10,000, is vital to the future of the Grade 1 listed church building. The current concrete-lined drains were installed in the 1950's and are now breaking down. They will be replaced by a "French Drain", a soakaway system more in keeping with the ancient building and more sustainable in the long term. Plastic guttering will also be replaced with a cast iron system similar to that in place in previous times. Work is expected to be carried out this summer.

Much of the cost will be met from the church's own Reserve Fund which will be severely depleted as a result. £3000 will come from a bequest in the will of the late Cyril Burton who stipulated that his gift was to be used for the benefit of the fabric of the church. Abbots Morton resident, Gill Barker, is also happy to let it be known that she has donated £1,500 to the project in memory of her late husband, Geoff.

Although there is no formal fundraising scheme, it's hoped that parishioners may look favourably on the French Drain project and appreciate its vital importance to the future of the church building. The Rector, Rev Richard Thorniley, will be very happy to speak to anyone who may be considering a donation.

After that, we will be able to concentrate on the long-awaited project to realign and improve the steps leading up to the church by the main notice board. A lot of preparatory design work has already been done by our architects and a Faculty application will be made in the near future. This project will cost in the region of £9,000.

So, fundraising for the church is more important than ever and we were pleased that both of our principal events... the Flower Festival Lunch and the Harvest Supper... were very successful. Admission prices for the Harvest Supper rose for the first time in more than a decade but it didn't affect the attendance and with the second Great Harvest Raffle it made a profit of £1,463.

We pride ourselves on paying, each year, the full amount of our "Parish Share"...the amount we are obliged to send to the Diocese to pay for the salary and pensions of the Clergy. After much debate, we agreed to join "Fairer Shares", a new scheme aimed at making more equitable the amount each parish pays. Under the new system, our share for 2019 is marginally lower at £8,581 instead of £9,001.

Services

The Remembrance Day service was particularly special this year, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War 1. It was particularly poignant to see young children ringing our bells as part of a worldwide bellringing to mark the occasion. Our thanks go to Terry Brewster for leading the service. A large congregation enabled us to donate £250 to the Royal British Legion.

The lay-led Mothering Sunday service was another well attended service, as was the Carol and Gift Service where turnout was the highest for a decade with many toys and gifts going

to Action for Children. Carols on the Green saw some new faces joining in Carol Singing and a collection of £77 went to swell our Flower Fund.

The Christmas Eve communion service was also well attended with 45 in the congregation.

Clergy

During the year, we welcomed Rev Chris Sheehan as our new, part-time, non-stipendiary Curate. He has actively sought to discover as much as he can about people in the parishes that make up the Diocese and he is a regular leader of our services at St Peter.

And we say thank you to our Rector, Rev Canon Richard Thorniley, for his enthusiasm and never-ending cheerfulness. We wish him well on a three-month sabbatical he is taking in 2019 from Mid September to the end November. He'll be making a pilgrimage to Santiago He'll be making a pilgrimage to Santiago di Campostella and will visit Australia and New Zealand, where he'll visit our former Curate, Rev Steve Jordan.

The North Avon Group (NAG) is now well-established as the umbrella group for the four parishes that make up the ARCH Benefice together with the churches attached to Inkberrow.

The number on the church electoral roll stands at 14 as of December 2018

Other Points to Note

The Europe-wide General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force on May 25th 2018 and a good deal of work was put in to ensure we complied with its requirements.

Dog poo problems appeared in the churchyard and elsewhere in the village and the Parish Council has now installed a Poo Bin on the village green next to the phone kiosk.

In a move towards Eco-sustainability we now use disposable compostable cups when we serve teas and coffees after some services. The old ceramic cups, saucers and plates have gone to a worthy home in Alcester... for sale in the Headway charity shop.

And finally, the number of people who been to our church and made complimentary comments about it over the years has been so great that we have needed this year to buy a new Visitors' Book. A glance through the old book shows just how far people have come from to visit our village and our church.

We look forward to another challenging year ahead and trust that God will encourage and enlighten us in whatever we do.

- *Colin Pemberton, Secretary, St Peter Abbots Morton PCC*

Annual Financial Report:

Expenses: Payments to Clergy and Organist were up hugely from £100 to £927. Normally, this is around £400 but we hadn't been sent a bill from Harvington for two years, so, effectively, we were paying double this year. Organist payments were two lots to Margaret Ballard.

