

**HOLY TRINITY
MINCHINHAMPTON
with
ST BARNABAS at BOX**

**ANNUAL REPORTS
CHURCH COMMITTEES
AND
ORGANISATIONS**

APRIL 2018 - APRIL 2019

2018/2019 APCM Rector's Report – Howard Gilbert

As the new rector (of only a couple of months) I thank Sandy Emery for writing a separate report about the year past, and now write this report myself, in addendum.

First, thank-you to everyone who has been involved in keeping this parish running in vacancy, as well as those who have worked so hard to put in such good foundations for the future of many years. In particular, it is such a joy to be working in such a beautiful looking and sounding church and to be a part of imagining how to use more of its potential.

And secondly, I am very excited to be a part of the next chapter here. Building on what has gone before, and focusing on some areas that aren't functioning as well as they might be, we are just agreeing on the following parish priorities:

- Paying our full parish share
- Encouraging young people to worship with us
- Renewing our liturgy and worship
- Developing excellence in pastoral care
- Developing our spirituality in new ways
- Engaging in mission to our community (both in outreach but also, hopefully, with in-drag!)
- Being as welcoming as we can be to people from all different backgrounds
- Opening up our church building to the community and in parallel, opening up our congregation to be “church” in the community.

Work has already begun in addressing our financial challenges, and in the coming year we will endeavour to get back on a sound financial footing in a number of ways that are still to be teased out. However, the stewardship committee and Mike Smith from the diocese will meet to plan for the future and the PCC will also be trying to cut costs. It is my hope that by the 2020 APCM we should be paying our full Parish Share again.

Renewing our work with young people has also just begun and our priorities in this area are:

- Sunday School
- Story Time for pre-schoolers during the sermon and intercessions
- An All-Age Planning Group
- Children's Choir and Fun Club to go with it
- Youth Group (possibly working with Amberley)
- A summer Parish Camping Weekend

We certainly live in interesting times, and I am confidently expecting that we shall be living in very fruitful times in the months ahead.

The Assistant Priest's Report - Sandy Emery

Mission:

Mission is about taking God's love out into the community and engaging with people to share in that love.

Examples of mission over this last year has been through the work of reordering where people have taken great interest in what has been happening in the church. Many have come to have a look and comment positively of what they have seen. Fund Raising has also attracted a great deal of support from the community, resulting in a real buzz as to what we are trying to achieve. This was really evident at all our fund raising events.

Relationships across the benefice:

Continue to flourish and there have been shared services and social events around festivals, especially Trinity, harvest, confirmation service and preparation, shared Lent groups and Lent lunches.

The Benefice ministry team have worked in collaboration this last year during the vacancy and all have contributed so much to the ministry and preaching at services across the Benefice. This has enhanced the richness of our worship experiences, with all willing to travel to churches across the Benefice. Benefice team meetings are held every 6 weeks and this has enabled good communication and ensured that we worship and pray as a team.

Churches Together in Minchinhampton, Box and Amberley (CTMBA) include the Anglican, Methodist and Baptist churches who meet every other month to share ideas and pray together. We shared an act of worship at the dawn Easter day service on the Common, and informal gatherings at the Hub and Porch Room and at Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial and an informal gathering in Christian Unity week.

Work with Families and Young People:

All Age services continue to be well supported and Messy church continues to thrive with increasing numbers.

Junior church continues to struggle with low numbers of children attending on Sundays and with only a couple of people willing to lead it.

Building up our family and children attendance on Sundays is a long-term project that the new Rector will address.

Minchinhampton school - We continue to have a well-established partnership with the school in leading assemblies (Collective Worship) every other week.

The School Services at Easter, Harvest, and Christmas, were held in the church and the School Leavers' service in July last year welcomed the children and families back to the church after reordering.

Experiences such as Experience Harvest, Christmas and Easter continue to be offered. The challenge in the future will be having enough people prepared to undertake the commitment of setting up stations and then teaching the children during their visits.

Occasional offices: weddings, baptisms, funerals:

We did not have any weddings in the last year due to the Rector's decision to suspend weddings during the reordering year. This coming year there are only 3 weddings booked so far.

We continue to hold Baptism preparation sessions engaging with the Christian faith. A new initiative has been introduced this last year to help to engage with parents and their children and maintaining contact with them. We have been giving a knitted teddy bear to those being baptised and will be inviting the families to come back to church for a teddy bear's picnic this coming summer. There are also plans in the future to develop a baptism team for support and follow-up.

This last year there has been an increase in Funeral ministry and the retired priests have thankfully helped undertake funerals. It is hoped that there will be a possibility of setting up a bereavement group to help with the aftercare clergy give already.

Communications:

We have an excellent website thanks to our Webmaster Mike Gwilliam who endeavours to keep it up to date with our events. This last few months we have been proactive in highlighting our events on Twitter.

This last year has seen our dedicated Parish Magazine editor Angie Ayling continuing to offer the high standard of producing our magazine. We continue to be grateful to Wizzy Lapping and her term of dedicated distributors who ensure our news is delivered to well over 900 households.

Pastoral work:

The Pastoral Care Team (PCT) under the leadership of our Reader Linda Jarvis continues to be a real asset to the life of our parish. Their hard work has enabled us to be aware of the needs of most people. However, the PCT still relies on individuals being vigilant in reporting concerns to them.

