

**THE PARISH OF
HOLY TRINITY MINCHINHAMPTON
with
ST BARNABAS BOX**

**ANNUAL REPORTS
FROM
CHURCH COMMITTEES
AND
ORGANISATIONS
MAY 2019 - APRIL 2020¹**

¹ Please note the end date. This year's activities will be reported at the 2021 APCM

RECTOR'S REPORT – Revd Canon Howard Gilbert

Thank you, Minchinhampton, for making this a wonderful (if very busy!) year for the Rector. It has been a good year in most of the areas that I suggested in last year's report should be our focus. Namely:

- 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.

Firstly, I am delighted to say that we have seen an incredible turn around in our every-day finances, and have this year just managed to cover our costs. I am hoping that in the year to come we shall more than cover our costs and pay our full parish share, including that which we should be contributing to support churches working in poorer parishes.

We have launched our children's choir, and with the guidance of Julian and then Warwick, as well as with the significant help of a number of key volunteers, things have gone very well so far. We now have around 10 children on the books, most of whom usually sing at all age worship. Warwick and I are looking forward to developing this work, integrating this with the adult choir, and having another recruitment drive. I am also delighted that Sunday School is going well (my children love it!), and I am looking forward to meeting with our team in the coming year to discuss how we might develop our work, and how best to invite children to come and join us.

I have been pleased with our renewing liturgy and worship, which has seen a measured and considered development. We continue to try new avenues, not least with how we place people and furniture for our different services. A priority for me in the coming year is trying to make the Lady Chapel a better place for our daily Eucharists as well as for evensong on a Sunday evening.

Our pastoral care team continues to be a real rock in the core of our ministry. We have met several times to talk about how we might develop this work and having already done quite a lot of safeguarding development we are now turning to ways in which we can develop our work with some training. We may, in the future, also be able to offer pastoral care more widely, if we can also increase the number of people serving on our pastoral care team.

I have enjoyed sharing in the spiritual journeys of lots of our congregation in the last year, not least on our excellent parish retreat. I'm already thinking about how I shall lead this year's retreat!

Mission in the community is a real challenge, as well as a blessing. I have really enjoyed being present in the community, and working not just with school, but also with the uniformed organisations, speaking at the Probus Clubs, helping at youth club in Amberley, performing in

the Box pantomime and much, much more! A key area for our future is going to be how we are a part of ministry at The Hub and the Youth Club in the coming years. I do hope that by this time next year we shall be a part of a brave new project on that site, taking ministry, in a relevant way to people of all different ages and backgrounds.

And finally, an important piece of work this year has been how to use our newly reordered building to the max, as a real asset to God's work, and to our community. We've already done lots of thinking in this area and put on several community events. It will soon be time to really start grappling with how we can release the potential of our amazing holy space!

So, it feels to me as though we are at a watershed. We have a very solid history, and the past year is beginning to suggest that we may be on the verge of something quite wonderful. However, if we would see renewal in this parish it will take prayerful wisdom and a lot of hard work. In particular we shall need to start prioritising our resources in the future, something our new PCC will shortly be grappling with as we consider our vision. Part of this thinking will be to start developing a longer-term plan; that should also involve some thinking together as a benefice.

The future for the church in general is quite a bleak one. Minchinhampton and Box have had a very encouraging year, but we are still engaging with some of the massive challenges facing our generation. If we are to be just as healthy in the decades to come, there will be some very difficult decisions coming our way. May God, in his mercy, lead us through these times; but above all, may he lead us to himself.

The Revd Canon Howard Gilbert

Rector

STATUTORY REPORTS

ELECTORAL ROLL – Jackie Natt, Electoral Roll Officer

Our new Electoral Roll was prepared in time for the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) last April. Our numbers have reduced somewhat over the years and it showed a total of 227 members.

The Church Electoral Roll is our parish church's register of electors. It is the list of those qualified to attend and vote at the APCM. The APCM is where the elections take place for the PCC (Parochial Church Council) and the parish's representatives on the Deanery Synod. By enrolling, you become a voting member of the Church of England and so help ensure that all the church councils are fully representative of its members.

We take GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) very seriously and the only people with access to the Electoral Roll are myself (as ER officer) and the clergy.

The Electoral Roll has to be displayed once a year just before the APCM and it has been on the church notice board for the past 2 weeks.

If you are not on the Electoral Roll and would like to be a member, please use the application form at the back of the porch room. Once completed, the forms can be left in my pigeon hole in church under 'N'. Alternatively just come and talk to me.

It would be very helpful that if you know of any change of circumstances for someone on the Electoral Roll, you could let me know. That way, I can keep the data more accurately up to date.