The other big rise was churchyard maintenance, up from £666 to £1,170. This increase was mainly from a £720 bill for tree felling. The quota (parish share) was up from £7,442 to £9,001...this was under the old system. Next year, under the Fairer Shares system, it will fall to £8581. Professional fees of £2,287 were for work on the French drains and guttering, mainly to Nick Joyce architects and to Mercia Drains.

Income: We had a big tax return of £2,076 which had been reclaimed over the past two years. In a normal year it will be around £600.

In summary, we had £5,300 of exceptional expenditure items, offset by increased returns of tax, leaving a deficit of £4,022, substantially more than the previous year.

It's predicted that for next year we will have an income around £10,000 and Expenses around £11,500, producing a deficit around £1,500.

Deanery Synod report

Our first meeting took place at Harvington 18th February and the main speaker, the first in series of Chaplains was Andy Green lead Chaplain for Worcestershire Health Care Trust Group.

He told us of the breadth of his work, which covers 15 different sites across the County. He has set up a growing band of volunteers who come from Christian and other major faiths to provide pastoral support for patients and staff. There is a growing appreciation of the importance of Spiritual support to all those involved in the Health Community. Chapels are in the process of being revamped in all the hospitals to provide sanctuary and space for reflection to all. Worcestershire is unusually supportive of the Chaplaincy service.

A meeting of the Evesham Deanery Synod was held on 15th May at Sedgeberrow Church. The main speaker was Alison Maddocks, Stewardship Officer for the Diocese. She explained that stewardship is at the heart of discipleship. Stewardship involves hosting, welcoming and taking care of people and buildings, as part of God's work. She suggested some features of Christian giving.

At this meeting details were agreed of the highly successful Bishops' Mission Weekend held on 15-17th June 2018.

On 17th October, the Synod was held at Cookhill Parish Church. Robin Lunn gave a verbal report of the General Synod held in July 2018. This involved a wide range of issues, from a possible strengthening of the relationship between the Methodist and Anglican Churches, to the Church's view on fossil fuels and nuclear power.

The main speaker was our Archdeacon, the Venerable Robert Jones, on the topic Buildings for Mission. He explained that although churches are 'sacred spaces,' church buildings might be used in a much wider range of activities to serve local people. He also encouraged PCCs to keep on top of maintenance of church buildings which would reduce the need for some major repairs later on.

- *David Battin*

Safeguarding Report

The Parochial Church Council has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

There have been no safeguarding concerns reported in the last twelve months.

One person in this Parish submitted a DBS check during 2018 and was returned clear. Currently, there are no renewals required until January 2021.

Twenty-three volunteers from the Benefice as a whole attended a Safeguarding Awareness Course at Harvington Baptist Church on 5th March 2018. Many people commented on how useful and thought provoking it was. Safeguarding Awareness should be refreshed every three years.

- *Jill Francis, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

Annual Churchwarden's Report

St Peter's Church seems to have come through the past twelve months fairly well, without any real issues.

Our main fund-raising events, i.e., the Flower Festival and the Harvest Supper, went well. A big thank you to Lynne and the team who all worked so hard to put them on.

We owe a big thank you to the following people:

1. Richard for leading us and putting together the services, etc., plus Janice, Chris and Ruth.
2. All who put together our lay-led services.
3. Lynne for playing the clavino.
4. Colin for all the work you do as church secretary.
5. Tim and Terry for all the work you do as church treasurers, plus I would like to especially thank Terry as he steps down, for all his work over the years.
6. Margaret for ensuring that the church yard always looks tidy and for organizing the grass mowing contractors.
7. Linda for organizing the Locking Rota.
8. Peggy for organizing the Flower Rota.
9. Viv for the cards.
10. Roma for organizing flowers for people who are ill.

It would be good to get the French drain sorted and a few electrical faults sorted; both are in hand.

Our Parish Share quota is quite alarming and quite concerning for the future.

Finally, on behalf of the P.C.C., I would like to thank all the people of Abbots Morton and Goom's Hill, and the surrounding areas, for their support throughout the year. We all very much appreciate it.

- *Kevin Clarke , Churchwarden*