Prayer life: Worship and learning:

Worship is about celebrating God's love and remembering the times when we may have failed to do this. Asking for and getting the opportunity to start again in celebrating God's love with all is not just on Sunday, but on every day of the week. Enabling people to explore and commence their spiritual journeys in faith and love with God and eventually to share their faith journeys with others, must continuously be one of our goals.

STATUTORY REPORTS

Parochial Church Council - Jamie Dalrymple Hamilton (Hon Sec)

The Parochial Church Council comprised: The Rector, Revd Sandy Emery, Mandy Jutsum (Church Warden), Howard Browning (Church Warden), John Jutsum (Hon. Treasurer), Jamie Dalrymple Hamilton (PCC Sec.), Mary Codling, Julian Elloway, Catherine Francis, Christine Gibson, Michael Gwilliam, Ian Jarvis, Linda Jarvis, Jackie Natt, Margaret Sheather, Peter Petrolito and Alison Whittaker. It met nine times. Catherine Francis, Christine Gibson, Peter Petrolito and Alison Whittaker were elected at the 2018 APCM and Julian Elloway was elected during the course of the year. **The Standing Committee comprised:** The Rector, Mandy Jutsum and Howard Browning (nominated Wardens), John Jutsum (co-opted Treasurer) and Jamie Dalrymple Hamilton PCC Secretary. It met eleven times. For the majority of this period (Vacancy) meetings of both the PCC and the Standing Committee were ably chaired by Mandy Jutsum.

The PCC were invaluable in the support they provided to the Clergy and Church Officers during this period and were actively involved with many important decisions involved with the running of your Church, particularly during this crucial phase of the Re-ordering. On behalf of the congregation I would like to extend to them our grateful thanks for their time and commitment. The Minutes of PCC meetings are available for inspection at the Church Office or in the blue ring-bound folder in the Porch Room. It should be noted that the Minutes are only deposited once they have been approved at the subsequent PCC meeting eg the Minutes for the January meeting will only be deposited after they have been approved at the February meeting of the PCC.

As your PCC Secretary I am in the privileged position of seeing how much work goes on behind the scenes to make sure everything runs smoothly. Indeed it has been calculated that some 300 'volunteers' are involved in different roles within the church in any one year. A truly humbling figure. It would be quite impossible to single out everyone for the special mention that they deserve, but they know who they are and a big 'Thank-You' from all of us.

Finally this APCM marks the retirement from Office of two individuals whose names really do deserve special recognition - Ian Jarvis and Howard Browning. Ian is standing down from the PCC having completed his latest stint of three years. It is not widely known, but this was the third occasion he has served as a member of the PCC and he has also been a Church Warden at Holy Trinity in the past. His general knowledge of all matters to do with the Church, his enthusiasm and commitment are an example to us all and he will be greatly missed at forthcoming PCC meetings. Howard as we all know has with his co-warden, Mandy Jutsum, been responsible not only for steering us through the Vacancy but crucially played a fundamental part in

making sure the first phase of the Re-ordering came through on budget and on time. Throughout this potentially fraught period, his calm measured approach and seeming unflappability whatever happened or in some cases did not happen, was quite exceptional. His successor will have a very difficult act to follow, but we are indeed very fortunate that we will still have Mandy Jutsum as our senior Warden to provide continuity with John Jutsum continuing as Treasurer.

Electoral Roll - Jackie Natt (Electoral Roll Officer)

Why do we have an Electoral Roll is a question I am often asked as your Electoral Roll Officer? Quite simply it is our Parish Church's register of electors who by being recorded on it, are entitled to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), where the elections take place for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the parish's representatives on the Deanery Synod. By enrolling you become a voting member of the Church of England and help to ensure that all the Church councils are fully represented of its members.

A new Electoral Roll is required every six years. The old one is scrapped so everyone has to re apply afresh, regardless. This exercise has just taken place. Please note we take our General Data Protection Responsibilities very seriously indeed in this respect. The only people with access to the Roll apart from the Electoral Roll Officer, are the Clergy.

As you will appreciate over the next six year period many Parishoners circumstances will change and in that event, it would be an enormous help if the Electoral Roll Officer could be notified, so that the Roll can be kept as accurate as practically possible.

Fabric - Howard Browning (Church Warden)

2017-18 saw the main part of the initial phase of re-ordering of Holy Trinity. The most disruptive part – the replacement of the floor with a modern multilayer structure incorporating structural layers, heating elements and a limestone surface suitable for long-term use in the church – has now been completed. In the process, the leaking drain under the nave was replaced, and the foundations of the pillars holding up the roof were strengthened. The overall result was a drop in humidity from 85% to around 50%, and a drop in heating bills despite the higher ambient temperature in the church. This stage was almost complete at the time of the last APCM, but was finally completed shortly into the new PCC year. This milestone was celebrated in late April with a service presided over by Bishop Rachel, the Bishop of Gloucester, and attended by the Princess Royal, Princess Anne, who took time to be introduced to the building team, and met people attending the service.

