

The Church of St Peter & St Paul

Butlers Marston



Annual Report

Year Ended 31st December 2018

Matthew 6:33

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

This report is committed to the glory of God, the parish of Butlers Marston, the dedicated hard work of its Clergy Team, Parochial Church Council & volunteers and the service of Butlers Marston's community.

Butlers Marston Parochial Church Council

Annual Report

Year Ended 31st December 2018

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Church of St Peter & St Paul is located in Butlers Marston. It is part of the Diocese of Coventry within the Church of England. The correspondence address is No. 2 Manor Cottage, Butlers Marston, Warwickshire, CV35 0NA

Butlers Marston Parochial Church Council (“PCC”) members who have served from 1st January 2018 until the 2019 APCM; and from the date of the APCM until 31 December 2018 include:

Ex Officio Members

Benefice Rector

The Rev. Sharon Goble

The Rectory
Ilmington
Warwickshire
CV36 4LB

House for Duty Priest:

The Rev. John Horton

The Vicarage
Alderminster
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 8PE

Wardens:

Mr. Matthew Arnold

Representatives for the Deanery Synod:

Mrs. Lynn Arnold

Elected Members

Parochial Church Council

Mrs. Linda Nevill (*Secretary*)

Mrs. Lynn Arnold (*Treasurer*)

Mrs. Diane Burman

Mr. William Forsyth

Mrs. Christina Grange (*Electoral Roll Officer*)

Mr. Christian Hilton

Mrs. Sarah Mountford

Mr. Mark Roberts

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (“APCM”) in accordance with the Church Representation rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Banks

HSBC
13 Chapel Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 6ET

NS & I
Glasgow
G58 1SB

AIM & PURPOSES

St Peter and St Paul's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility to and, is pleased to work and develop its relationship with the incumbent Rector, The Rev. Sharon Goble and Associate Minister, The Rev. John Horton in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church of St Peter & St Paul, Butlers Marston and its churchyard.

The PCC is committed to facilitating an open, welcoming and inclusive church so that all our neighbours feel welcome to, and are enabled to worship and be part of the church community in the parish Butlers Marston.

The PCC actively listens to the input of its parish and regularly reviews the church offering making suggestions as to how its services feed the spiritual needs of its congregation.

Further, the PCC takes the church's position as the only available public building in the parish seriously and keenly seeks to accommodate events that maintain its thriving community and also to provide support in developing it. Various community based activities to maintain, build and support the parish are supported by the PCC and accommodate a variety of different community needs and preferences.

To facilitate the above aims, it is imperative that we maintain the fabric of The Church of St Peter & St Paul so that it may remain the central hub for parish worship and community. This, we believe is considered a priority by many of the parish's residents.

VICARS' REPORT

Stourdene Benefice Rector's Report 2019 From Rev'd Sharon Goble

What's New?

Messy Church was run in a five day holiday club in August in the mornings in Ettington and afternoons in Newbold, thanks to the huge efforts and commitment of those willing to put themselves in the way of being in the team. As this way of doing church is working for so many churches in reaching those outside of their regular congregations, I wanted to begin with the holiday club to give it another really good try – and also after a few years without, to build on the traditions which many of us have seen to be fruitful of running holiday clubs. In Ettington we had contact with 22 different families which included 51 children and young people but not all at the same time! In Newbold, we had contact with 22 different families which included 48 children and young people (5 of whom overlapped with those we also had contact with in Ettington.) In Ettington we have since built on this shape of church in **Messy Christingle, Messy Start, Messy Mission** and at the time of writing plan **Messy Mothering Sunday** (also at Newbold), **Messy Palms and Messy Good Friday**. Messy Easter will be shared with Key stage 1 of Ettington Church of England Primary School. With thanks to those from our congregations who have come to help make it happen by mucking in and also be part of the welcoming and nurturing of those who are younger in faith and age. It's so much more effective when there are others among the faithful there to welcome and join in and share intergenerationally which also stretches us to think differently about and articulate our faith!

Bible Book Club – with reference to resources from the Bible Society, (though the discussions of this group of a regular 9 needs very little prompting!) we have so far read and discussed Genesis, Galatians, Exodus, Luke, Joshua and Judges. I love this stimulating, friendly and open-minded group!

Changes in pattern of worship – **sung evensongs** in Pillertons for Advent with the choir and in Halford alternating every other month with **evening worship** which has taken various forms for festivals and also explored themes with celtic and reflective liturgies; we came together for a Benefice service for **Pentecost** so that like the disciples in Acts 2 “we were all together in one place” to celebrate the birthday of the Church.