Thank you.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL – Margaret Sheather, Honorary Secretary

As a result of the 2019 APCM new lay members to the PCC were Angie Ayling, Mike Gwilliam and Simon Ritter. Mandy Jutsum was re-elected as Churchwarden and was joined by Jamie Dalrymple-Hamilton. John Jutsum was co-opted to continue as Honorary Treasurer and Margaret Sheather (already a member of the PCC as a Deanery Synod representative) took up the duties of Secretary. Jackie Natt continued as Electoral Roll Officer.

There were four members of Deanery Synod. The Synod brings together all the clergy and representatives of the laity from across the Stroud area. It provides a forum for sharing ideas (or problems!), hearing about developments across the diocese and is a channel of communication through from the parishes to the leadership of the diocese. It elects representatives onto the Diocesan Synod. Our lay members in 2019 were Jackie Natt, Julian Elloway, Jamie Dalrymple-Hamilton and Margaret Sheather.

The Parochial Church Council has met eight times during the past year with an average attendance of 8 out of 12 elected members.

Ministry in the Parish was carried out by Revd Canon Howard Gilbert as Rector and Revd Sandy Emery as Associate Priest. Linda Jarvis has continued as Reader. They were also supported by a number of retired priests.

PCC meetings covered a wide variety of issues which were thoroughly discussed.

- the role and function of the PCC
- the creation of a church Facebook page
- Strengthening Stewardship, particularly Planned Giving, and the related issue of meeting our allocated Parish Share
- The continuing work on the 6Ps developments and number of other fabric and churchyard matters, all of which are covered in more detail in the churchwardens' report below.
- Approval of a new Churchyard policy
- Looking ahead to the work required on the organ and two large windows
- Arrangements for the appointment of a new Director of Music
- The disposal of some surplus church furniture, with work remaining to be completed on ordering the Lady Chapel
- The development of children's ministry including the Children's Choir
- The work of the Pastoral Care Team
- Safeguarding
- Ministry in Box
- Agreeing the Christmas and Easter charities

The October meeting took a different form from the usual business agenda, with the Rector walking and talking the PCC through our 10 am Sunday Eucharist, leading to lively discussion.

The Treasurer provided quarterly finance report and at the meeting held on 6th August 2020 he presented the year end accounts which were agreed.

Some people have taken on new roles this year, with Peter and Nick Petrolito-Lacey and Louise Thomas being approved as Altar Assistants. Warm thanks are due to Mary Codling, Mike Gwilliam and Catherine Francis who are standing down as PCC members.

Further detail of the parish's activities can be found in the reports from Committees and Organisations later in this report.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – John Jutsum, Honorary Treasurer

These are provided in a separate report.

FABRIC REPORT – Mandy Jutsum and Jamie Dalrymple-Hamilton, Church Wardens

6Ps progress since April 2019

At last years' APCM only one major project, refurbishment of the entrance and some reinstallation of memorials in the narthex remained from the first phase of the 6Ps re-ordering programme. The re-ordering faculty was extended to allow the entrance porch work to happen later in the year; planning permission was obtained from Stroud District Council and the work was due to be completed in the Autumn. However a re-submission had to be made as a result of a change in plan from automatic internally opening doors to sliding doors. The re-application

was successful and work was started straight after Christmas and completed in time for a celebratory evening with Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal in attendance to mark the end of this phase.

The evening involved a review of the work since the beginning and a look at the work ahead: repair of the organ and stained glass windows. This was followed by: a demonstration of the organ by Warwick Cole, our Director of Music, using a video link for all to see; an organ recital and junior choir singing. Her Royal Highness was invited to meet the builders and contractors on the works since her last visit 2 years ago as well as representatives from two grant awarding bodies, church fund raisers and the church building group.

The memorials, ranging from the present day to 800 years ago, have been reinstated by the stone masons. They include: the plaque marking the dedication service of the new floor by the Bishop in the presence of the Princess Royal; a memorial to David Thomas, who had for many years provided funds to help maintain the church building, most notably the re-painting of the Chancel roof, and whose Trust fund initiated the 6Ps appeal and work; the memorial plaques which had fallen off the wall at the back of the Porch room and one in bad repair and coming loose on the east side of the church; the plaque that had been on the stone plinth underneath the font in its previous location and the 800 year old cross slab which was lying outside the church on the east side. Together they make a very special display for which we thank David Goldsmith for his vision and coordination of this work. The old brass plaques were re-patinated by Pangolin and then waxed as an ongoing protection. They never need to be cleaned!