Protecting the Past: The main reordering project had concentrated on the nave, chancel and Lady Chapel. Work was now needed to refit the Sacristy and Choir Vestry: these were upgraded in several stages during the year. The sacristy was refitted with a new range of cupboards made by a local carpenter, redecorated, and specifics such as the positioning of the safe, were all arranged and completed after discussion with users. Similarly, the Choir Vestry was upgraded and decorated after discussion with the choir. A project to upgrade, repair, and modify the floor to the

doorway at the back of the Choir Vestry, together with the outside door to the bell-ringing chamber, has been sanctioned, and work is in progress.

In the nave, large cupboards made of oak-faced MDF were built to accommodate storage of the chairs, with further storage cupboards above: the choice of MDF may have a small beneficial effect on the acoustics of the nave. A project, sanctioned by the PCC but not yet completed, uses the masons who rebuilt the floor to reposition the ancient cross slabs (gravestones) on the walls of the baptistry. One will be repositioned from the floor of the Lady Chapel, and one has been outside the east end of the church for some time – a permanent position, vertically on the wall, will preserve these important slabs for the future. The opportunity will be taken to reposition the name-plates from tombs disturbed during the 1973 building of the Porch Room onto the nave wall, and to place a plaque registering the bishop's service and the visit of the princess.

Lighting, particularly in the nave, has become important during the year. The general idea of converting to dimmable LED lamps was seen as an opportunity, which would repay itself in lower running costs in quite a short period. In the event, the high-level spotlights could not be LED, and were/will be replaced where necessary. The globe lights in the nave can and will be replaced by dimmable LED's, since a number had shown signs of burning out, though the dimming mechanism will also need changing from the existing ballast system.

The re-ordering programme has thrown up that we have several items of furniture that we do not need, altars, rails, chairs, etc. A faculty has been agreed with the diocese to recycle these items in as efficient a way as possible, seeking demand from other churches as appropriate.

In the churchyard, there was a very successful pruning and tidying up session in the autumn, worked on over two days by a record number of people – much established, and is consistent with a national document recently published, with a forward by the Prince of Wales. A proposed memorial garden, located in the middle of the churchyard, has been further discussed with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and its representatives.

Preserving the Present: A project to improve the audio and visual performance of the main part of the church was undertaken when funding was available – the funding specified that it should be used to this end. A faculty was agreed with the diocese. Three potential companies were identified, with the help of the UK branch of world-wide company, DB Audiotechnik, based in Nailsworth, who thought only those three were capable of the project. One of them, DMMusic, was chosen. Their priority was to improve the audibility of the spoken word, since this was seen as particularly important given the resonance of the overall space. This was re-measured, and shown to have become more resonant with the re-ordering (not surprisingly), though this was decidedly improved when an audience was in place. DMMusic fitted a series of speakers to the church, linked to the wiring laid into the floor, radio microphones, and a control panel permanently sited in the baptistry. When in use, this has been shown to improve the sound of the spoken word, such that some parishioners have heard the sermons for the first time in at least a decade. DMMusic were also charged with installing a projector and screen – the projector being of the long-throw type placed

above the control panel in the west end of the nave, and the retractable screen being sited behind the rood screen. Though this has been used on a limited number of occasions, it seems to work well.

Only one major project remains from Stage 1 of the planned re-ordering programme: the entrance. The re-ordering faculty has been extended to December 2019 to allow this to happen. Planning permission is needed from Stroud District Council, and detailed designs are being submitted: the plan is for a glazed entrance replacing the current, damaged doors, a partition separating the toilet and kitchen facility from the doorway, and a pyramidal roof light over the centre of the new entrance. Funding is not complete, but is well-advanced with more than half the £50,000 having been found, but that needs to be completed before building can commence, using the same architect and builders used in the main part of the re-ordering.

Planning for Posterity: The 2017 Quinquennial pointed to the replacement or repair to the large south and east windows, within a period of the next 2-3 years. The refurbishment of the organ, largely associated with the renewal or replacement of the action between keyboard and pipes, is scheduled for the time of the 5-year period covered, ie by 2022. There is currently no funding for either of these, but grants may be available from specialist trusts to boost any money raised locally.

The current re-ordering project is attracting attention, as it is seen as very successful, both for its religious significance, and for its ability to raise funds for the future of the church by its flexibility to enable other events, such as the choral concerts, wine tasting, quizzes and history lectures already promoted. We have already been approached for advice by South Woodchester, and visits by groups of people from churches also considering re-ordering projects, from Painswick, Northleach, Lechlade and Wokingham, are scheduled to date. Others may follow, recommended by companies we have used, and others who have visited.

Deanery Synod - Margaret Sheather

The Deanery Synod has met three times (as usual), during 2018, with a mix of regular business and visiting speakers and discussion. The following speakers provided briefings on work at local, diocesan and national level that led to questions and discussion.

- Noel Sharp, Regional Co-ordinator for Christian Aid, updated us on the work of this major charity including two new initiatives: ‘Salt’ – the Christian Aid Business Network, bringing together business leaders in a movement to unite the strengths of faith and business to tackle global poverty; Global Neighbours Schools Project. Further information about both can be found on the Christian Aid website.
- Revd Pauline Godfrey, Diocesan Vocations and Discipleship Officer spoke about Whole Life Discipleship – how we live out our faith seven days a week.
- Rachel Howie, Diocesan Director of Education, gave an interesting talk about developments across the diocese and there was a very lively discussion about how parishes are already linking with their church schools in a range of ways.