Prayer stations – in each of our church buildings as part of the global movement of prayer Thy Kingdom Come and again for Lent 2019. Although there is not much sign of engagement with these, it is part of my ministry and spirituality to offer them, and hopefully helps keep our church buildings engaging and fresh for all who come into them quite apart from our regular worship pattern.

Marriage preparation afternoon on the Sunday before Valentine day welcomed 8 couples (1 of those from Ilmington Benefice) From the appreciative comments of almost everyone it was, as hoped, an extension of hospitality and welcome to strengthen their sense of belonging and spark, we hope, more thoughts about faith for life as well as pastorally supporting them in looking ahead to building marriage. With thanks to John and Chris who jointly led with me, and also Pip and Reg who were open to share their own story and provide amazing cake and fizz for this to be celebratory (and one couple to practise cutting!)

Diocesan centenary – the Cross of Nails was received in both our church schools with special services including one at the Cathedral; a few from the Benefice attended the Diocesan Festival in May and Conference in November; GIFT joined in a pig roast on a farm to hear Archbishop of Canterbury on his visit to the Diocese.

Little Gems is a new stay and play group which was the initiative of Newbold and Tredington CofE school with which I have partnered to support as I have become aware of newcomers to this changing village who need a network on the doorstep, whilst acknowledging that there are other welcoming similar groups already in our benefice.

What's Next?

Natural Church Development data to be refreshed across the Benefice which will inform our **Benefice Development morning** on 29th September 2019

To ask the questions: how can we continue to be an effective prayerful presence in our community? What can we do better together? **SOW Good!** an opportunity for anyone who likes singing of any age to explore a range of music for worship will be one expression to this exploration.

Nurture group and confirmation – both for adults and young people, as I have been approached by both.

A new shape of Faith group and exploration of **small group** resources that invite **faith sharing**.

With huge thanks to all who do so much in the life of the Stourdene Benefice through activity in church and in our communities, and in prayer, their own ministries and support and encouragement of the clergy. With special thanks to John and Liz Horton who will have retired by the next APCM- we will of course make more of our thanks and appreciation in their last service on 1st September 2019, but while they are still here to read the reports, they should know how they will be missed!

Rev'd John Horton, Associate Minister Adds:

The Christianity Explored Course ran in January and February with five people taking part. The course developed by All Souls Langham Place included an away day and was an exploration of the Gospel of Mark and clearly sets out the basics of the Christian faith. One person attending the course was confirmed by the Bishop of Coventry at Long Compton in April.

During **Advent** a group of people attended a course entitled "Life to the full?" which was produced by York Courses. This Bible-based four session course enabled us to consider and discuss various aspects of our lives and learn more about a truly Christian approach to life.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Statistics

Table 1	Number of Services				Average Attendance			
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2018	2017	2016	2015
Regular Services								
BCP Communion (less Easter & Christmas)	9	12	8	10	6	8	8	7
Common Worship Holy Communion	8	-	-	-	7	-		
Morning Prayer		10	15	14		9	9	6
Evensong	11	10	-	-	7	8		
Family Service (less with baptism)	11	9	6	10	17	15	17	14
Festival Services								
Benefice Service	0	1	1	2	-	40	28	50
Mothering Sunday	1	1	1	1	20	22	31	31
Easter Day Communion	1	1	1	1	36	20	23	26
Easter Day Family Service	-	1	1	-	-	39	32	-
Rogation Service	1	1	1	0	10	16	11	-
Harvest	1	1	1	1	35	31	39	36
Remembrance	1	1	1	1	?	50	66	45
Christingle	1	1	1	1	21	19	40	23
Carol Service	1	1	1	1	75	67	100	93
Crib Service	1	1	1	1	70	80	81	44
Christmas Day	1	1	1	1	23	23	21	31
Special Services								
Baptism	1	0	7	1	-	-	-	-
Wedding	0	2	1	1	-	-	-	-

Funeral & Memorial Services	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-
Totals	50	55	45	50	(Average of Regular Services) 9	(Average of Regular Services) 10	(Average of Regular Services) 11	(Average of Regular Services) 9

Overview of Services

The pattern of regular monthly services altered slightly during 2018 with the service of Morning Prayer on the first Sunday of the month being replaced by Common Worship Holy Communion. The pattern of Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion, Evensong and Family Service remains similar.

As can be seen in table 1, attendance remains broadly similar to previous years although average attendance has fallen from 10 to 9. Festival services are attracted similar numbers although attendance of the Mothering Sunday service in particular is significantly lower than in previous years.

In addition to the regular monthly and festival services, notable changes also included a Family Holy Communion service on Easter Day in lieu of an early morning BCP Holy Communion followed by egg hunt and Family Service in previous years. Overall numbers attending were lower but the number attending a service of Communion higher.