Looking ahead

Windows The 2017 Quinquennial Report pointed to the need to replace or repair the large south and east windows. The recommended timescale for this work is from 3 to 5 years, the cost in the region of £100,000 to £150,000.

Organ 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 by the Quinquennial Report i.e. by 2022. The likely cost of this work is between £200,000 and £300,000.

The 6Ps fund raising is now directed at these items and funds are gradually building up, however, experience tells us, that the only way this amount of money will be achieved in full is through grant applications to specialist trusts of which there are many. The Diocese keep an updated list of grant awarding bodies for specific areas. Over 70% of the £900,000 spent on the reordering of the church so far has been achieved through grant applications. For grant applications to be made more detailed and updated reports are needed to build on the previous reports from Graham Dowding (2009 windows with a verbal update in 2016) and William McVicker (2015 organ).

Sound and AV system The acoustics of the church are amazing for music. The church is becoming an ever more popular venue for different groups including requests for recording music from the BBC. The spoken word can be problematic and much can be done to alleviate this through speaking more slowly into the microphone, to allow for the slight delay built into the speakers as the sound travels down the church and people who have difficulty hearing sitting behind a speaker. To further alleviate the problem four more speakers are being

installed in the side aisles which should help with any difficulty in hearing caused by the sound bouncing of the side walls.

Wifi in the church is being extended more effectively throughout the church.

CCTV cameras A Faculty application has gone in following PCC approval for two CCTV cameras located in the entrance and at the back of church to the north side of the west window shelf. The initial aim of these was for the bell ringers to be able to pick up a view of the activity in the entrance lobby, e.g. a bride or a coffin arriving in church, so as to know to stop ringing. They currently rely on a camera pointing through a very small hole into the church through the wall in the bell ringing chamber. Future considerations of displaying special artefacts, such as the archaeological items of national importance discovered during the reordering and of having a glass money collecting box, have given more justification to the camera installation in terms of security.

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, community consultations over the pub, wine tasting, quizzes and history lectures already promoted.

Other Fabric matters

In the Autumn it was decided to progress the painting of the north wall as it was estimated that enough time had occurred for the damp in the wall to be dried out. However, once the scaffolding was up, a new area of damp was discovered leading to an external inspection which revealed a significant deterioration of the lead flashing behind the parapet and damaged stonework, due to water ingress and frost. The PCC took the decision it would be cheaper in the long run to replace rather than simply patch and the work has been completed at a cost of £18,534, utilising the Fabric Fund. A significant proportion of the cost was due to the extensive scaffolding that was required to work at this height. The internal painting was completed in February.

In addition, efforts are being made to trace the cause of a minor rupture of the floor tiles in the Chancel, beside the Altar rail on the north side. This is believed to be a direct result of water pressure building up from below. A camera survey has been undertaken from the gulley trap on the outside, which has proved inconclusive. The next step will be to obtain a Faculty from the Diocese to dig trial pits in the Churchyard to try and ascertain the source of the problem and decide upon a solution. In the meantime, the extent of the damage will be carefully monitored.

The Churchyard

This has been an element of the 'Church Estate' that had unfortunately become a little neglected in recent years. Consequently, the decision was taken to increase our grounds man's remuneration and hours during the summer months, the benefit of which soon became clear. In addition, there was a useful Churchyard Clean up day in the autumn with another proposed in the spring (date to be agreed). A professional report has been commissioned on the state of the trees in the Churchyard (for health and safety purposes) which has highlighted a number of maintenance issues, mainly among those trees flanking Bell Lane but in particular a mature Lime tree in the Churchyard, that requires urgent attention as it is dying. Quotes are being obtained for the latter to take it down to 6m and the PCC have agreed to having the 62 limes in

the Avenue in the Churchyard, pollarded in the Spring, which is both necessary from an arboreal point of view but will also significantly enhance the visual aspect of the Churchyard.

The Rector and Wardens are arranging for the revised Churchyard Policy for maintaining graves to be displayed in a clear and simple format, as unfortunately despite a reference to the issue in the Parish Magazine, it persists. There are two related issues: articles that are not in line with the policy are being placed on or around graves which is not acceptable; in many cases these obstruct the mowing/strimming of the Churchyard and/or encroach on the available space, disrupting the grave digger's ability to maintain the row pattern.

The Wild Flower Group who for the past 5 years have maintained the north end of the Churchyard with wildflower 'Meadow mats', butterfly bank and insect hotels, have sadly decided to disband but have kindly offered to continue to assist in this area on an informal basis going forward, which is much welcomed. In future it is hoped to establish a formal 'Friends of Minchinhampton Churchyard' group to help with the task of maintaining the Churchyard overall. The Church Wardens would be very happy to assist with co-ordinating this initiative, which would be invaluable in making sure it looked its best for our many visitors.