- Barry Voyce from “The Door” youth charity in Stroud introduced a new project “Illuminate” which aims to support Christian young people in secondary schools to be confident in their faith, through a range of group work.
- I spoke about General Synod and the range of work it covers, which prompted the Deanery to put forward a motion to Diocesan Synod about improving the process for appointments to parish clergy vacancies. This led to a lively discussion at Diocesan Synod and linked in to work that was about to start in the diocese to look at these processes.

The Deanery was very pleased to welcome a number of new priests:

Revd Kate Stacey, Team Rector for Stroud team

Revd Sue Murray, Vicar of the Bisley Benefice

Revd Caroline Bland, Vicar of Nailsworth benefice

Revd Canon Howard Gilbert, Rector of Minchinhampton with Box &

Amberley

Revd Liz Palin, Team Vicar in the Stroudwater team

There have also been several new initiatives developing in the deanery to implement the diocesan LiFE vision in our area.

Deanery Synod has reports at each meeting on the payment of Parish Share. It is a challenge for many parishes to meet their allocated share, but it is crucial that this effort is made as this is how ministry in parishes, across the deanery and the wider diocese is sustained.

We need to elect a new Deanery Synod representative at this APCM to replace Linda Jarvis who is standing down after many years.

Annual Report and Financial Statements - John Jutsum (Hon. Treasurer)

Report available separately

COMMITTEE REPORTS

St Barnabas Church, Box - Colin French

As always this reports begins with our expression of gratitude to the clergy who conduct our weekly services and are very grateful when the rota allows them to spend ten minutes or so with the members of the congregation after the service and join us in a cup of coffee. (Coffee and biscuits is served on the second and fourth Sunday of each month) We were also delighted to welcome our new Rector on his third Sunday with a mini version of the cake enjoyed on his first Sunday at the Parish Church. We are also very pleased to welcome some new members to the village and to our congregation which ranges from twelve to sixteen for a normal Sunday service.

During the year we have overcome the shortage of pianists which we experienced in the previous year. We now have a full team to cover each Sunday throughout the year. When holidays or illness interfere with the monthly rota we have discovered that we can happily sing unaccompanied very tunefully (provided we know the hymns and agree on which tune we are using).

Christmas and Easter as ever are highlights within the year when the congregations are swelled by villagers, visiting friends and relations. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held on the Sunday before Christmas, and was led by Linda Jarvis. The service was very well attended, the church being full to capacity. This year we were able to reconvene our Ladies Choir which was accompanied by Vivienne Taylor and directed by Elizabeth Rogers. All the mince pies provided at the end of the service were consumed, though there was a little mulled wine left!

Our particular thanks are due to Sarah Moseley and her team of flower arrangers. Flowers appear and decorate the church throughout the year. Sarah is always seeking additional helpers to join the rota through out the year We are also indebted to the quiet and dedicated group of volunteer brass polishers and sacristans who ensure that everything is in order for the services. Our thanks also go to Beris and Jacquie Hanks who ensure that the church is opened and locked each day.

The St Barnabas Committee usually meets three times a year and we are always looking for additional members to support our work throughout the year. The re-gilding of the spire which was mentioned in last years has not yet been put in hand. The quinquennial inspection, due last year was delayed, but has now been completed and received. Fortunately, the report does not highlight any major problems, other than the work on the spire which we hope we will be able to address in the coming months.

Worship Prayer and Spirituality Committee - Margaret Sheather (Chair)

The Committee has met regularly through 2018, continuing its regular review and planning of all the services across the year, the weekly routine, the major festivals and the special services. Some key points noted in our meetings have been:

- The previous Rector's reflections on developments in worship during her time with us.
- Discussions relating to the arrangements for worship as we returned to the church, particularly managing the Holy Week and Easter services before the whole building was fully available.
- The particular success of Messy Church on Good Friday and the need to adapt Good Friday timings to enable it to be held in church rather than the Porch Room.
- Trying to re-establish "Experience" events, as the School values them very much.
- Continued difficulty in staffing Junior Church.
- Prayer vigils have continued successfully through the year.

Otherwise it has mainly been a matter of sustaining existing work while we awaited the arrival of a new Rector. We look forward to working with Father Howard to take forward the way we worship together and provide new opportunities for others to experience and develop their spirituality.

Stewardship Committee – Tim Mowat (Chair)

The following were the members of the Stewardship Committee: Tim Mowat (Chairman), The Revd Sandy Emery (Associate Priest), Peter Lapping, John Jutsum (PCC Treasurer), Mandy Jutsum (Church Warden), Geoff Lloyd (PCC), Pat Swift (Recorder).

In 2018 receipts were below forecast by £820. A further seven stewardship givers have converted to the PGS scheme during the year. The Stewardship campaign of the autumn of 2018 was a muted affair because of concentration on the 6P's appeal to fund the reordering. Our 2019 forecast returns (actual figures for 2018 in brackets), are:

Number of regular contributors	- 174	(192)
Total pledged incl. Gift Aid	- £117,205	(£116,277),

For 2019 we hope to raise the profile of Stewardship during a campaign this Autumn. We hope to increase the number committed to the Parish Giving Scheme.

Use of the parish database has helped the work of the Stewardship Committee in communicating effectively both with the Diocese and with parishioners. For GDPR purposes, we contacted all parishioners to remind them of the details we hold on file, and to ask them to confirm that we may hold those details for communication purposes. As a result we now hold up to date contact details including email addresses for most givers of stewardship donations.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, Tim would like to thank all who have supported the churches over the past year, not only with their money but also their time and talents. The committee members are grateful to you all. We are pleased that the 6P's Appeal has achieved the success that it deserves and are grateful that extra giving to the 6P's Appeal, has not impacted support for our living church more drastically.

Pastoral Care Team (PCT) - Linda Jarvis (Co-ordinator)

There are seventeen lay people on the Pastoral Care Team who regularly visit parishioners from the Minchinhampton and Box communities. Of these seventeen, eight can take communion to the housebound. A warm welcome to Louise Thomas who has recently joined the team, but during the year we have had to say goodbye to three of our longstanding members, Julia Gerard, Peter Goodwin and Sheila Goodwin. These three visited parishioners on a regular basis with Peter and Julia able to give Home Communion. Julia also helped Linda with the monthly communion service at Horsfall house. All three are sorely missed.

The PCT has met on four occasions during the year, at the last meeting our new Rector, Howard Gilbert was welcomed, and Louise Thomas gave us a talk on Anna Chaplaincy. Our next meeting will be chaired by The Rector when we will be discussing the pastoral needs of the parish.

Linda wants to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Pastoral Care Team who have worked incredibly hard during the past year.

Please phone Linda Jarvis on 01453-884545, if you know of anyone who would like a visit.

For your information I have listed below all of those who are currently DBS checked and are on the PCT.

Paul Boon	Linda Jarvis	Cheryl Ritter	Lyndsey Swift
John Walden			
Anne Brookes	Judy Lucas (Box)	Sarah Rogaly	Louise Thomas
Mick Evans	Jackie Natt	Margaret Sheather	Alison Whitaker
Christine Gibson	Gill Price	Jo Smith	Roy Wilson

Hospitality and Social Events Committee- Nich Rutherford (Chair)

The year has seen a small increase in activity following the completion of the Re-Ordering, highlighted by the dedication service in April 2018. In total the number of events for which the committee provided support and/or refreshments was twenty-two and the later in the year once again included concerts. Because the latter tend to attract the larger and supportive audiences, they usually generate funds for the church against the costs involved. In the past this surplus has comfortably covered the cost of events hosted by the church for which no donations were received. It is intended that the extent of 'no donation' events will be reviewed during 2019. Of the twenty-two events mentioned three were privately funded, eight received donations and eleven were 'no donation' (including three exceptional to 2018). As ever, Benefice events were held

with the hosting church providing the main organisation and with reciprocal support, from the other churches and the use of funds generated by previous Benefice events. Your Committee are grateful for the assistance and support of many other people who have given so generously of their time and for supplying food and cakes on many occasions.

The Home and International Committee - Cheryl Ritter (Chair)

The vacancy has led to it being a quiet year for the "Mission Group". We held a "Come and Pray" morning in June 2018 with the theme focusing on "Praying for our Churches in Minchinhampton" and were joined by our regular participants for this event. During the late summer and into autumn we again invited the congregation to nominate suggestions for charities that Holy Trinity could support from Christmas and Easter collections / donations. The PCC was again asked to make the final choices from those nominations.

These charities were: Marah, Alcoholics Anonymous, Mercy Ships, The Nelson Trust, The Stroke Association and Water Aid.

Whilst it was noted at the time that Alcoholics Anonymous appeared to be a limited company rather than a charity, a donation was made to them, This they promptly returned, explaining that they do not accept donations. The PCC diverted this money to The Stroke Association.

It is sad to report that former members of the committee, Sybil Cox and Bill Evans have passed away during this last year. Jackie Natt was invited to join our now very small team.

We look forward to the coming year with all the challenges that it may bring and finally a heartfelt thank-you to Committee Members: Linda Jarvis, Tim Mowat, and Jackie Natt and to those who also help us: Lauren Turley, Ruth Mowat and Colin Brookes.

OTHER ACTIVITIES, GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Safeguarding Report - Judy Little (Safeguarding Officer)

This has been a quiet year. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), which replaced the old Criminal Records Check (CRB), has been in use for 5 years, consequently several of our volunteers will need checking again. I will be starting these re-checks very soon. Gloucester Diocese will send out reminders to Clergy, retired Clergy and Readers, but I will be contacting all other volunteers, prior to their renewal date.

The Tower - Angie Ayling (Tower Captain)

2018-2019 was another good year in the tower, the chief success of which was winning the Branch Striking Competition held at Kemble. We had expected to come second at best, so winning it was rather a surprise! We are representing the branch at the Diocesan competition on April 6th in the Forest of Dean.

We have not rung as frequently as in previous years, having to miss a number of Friday practices because of events being held in the church (or the Market House) or because of insufficient ringers being present. However, we continued to have eleven regular ringers for much of the year but then lost one of the younger ones recently; we hope he might return one day.