Finally, with great reluctance, the PCC took the decision during the year not to proceed with the proposed Memorial Garden in the Churchyard, for which a very generous local benefactor had offered to contribute a substantial sum. Unfortunately, it had been found that after almost 3 years of negotiation, including with the Diocesan Advisory Committee over the necessary Faculty, costs had increased substantially and it was unlikely that it would be possible to arrive at a design to the satisfaction of all the parties involved.

DEANERY SYNOD – Synod Representatives

The Deanery Synod has met three times since our last APCM. At the meeting in October we were able to mark with pleasure that the licensing of Revd Janet Turville as incumbent at the Beacon Benefice (Painswick and surrounds) would mean there were no incumbent vacancies in the deanery for the first time in several years!

In addition to routine items such as reports from Diocesan and General Synod, Parish Share allocation and implementation and discussion of developments across the Deanery there has been a series of interesting speakers. They are always asked to allow plenty of time for discussion and questions after their talk.

At the May meeting **Revd Mike Smith** introduced the **Giving Toolbox**, which he developed for the diocese and which gives practical help and suggestions about increasing planned giving in benefices.

Revd Arthur Champion, the Diocesan Environmental Officer, spoke on **How can your PCC care for God's creation?** He highlighted the Diocesan Environmental Policy and the Ecochurch initiative, for which individual parishes can register and receive recognition for the ways they have made their church life more environmentally friendly.

At the October meeting **Barry Voyce** of The Door youth project in Stroud reported on their new **Illuminate** project which has been supported in its first year by several parishes in the Deanery. It supports Christian young people in secondary schools to be confident in their faith and even to be missionaries in their own context. It is very much still a developing project but has a number of successes to report.

Archdeacon Hilary Dawson introduced the **Deanery Strategic Planning** that is getting underway across the diocese. Revd Dana Delap, a team vicar from the North Cotswolds, is leading the facilitation work with each Deanery to enable us to look ten years ahead at what the shape of the church and ministry might need to be across the Deanery by then so that we can use our resources effectively for the church's mission.

At the February meeting **Richard Witham** spoke about the One Life programme – part of the implementation of our diocesan LIFE vision, taking the form of a pioneering network of sport and wellbeing centres that are primarily concerned with children and young people, their families and young adults. Given that 95% of the population (and especially the young) no longer connects to church or the Christian faith, the intention is to engage with the many young people and their families who gather in sports activities every week. It is a new part of the church in the Diocese of Gloucester and a companion and partner of existing churches, not a competitor. Both John Spiers and Howard Gilbert were enthusiastic and expressed a wish to build links with our benefice.

COMMITTEE AND ORGANISATION REPORTS

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, BOX – Colin French

Change happens slowly at St Barnabas. We are, as always, extremely grateful to the clergy who conduct our weekly services and very appreciative 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. Usually we provide coffee and biscuits on the second and fourth of each month!

Christmas and Easter as ever are highlights within the year when the congregations are swelled by villagers, visiting friends and relations. This year we moved away from the usual format and held a Carol and Crib Service on the Sunday before Christmas. The Church was full and there was an excellent number of children dressed in a variety of appropriate costumes. Glasses of mulled wine and mince pies were served. (We are still trying to remove the evidence from the carpet!) We were very grateful to Amanda Amerongen who answered our appeal for a pianist for this service.

We are still in need of an additional pianist to join our volunteer musicians. However, we manage to sing unaccompanied, very tunefully, when necessary. (Though it does help if we all sing the same tune!)

We are delighted that Anne Nightingale has joined the team who assist.

Our particular thanks are due to Sarah Moseley and her team of flower arrangers. Flowers appear and decorate the church throughout the year. They are much admired by visitors to the church. 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 Jackie 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. Fund raising, to cover the cost of re-gilding the spire, continues and we hope that the work might be undertaken in the coming year. We hope that the parish will support this venture. Other projects that will

certainly need to be considered in the coming year are the purchase of a red altar frontal and repairs to the existing frontals, minor repairs to, and decoration of the chancel.

WORSHIP, PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE – Margaret Sheather, Chair

The Committee has met regularly through 2019, continuing its regular review and planning of all the services across the year: the weekly routine, major festivals and special services. Some key points noted in our meetings have been:

- working with the Rector as he settled into his role and supporting him in developing worship, with particular developments of the All Age Worship services
- the re-establishment of Junior Church, thanks to a willing group of volunteers, and more recently drawing on a published programme of activities that link to the Sunday readings
- the successful initiation of a junior choir that sings on the All Age Worship Sundays
- Messy Church has continued to be a successful part of our ministry
- “Experience” events have been re-established which is much appreciated by the school
- The Rector’s work with the school to strengthen the links in teaching about faith and spirituality.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Tim Mowat, Chair

The following were the members of the Stewardship Committee: Tim Mowat (Chairman), The Revd Canon Howard Gilbert (Rector), Peter Lapping, John Jutsum (PCC Treasurer), Mandy Jutsum (Church Warden), Geoff Lloyd (PCC), Pat Swift (Recorder).

In 2019 receipts were above forecast by £7,221. Receipts in November/December were £8,000 above forecast. The Rector provoked this dramatic increase in a series of addresses and presentations to all congregations during October. As a result the Parish of Minchinhampton with Box was able to meet its direct costs for the year. However our contribution of Parish Share to the Diocese for 2019 fell short of requirement by over £20,000. The Rector challenged each of us to dream what we hope to enjoy in our church life, and for each of us to examine how each of us can help to achieve that.

Our 2020 forecast returns (actual figures for 2019 in brackets) are:

Number of regular contributors	- 168	(174)
Total pledged incl. Gift Aid	- £127,000	(£124,000),

For 2020 we hope to raise the profile of Stewardship further during a campaign in the autumn. We hope to increase the number committed to the Parish Giving Scheme.

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. We are grateful that extra giving to the 6P’s Appeal has not impacted support for our living church more drastically. We hope to see support for our living church increase even more in 2020.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM (PCT) – Linda Jarvis, Co-ordinator

We now have sixteen lay people on the pastoral care team who regularly visit parishioners from the Minchinhampton and Box communities. Of these sixteen, nine can take communion to the housebound.

During the past year Louise Thomas has joined the team but Anne Brookes, together with Peter and Sheila Goodwin have had to stand down. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all three for their dedication and dependability whilst they were on the PCT.

Also, thank you to Mike Gwilliam and Diana Lapping for ensuring that all of our pictures can be displayed at the back of the Church, helping you to put names to faces.

Howard, Sandy and Linda would also like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Pastoral Care Team who have worked incredibly hard during the past year.

For your information there is a list below of all those who are currently DBS checked and who are on the PCT.

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

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

HOSPITALITY AND SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – Mary Codling, Chair

The aims of the hospitality committee are to provide an atmosphere for people to meet and socialise and to cover the expenses of the wine etc. so that the costs to the Church are minimal.

The committee has 10 members who have usually been the ones on duty providing wine and cake following Church services, wine and nibbles during concert intervals, sausages rolls after the Advent Sunday service and mince pies after the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Drinks and canapés were provided for the Flower Festival Preview evening and refreshments for the Flower Festival weekend. The Craft Fair was a new venture and soup and refreshments were available throughout the day.

The committee is able to call on a core of congregation members for extra help and especially for cakes when needed.

SAFEGUARDING – Judy Little, Safeguarding Officer

It has been a quiet year for safeguarding issues. However, a great many volunteers have had to have their DBS checks renewed. At the moment there are one or two outstanding checks to be completed the volunteers are aware that they need to do this, but may need chasing up soon.

It would be helpful if the 'Heads of Departments' could check whether their volunteers have an up to date DBS (disclosure and barring service) certificate.

All Heads of Department need to think about and write up a formal risk assessment when they are putting on a church activity eg Messy Church, Wednesday Cuppa. They also need to be aware that during the activity they need to thinking on their feet 'Dynamic Risk Assessment.

All parishes now have a Parish Safeguarding Handbook for help and guidance. We have two copies – in church office and in my possession. It should always be used in conjunction with the website as the website will always be up to date. *

Safeguarding Check List for Benefices and Parishes 2020 needs completing on line. Deadline 30th September. Last year this was completed by Mandy Jutsum as Church Warden.

***Reminder:** Gloucester.anglican.org - Click on Safeguarding - Open whatever item you need for your work in the Parish.

THE TOWER – Angie Ayling, Tower Captain

2019 was a very mixed year, with 'Bellboard' recording just one quarter peal by a local band (Bob Doubles in January for the induction of the new Rector), 2 quarters rung by visiting bands in June & October and the tolling of the tenor by Tony on April 18th (in solidarity with the people of France following the fire at Notre Dame). There were a number of visiting bands over the course of the year.

We rang once again at the Colesbourne Snowdrop festival in February and then, in April, we represented the Stroud Branch at the G& B striking competition at Hewelsfield in the Forest of Dean; we came 9/10 against a very strong field! At the end of April, we had a very enjoyable tower outing to North Nibley, Stone, Tytherington, Thornbury & Olveston arranged by Paul; there were 19 of us in all - 7 ringers & 3 partners from Minchinhampton, 2 Spanish visitors and 7 ringers from the branch.