We rang in February at the Colesbourne Snowdrop Festival and had a very enjoyable tower outing in April to Tetbury, Malmesbury and the vicinity, arranged by Paul Verney. We hosted the branch meeting in September, some of us joined in the Branch outing in October and in December we enjoyed a very pleasant evening playing skittles in the Cotswold Club. This year we also rang for a number of weddings (having rung for none last year) and some of us rang elsewhere in the branch for weddings where they were short of ringers.

Three quarter peals were rung in the tower: for Jilly Jennings' 100th and for David Pobjoy's interment of ashes, both in April, and the last one by a visiting band. Between three of us, we rang a total of 100 quarter peals (the vast majority being rung by Tony Natt.) As indicated above, David Pobjoy – previous Tower Captain – died in April; two of his sons rang in the quarter peal, along with Paul Barton who learnt here and now rings at Canterbury Cathedral. Finally, the ringing which was most favourably commented upon by those listening outside was that for the funeral of Gynnis Mayes in November. It was great that the ringing contributed so much to the solemnity of the occasion.

The Flower Guild - Kathy Hurst (Co-ordinator)

We have had a very busy year. We have provided flowers for 4 major Festivals – Easter, Holy Trinity, Harvest and Christmas as well as the Rededication last April, when the Bishop and HRH Princess Anne came to visit. We had six weddings last year which included three weddings in one week in the middle of August. This year in September we have the Minchinhampton Country Fayre and this will be a major event for the Flower Guild. We are busy preparing a Wedding Celebration and this will take place over the weekend of 13/15th September in the Church. So far, we have promises of twelve dresses and seven mannequins – so if you have either a dress or a mannequin we would love to hear from you!

On a sad note we only have 2 x weddings booked this year which will greatly effect our income for the year. We are, however, organising a fund raising Coffee Morning on Friday 21st June in Mandy & John Jutsum's garden, so do please come along and support this event.

Two of our members have retired this year – Sue Waddington and Yvonne Crew and we thank them for all their hard work over many years.

Music – Julian Elloway (Director of Music)

We said goodbye to John Gerard last summer as he and his family moved to the West Country. We have been joined this year by four new sopranos: Judith Woodhead, Getta Sutton, Caroline Hensley and Karen Bedford (listed in the order they joined us). It is lovely to have such a strong top line, although we now need to boost the lower parts and especially more basses.

We are looking forward to singing for the liturgy in Father Howard's first Holy Week here and are already appreciating his singing bass in evensong! Denzil Ind, a treble two years ago, tenor last year, is currently developing a bass range. We have appointed Immy Hooke a choral scholar and look forward to further choral scholars later this year.

Last year we made more of the period between All Souls and Remembrance Sunday, given the centenary of the end of WWI, and were particularly pleased on All Souls Day itself to be joined by Thames Head Singers for a sung Requiem Mass with Fauré's setting. Although we concentrate on the music for the morning Parish Eucharist, a growing number of singers attend bi-monthly evensongs, which is much appreciated. I must especially thank Linda Elloway for helping with the junior choir and much else, Alison Wood for organizing the music group, Leonora Rozee who has re-catalogued the entire music library, and everyone else who has contributed in all sorts of ways to our music.

The organ, with its outstanding pipework, continues to remind us of its need for a rebuild by behaving (or misbehaving) unpredictably during worship. We are fortunate that the church was recently gifted a Yamaha C5 grand piano, comparatively new (1989) and reconditioned, that has already proved helpful for choir rehearsals as well as in concerts.

Servers – Margaret Sheather (Senior Server)

The servers' role is quietly to support the dignity and the drama of our worship, whether at a routine Sunday Eucharist or one of the major festival services of the church's year. This year saw us return into the newly re-ordered building and to more routine duties, but with some innovative liturgy to be involved in.

The serving team is now an experienced one and I am very grateful for their commitment and the flexibility that enables us to fulfil our role reliably. However, we continue to be a small team, and it would be very good to add two or three more members to the team. A larger group means we can share the tasks more widely and cope better with holidays and other absences. We all started from scratch at one time so no special expertise is needed!

If you are interested in joining the team and would like to know more about what's involved, or can suggest someone who might be interested then please do speak to me or any of the current team members.

Messy Church - Revd Sandy Emery

Messy Church is flourishing and since last Good Friday, we have had 5 Messy Church events, most of which have been well attended. We meet every other month and have explored various Bible stories. We follow the official Messy Church format of craft activities culminating in worship and finishing with a hot meal. The children and their parents and carers enjoy all aspects of the events. This is due in no small part to the hard work and support of the great team of helpers who give up their time and energy to prepare and run the various activities, including behind the scenes in the kitchen. We have a dedicated team of helpers which seems to be growing. However, we are always on the look-out for more helpers to get involved with the craft activities or with the catering; to help with the clearing up or being available to talk to people. My thanks to all those who support and help with this essential and rewarding part of our Church's mission. Since reordering we have used the church more creatively and the space has lended itself more effectively to some of our activities. We have also explored the idea of having Messy Church on Sunday afternoons rather than a Wednesday afternoon after school and attendance has been encouraging.

It is worth mentioning that Messy Church is a church in its own right and not merely a recruiting ground for the mainstream Sunday congregation though this may be a consequence.