The branch striking competition at Frampton-on-Severn was somewhat of a disaster as, although coming 3rd (and very close behind the 1st and 2nd bands), one of our team forgot to come so we only had 3 Minchinhampton ringers in the team! We hosted the Branch AGM in November. We rang for only 2 weddings in 2019. Between us, Tony and I delivered a Powerpoint presentation to Probus, the Mothers Union about ringing and the Year 6 pupils at the school.

2019 ringers: Angie (captain), Tony (ringing master), Paul (steeple keeper), Sally, George, David, Jean, Andy, Diana; learners: Sheryl, Bea, Charlie, Malika, Denzil and Mark.

Since spending many hours typing out the Tower Records 1933-1988, I have been thoroughly reminded what a great tradition of ringing there is associated with Minchinhampton Tower. It has made me feel honoured to be carrying on this valuable service to the Church and the Community.

FLOWER GUILD – Kathy Hurst, Co-ordinator

We have had another very busy year. We have provided flowers for the major festivals as well as for 3 weddings. We had a very successful coffee morning in Mandy Jutsum's garden in June and raised £440.

We took part in the Minchinhampton Country Fayre with our Wedding Celebration in September. In all we displayed 43 wedding dresses all on mannequins together with a wonderful display of flowers. We also included photographs of the weddings together with a

write-up which we then gave to the people who had kindly donated the dresses for the exhibition. This took a lot of planning and everyone worked hard to produce a memorable occasion.

In November we were given a very large poppy blanket which had all been knitted by hand. We displayed this on the high altar for Remembrance Day and we have since stored this in one of the large cupboards at the back of the Church for future use. I think the overall effect was quite stunning.

The AGM of the Flower Guild was held on Tuesday 31st March at 10.30 a.m. This took the form of a coffee morning and everyone was welcome to attend.

We are planning another coffee morning in June. This will be held at Windrush, The Park, by kind permission of Marilyn and Howard Browning and this will take place in their garden on Tuesday 16th June from 10 a.m. – noon.

There are 3 weddings in Church this year but unfortunately only 2 brides have requested flowers.

We have been joined by two new Members this year – Norah Brooks and Fanny Wright – and we welcome them both.

SACRISTANS – Alison Whittaker, Senior Sacristan

We have ten Sacristans who faithfully serve at our weekday services.

We also have eight Sunday Sacristans who prepare the altars for our Sunday 10 am worship. I am very grateful to all of them for their dedication to ensure our services run smoothly. I would welcome anybody who is interested in becoming a Sacristan as it is a great privilege to serve our church.

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 has seen us working with the Rector as the communion liturgy has evolved over the year.

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 we really need to expand it with two or three others so that 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.

WELCOME STEWARDS (Sidespeople) – Mandy Jutsum

Thank you to the welcome stewards who welcome and guide people at both the 8am and 10am Sunday morning services and assist at special services throughout the year

The rota of people welcoming at the 8 o'clock Sunday service remains unchanged. Thank you to Colin and Anne Brookes, Diana Farn, Hilary Exton, Roy Wilson, David White, Alison Weller, Gerry Robbins, Paul and Rosemary Boon for their continued service.

There are four people on duty at the 10am service: 20 people all together. This role is very suited to people who are newer members of the church congregation as it provides an excellent way of getting to know people. For this reason, at Holy Trinity church, it has been customary for welcomers to serve on the rota for a period of three years. There are currently six people who have served for three years. The new rota runs from May to April, the list of names for 2020 to 2021 will be announced at the PCC meeting in May.

The welcome stewards met with Howard Gilbert, The Rector, on 3rd October 2019, for a very useful review of best practice in terms of 'how we welcome'. From this a few changes have been made including everyone on duty being vigilant regarding new people attending and adopting a more flexible approach responding to the nature and needs of the congregation.

A very sincere thank you to all of the welcomers and ex-welcomers who occasionally stand in, for carrying out this important roll and to those who willingly help at other services, such as at Advent and Easter, especially mentioning Cheryl and Simon Ritter in this respect.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/JUNIOR CHURCH – Deborah Smith, Co-ordinator

The Sunday School was re-launched back in May with plans to have Sunday School in the porch room and a short story time for very little children in the sacristy. In the event there were very few children so we have settled on a story and art/craft projects related to it, taking place in the porch room. There are five volunteers prepared to organise each session and one volunteer prepared to assist. As there is usually a parent or grandparent also in attendance his presence is not often required for safeguarding requirements, but I am very keen to keep him coming because when our numbers increase we will need extra help, and also it is important to have a man in Sunday School so that the children do not perceive it as an exclusively female activity.

The teaching material that is currently in use is not linked to the lectionary, but we are looking at some new material and as I write we are waiting for some feedback from the diocesan children's officer.

Unfortunately attendance has not really taken off – but many thanks to the three or four regulars who come every week and are pleased to share their creativity with the congregation at the end of the 10 o'clock service. Over Christmas there were more visiting children in church and it was lovely to be able to offer them an alternative to the adult service. It would be great to have more children and with our links to the school and the success of Messy Church I hope that a thriving Sunday School will soon be in existence. We really need to settle on what we call it – the children are invited to leave church after the first hymn, and depending on who is officiating it is called either Sunday School or Junior Church.

Many thanks to Joan Goldsmith, Jo Smith, Gill Price, Susannah Gilbert and Cheryl Ritter for leading Sunday School, and David Brown for helping with such evident enjoyment.

TRAIDCRAFT – Deborah Smith



Minchinhampton and Amberley Summary of transactions

	2019	2018	2017
Sales of Traidcraft products including raffles and coffee mornings	3,597.93	4,997.09	7,113.57
Cost of goods sold	<u>3,287.08</u>	<u>4,377.08</u>	<u>4,993.97</u>
Surplus on sales and fundraising	310.85	620.01	2,119.60
Donation to Traidcraft Exchange	(500.00)	(800.00)	(500.00)
Balance brought forward	1,439.61	1,619.60	
Balance carried forward	<u>1,250.46</u>	<u>1,439.61</u>	<u>1,619.60</u>
Cash in hand (floats and unbanked cash)	45.00	45.00	115.00
Bank balance	605.46	794.61	308.96
Value of stock at end of year	600.00	600.00	1,195.64
	<u>1,250.46</u>	<u>1,439.61</u>	<u>1,619.60</u>

In spite of the big reduction in the range of products in the catalogue we have still found it possible to continue trading, and I would like to say a big thank you to all our supporters. Traidcraft was 40 years old in 2019 – and as I said in my report last year has probably been a victim of its own success as so many fairly traded products are now sold under the Fair Trade logo in supermarkets. As well as the regular monthly Traidcraft stall we sold over £900 worth of goods at our pre-Christmas sale and took over £200 at our 40th Birthday Sale. Unfortunately the seasonal catalogues were not available and I am sure this had a big impact on our Christmas sales – and also many of the Christmas card designs were sold out almost before the season began.

Amberley also has several sales each year thanks to Derek Kret who picks up boxes of goods from me and sells them after the 3rd Sunday service as we do.

Big thanks are due to Jackie Natt for organising events and writing the monthly report for the parish magazine, and to John and Wendy Fontaine who are immensely supportive and committed. It was very daunting taking it over from Clare Cooper and she is a very loyal customer and I am most grateful to her.

I hope that the new slimmed down version of Traidcraft will continue trading for many years to come and we are able to make donations to Traidcraft Exchange which supports businesses in the developing world.

MASASI GROUP – Stephen Jarvis

This has not been a very active year in terms of events in Minchinhampton to support the Diocese of Masasi, but several good things have happened in moving forward the help we have given in the Church Dispensaries. These are medical centres where minor treatments are available, and midwifery services and pharmacy facilities are on offer.

Baraka Mlowala, who we have sponsored for three years through his medical training to be a Medical Attendant, passed his final exams in June and has started to work for the Diocese. He intends to further his career to qualify as a doctor once he has gained some more practical experience, and we wish him well in this ambition. The dispensary at Chidya has received some funding for drugs, as has the Dispensary at Rondo for a new delivery bed and computer.

We are now supporting one student through the Cornwall Bursary and the PCC, Raymond Richard, who is in his second year of a Degree in Mathematics. Raymond wishes to teach Maths at the Church run secondary school for boys at Rondo.

The O level results at Rondo were mixed this year, and the Maths outcomes were particularly disappointing, however they are ranked 5th in the Region in terms of results. The student numbers have fluctuated downwards. This is because the Church charge fees for the students, and a poor harvest has meant that many families cannot afford the cost of education. At the same time the Government is offering an alternative free secondary education.

The church has a large project to build a girls' school in the Diocese, which will also be fee paying, and it is hoped that the final buildings will be ready in 2020 to take in the first students.

The Anglican church in Masasi Diocese, has continued to grow in numbers, an increase of 20,000 in five years to 55,000, this has created the need to make some churches larger, and the need for more priests, both of these issues are providing extra challenging for Bishop James.