Junior Church - Revd Sandy Emery

Junior Church is not very active at present due to both lack of leaders and lack of children attending our Sunday services which makes it harder for helpers who spend time preparing sessions to which nobody comes. However, we are very grateful to those helpers who do.

Junior Church needs re-thinking and the commitment of a few more individuals prepared to help with this important aspect of our children's worship, is necessary

Traidcraft - Deborah Smith

 TRAIDCRAFT Fighting poverty through trade	Minchinhampton and Amberley Summary of transactions	
	2018	2017
Sales of Traidcraft products including raffles and coffee mornings	4,997.09	7,113.57
Cost of goods sold	4,377.08	4,993.97
Surplus on sales and fundraising	620.01	2,119.60
Donation to Traidcraft Exchange	800.00	500.00
Balance brought forward	1,619.60	
Balance carried forward	1,439.61	1,619.60
Cash in hand (floats and unbanked cash)	45.00	115.00
Bank balance	794.61	308.96
Value of stock at 31/12/2017	600.00	1,195.64
	1,439.61	1,619.60

As you can see from the above summary, this year has seen its ups and downs, and the turnover figure is very much less this year, than last. We did not have such a successful 'Big Brew' in Fairtrade Fortnight as we did in Lent. Also we did not have a Traidcraft stall in Amberley church for several months, but thanks to Derek Kret that has now been reinstated. In September we had an email from Traidcraft saying that trading would cease at the end of the year. There was considerable consternation on the part of traders all over the country so a rescue plan was put in place. The Traidcraft Exchange charity continues to support producers and craftsmen around the world but the new smaller model being developed by Traidcraft plc has resulted in many products disappearing from their website. As a result I have been unable to order many lines which I have previously sold. Although it is sad that we do not sell as much fairly traded produce in our regular porch room sales, in many ways this is a reflection of the success of Traidcraft which started in 1979 and was one of the instigators of the Fair Trade marque. Its logo indicates a standard recognized all over the world and results in our being able to buy fairly traded and sustainable products every week in our supermarkets. In many ways Traidcraft is not an efficient business model. However it is of great value in raising awareness of the need for a fair reward for peoples' produce and supports businesses in the developing world. From the beginning of 2019 we have changed our sales to the 3rd Sunday of each month, so please continue to support us.

I would like to thank Jackie Natt for her continued support, particularly writing the monthly report in the magazine and putting reminders in the pew sheet. Clare Cooper continues to be a massive support and encouragement. This year Wendy and John Fontaine have joined the Minchinhampton congregation and I cannot say how much help they have given – a big Thank-you to them- and to all those who continue to help at Big Brew's and Christmas fundraisers, and to all those who buy from us each month. Many, many thanks to you all and as long as there is Traidcraft we will keep the project going at Holy Trinity.

The Masasi Group - Stephen Jarvis

Our long standing bond to Masasi was further enhanced last year by a visit of six members of our congregation, accompanied by the eldest son of John and Benita Cornwall, the founders of our link in 1959. This visit, in May 2018, gave an opportunity to see some of the projects that we have supported over the years and to meet with the medical student that we are sponsoring.

Bishop James first arranged for visits to various parishes where John Cornwall had been the priest, as well as Chidya School, where he had been a teacher and head teacher. It was the same school where he met Benita. The visit gave us many insights into the priorities for the Diocese, and allowed us to see the work of another charity within Masasi.

We visited the three medical dispensaries that the Diocese own and run, two of which were in very good order, however the third at Chidya, whilst staffed with a hardworking and dedicated workforce, was in a poor condition. Shortly after we had visited, we were told that the Government Health Inspectors had condemned the buildings as unfit for purpose. The good news, whilst we were still there, was that funds had been authorised, and sent by the charity African Palms to build a new dispensary, plans for which the Diocese had previously agreed with the local council.

When we were there, we agreed to assist Chidya with some new equipment, initially with an autoclave to sterilise equipment and a new delivery bed for the maternity unit. In the light of this the head of the local Government gave them a short term stay of execution to build the new dispensary and commission it. This the Diocese did within twelve weeks. We have provided an additional £500 for drugs to support this new dispensary, and with the generosity of the Faure Concert in church by the Thames Head Choir, we were able to buy a stainless steel table for the dispensary.

We met Baraka, our sponsored student, who will in June this year complete his three year course to become a Medical Attendant and he will immediately start work for the Diocese after he qualifies.

We were also asked by the District Commissioner, to assist a three year old girl with a cochlea implant, amazingly the money that we were given by Wednesday Cuppa and many others before we left, was just enough to have this life changing operation undertaken.

The Diocese has been working on the healthcare facilities and is also working to improve the education of secondary school children. Whilst the government has now made secondary education free, the quality of teaching varies widely. Bishop James has had plans for a girl's boarding school within the Diocese at Namasakata for some years, and during our visit the official Government approval was received to start the project. We shall hear a lot more about this in the coming months as the construction of classrooms and dormitories are well underway. This school will complement the Dioceses' boy's school at Rondo. In addition we met a young man, Raymond Tayari who was assisting with the teaching of Maths at Rondo and whilst he had the qualifications to take the Maths degree course to become a teacher, his family did not

have the means to support him. Between the PCC and the Cornwall Bursary his university fees will be paid. Raymond started at university in November.