2020 will see the sixteenth Lambeth Conference take place in July and August, and Bishop James and his wife Veronica, will be attending. Before the conference they will be making a visit to Minchinhampton on the weekend of 12th July, including being with us at a Sunday morning service. Please look out for further details nearer the time.

MOTHERS' UNION – Chrissie Eccles

Following a sad goodbye to Julia and John Gerard, a small committee of three members worked diligently to ensure the group continued in the successful way Julia had started. During the year our meetings were varied and interesting. They reflected church life, a connection to local charities, and also the other five M.U. branches in the Deanery.

Interesting talks were given by John Thompson Hospital Chaplain at G.R.H., Howard Gilbert's faith journey, James Baker an associate of Fred Stevens Funeral Directors, and an entertaining evening with Tom Elliott - a local Christian Magician. We regularly support the Stroud Women's Refuge with our collection of gifts and money and we had a very interesting talk on the work they do as the only Women's Refuge in the whole of Gloucestershire.

We enjoy times of fellowship and prayer, and during the year have happily increased our membership. We welcomed other members of the community to our Pancake evening on Shrove Tuesday at which we raised money to buy the Mothering Sunday flowers. We continue to meet on the third Wednesday in each month and welcome visitors to our meetings. These are always noted as a reminder in the Parish Magazine. Our forthcoming programme is already in progress, and we are looking forward to seeing it unfold.

PARISH MAGAZINE – Angie Ayling, Editor

The magazine continued to be distributed widely within the parish throughout 2019 and was well received, I think. An appeal for some extra articles (following comments that the magazine was a bit thin) resulted in a few contributions – one about oil rigs that has continued month after month!

The chief change for 2019 was Peter Holmes' illness necessitating him withdrawing from managing the advertising for 2020 (which needed to be done in November/December 2019). Peter produced the invoices and I sent them off and dealt with the responses – which included a few businesses ceasing to advertise for a number of reasons. Most businesses responded fairly swiftly with payment but a few needed chasing over and over again, with repeated emails and phone calls well into 2020, which was most aggravating. One gets the impression that some businesses do not appreciate that the magazine is produced wholly by volunteer labour. By visiting some shops in the town centre, I have generated a few extra adverts, which has been rewarding. However, I would really like someone else to take this on in November 2020 if Peter has not returned.

CHURCH CLEANING GUILD – Mandy Jutsum, Church Warden

Another year goes by and again we must thank the many people who contribute to keeping the church clean and cobweb free and the church silver and brassware sparkling. The fact that each of these people is aware of and responds to the variations in use of the church and the porch room is very much appreciated. Particular thanks are due in this respect following recent major building and decorating work.

There are twenty people who **polish the brass and silver and dust** the church. Special thanks are due to Ann Sutton who has retired this year after **many years** of brass cleaning. I'm delighted to say that Fanny Wright has taken her place partnering Jan Boland.

The more recently formed **Vacuuming rota** seems to be working really well. There are twelve people vacuuming the church in pairs on a fortnightly basis for two months each year. Terry and Val Sharpe, had to come off the rota as a result of moving away: we were sad to see them go. However they have been replaced by Angie Ayling and Mandy Jutsum.

From January to mid March the total refurbishment of the entrance porch and painting of the north wall happened. The annual "**Big Clean,**" which had been put on hold for some time, was

organised for **Wednesday 25th March 2020 from 1.30pm** with a **get together over tea and cake at Wednesday cuppa** in between dusting and floor washing.

There is a wide variety of users of the church and the Porch room which makes the cleaning and maintenance an important task but amongst these groups are some regular church groups who contribute to ensuring standards of cleanliness. In this respect we thank Sylvie Thomas and her team for their vigilance in their care and cleaning of the kitchen when providing us with delicious second Sunday breakfasts and the ever popular Wednesday cuppa and similarly to Hilary Bellhouse and her team of Sunday morning coffee makers. I would also like to thank Mary Codling and the Hospitality team who not only ensure they leave the place spick and span after any event but sometimes have to do a bit of cleaning up beforehand. Ian Hartley must be thanked for continuing to look after the maintenance of the dish washer: a much valued asset in the kitchen. Finally thanks are due to Cheryl Ritter for cleaning the kitchen and toilets every week. We missed her when she was on her long holiday down under earlier this year! Apart from weekly cleaning Cheryl also ensures that these areas are clean for additional events and church bookings.

If anyone is interested in joining the cleaning guild and contributing to the life of the church in this way, or indeed, any other please do talk to a church warden. Many hands really do make light work!