We also saw other projects that African Palms had supported in Masasi. The building of two classrooms and toilets at the primary school at Namikunda, and toilets at Mtandi primary school. African Palms raises its funds from the selling of palm crosses to churches across the world, all of which are made in, or near Masasi and then shipped to the UK. We buy our palm crosses from this charity. We held an evening in the porch room in September to share with you many of these experiences and showed the pictures that we had taken on our trip.

The other big change that we saw in Masasi is the rise in economic development, there are brick built shopping malls, large apartment blocks, and many more motorcycle taxis, than we have seen before. This is driven by the completion of the tarmac road from the Mozambique border through Masasi and on to Dar es Salaam. In addition the Government has stepped in to set a base price for cashew nuts, the main cash crop, which was significantly higher than the farmers were receiving before. Cashew nuts were averaging 40p a Kilogram three years ago and now the price has been set at £1.30 a Kilogram. This has had a profound effect on all the owners of cashew nut trees, including the Diocese who had an income of £9000 from their farms last year. We continue to exchange regular messages with Bishop James, and we are asked to hold him and his family, and all the people of Masasi in our prayers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, including the PCC, for their generosity, kindness and encouragement that has made it possible to support the Diocese of Masasi, in so many ways during the last year.

Mothers Union - Chrissie Eccles

The Mothers' Union is a world wide organisation to which to which our local branch is affiliated. Our work and outreach is through the Stroud Deanery and Gloucester Diocese. Currently we are one of around twenty or so branches working together in service and fellowship. We are active in fund raising, all proceeds being given to our church or Diocese. Our main purpose is to engage with our community, to support each other through both the 'sun and rain' and be 'salt and light'. Anyone is welcome to our meetings which are often informative concerning the needs of differing charities. However topics of our speakers are diverse and being a worldwide organisation our interest and response to overseas crises takes on a meaningful mission feel. We meet every month on the third Wednesday evening and enjoy welcoming new members.

Parish Magazine - Angie Ayling (Editor)

I feel that the magazine has been successful over the past 12 months though on the whole, comments received tend to refer to the errors readers have spotted! I do take the opportunity to look at magazines of other parishes whenever I am visiting churches and I think that ours is probably more interesting than many. That said, I would welcome suggestions for articles to be included – but only when supported by the offer to write said articles! Mere suggestions, but with no support, are not helpful as the magazine takes several hours to compile each month as it is, without having to

write major parts of it. I think some people think that editor means author! At the annual meeting in December, I did raise the issue of having a deputy editor but nothing came of that; I still think it would be wise, just in case I suddenly was incapacitated or – as is more likely to happen – was away (in the UK or abroad) at the time of publication. Finally a very special note of thanks is due to all the distributors of the magazine who deliver it to our homes in fair weather and foul!

Church Cleaning Guild - Mandy Jutsum (Church Warden)

Nearly a year has passed since we said goodbye to the builders. During this return to 'relative normality' the cleaning guild volunteers (of which there are thirty-one), have resumed their important work dusting the church and keeping the silver and brass shiny and bright. The latter are cleaned fortnightly whilst responsibility for dusting is allocated by area. Alison Weller, Anne Sutton, Gill Price, Jane Harrison, Peter Sparkhall, Jane Courtis, Sue Kirkwood, Tony and Stephanie Cooper, Barbara Philpott, Jean and David Whittaker have been joined on the rota this year by Hilary Bellhouse, Liz and Richard Hughes, Allan and Barbara Weager and Jan Boland. We thank everyone for their contribution to the church in this way.

The church floors are vacuumed fortnightly by six pairs of people taking a turn twice a year. This is a new arrangement which seems to be running smoothly thanks to: Nick Lacey, Peter Petrolito, Judy Little, Andrew Lane, David and Liz Brown, Julia and Hamish Rhead, Alison and Stuart Coe, Val and Terry Sharpe.

Special thanks are due as ever to Cheryl Ritter for her vigilance and extra efforts required in keeping the loos and kitchen spick and span and Ian Hartley who remains as the 'dishwasher guardian': topping it up and making sure it's in working order.

Our appreciation is also due to Sylvie Thomas, Susan Holding and their team for their care and cleaning of the Kitchen and Porch room, when providing us with delicious first Sunday breakfasts and Wednesday cuppa; similarly Hilary Bellhouse and her team of Sunday morning coffee makers. The Hospitality Committee are also to be thanked for their vigilance in keeping the Kitchen and Porch Room clean when they are running events. There is a real sense of people working together for the good of the church and community, which is much appreciated.

Dates to be arranged in the near future are the annual 'Big Clean' when we wash the floors and undertake higher level dusting (I'll be looking for volunteers), as well as the all important cleaning guild 'Get Together and Tea'. The timing of these this year has had to take into account the ongoing reordering work: the sound system (now installed); the electrical work (inspection and replacement LED lights in the pendant lights) and we hope in the not too distant future, the refurbishment of the Entrance Porch.

Contributing to the maintenance and upkeep of the church is not only done by many people through the rotas but regularly by other people taking on a task(s) they see need doing and getting on with it. This is very much appreciated by us all - A big thank-you. If you would like to discuss helping out in some way please do let me know. There are always opportunities!