A Family Service was themed specifically to cherishing churchyards and Rev. Sharon Goble invited Godfrey Armitage, leader of the Diocesan Environmental Group to come speak at the service for which the liturgy was themed accordingly. The service and Godfrey's visit were greatly appreciated and enjoyed.

Rev. John Horton led a Family Service on the village green which was followed by a 'bring and share' picnic. The service was well attended and feedback such that it would like to be repeated in coming years.

It was a pleasure to hold a service of baptism for Sibyl Forsyth, daughter of Willie and Olivia Forsyth, Parkslade Farm, Pillerton Hersey.

A number of services have been lay-led in 2018. Sarah Mountford and Di Burman co-led the Rogation Sunday service and walk and a variety of congregation members come together to lead the monthly service of Evensong.

Belinda Roberts once again wrote the script for the Crib Service in ‘Robin Hood – The Nativity’ and directed the production. Thank you to Belinda for her creativity, gift and willingness to lead us in this service.

A group of between three and five meet each Friday for Morning Prayer at 7am prior to work. This lay-led service has developed into a much-enjoyed discussion group about the day’s readings.

Once again, there is musical accompaniment at every Sunday service, whether organ or piano thank you to Lynn Arnold and Mark Roberts. Music forms a significant aspect of the worship service and we are indebted to their talent and greatly appreciate them playing for the benefit of us all.

Faith Group

The Faith Group continued to meet throughout 2018, albeit more sporadically at times due to the commitments of its members. The group explored various means of exploring faith together through reading Rev. Michael Lloyd’s Café Theology to completed a course provided by the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC) of Faithfulness on the Frontline. The form of the group is changing and will change during 2019 according to availability and priorities of those able to continue to support it.

Fabric

2018 was a significant year for fabric repairs being made to the church in line with the recommendations made at the quinquennial inspection. These included:

Repointing of east elevation	£1,200
Repointing the interior stone archway	£390
Repointing of north east parapet and resetting of led flashing	£120
Repointing of east window sill	£30
Repointing of ridge tiles and resetting slipped tiles.	£390
Repair and repointing of west churchyard boundary wall	£1,500

Works were carried out to a satisfactory standard by M. Hemmings Building & Alterations and in accordance with necessary permission and recommendations of the Coventry DAC.

In addition, William Forsyth and his team from Parkslade Farm restored the door and fittings to the old boiler house to make it secure for the storage of lawn mowers.

An application was made to the DAC for conversion of the current churchyard store to a WC. The PCC approves of the conversion and steps will be made in the coming year to make the installation and will make a significant improvement to the basic services of the church to support village activities.

Thank you to Bob Bearman and Robert Bowen for developing the Statement of Significance required to make the application for the WC.

Social Events & Fundraising

The church works hard to provide several means of coming together in fellowship. Chat in Church continued to meet on the first Friday of the month (except during Lent and August) for informal drinks and social time. This continued to be successful and the CinC committee plan to develop the offering further in 2019.

Church Teas were once again a welcome staple during May and August bank holidays and well supported, albeit perhaps not in such numbers as previous years. Thank you to all those involved in leading and supporting this much loved calendar event.

Safari Supper was again a very enjoyable evening and a great way to engage with neighbours and friends. Likewise Harvest Supper provided a very pleasant evening to join together and share a meal. Thank you to Linda for organising the catering and Dick Leaper and many others in supporting the organisation of the event. The evening was significantly less well attended than in previous years and this was attributed to a need to improve advertisement and provide more notice. However, many attendees vocalised their appreciation of the more intimate fellowship at this meal.

The fete was again a great success and despite being a much cooler day, saw comparable funds raised and a great number of ways to get involved in games, activities or to enjoy hot and cold food and drink. Thank very much to Jenny Mitchell-Hilton for leading the arrangements and organisation of this significant, and large event.

Kim and Julian Piercey of Monksbridge held an informal picnic and gathering in their garden to see a live production of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' by the Lord

Chamberlain's Men. All proceeds were very kindly donated to the church which were of course, very gratefully received.

BMCS

During 2018, Lynn Arnold led four professional classical music concerts for piano and cello, piano duets and piano and violin. The concerts continue to be well attended, although in lower numbers this year than previously and the standard of music continues to be outstanding, bringing professional music to our locality. Thank you to Lynn and the BMCS committee for their ongoing commitment to the concert series that also provides a significant income for church funds.

Church Ornaments

All church ornaments and assets remain accounted for and both Terrier and Inventory are up to date.

Final Summary

2018 has been another busy year for the church of Butlers Marston. The people of the church including the PCC are tremendously talented and freely giving people who go on supporting the work of the church tirelessly, and I would like to thank them all for making such a great contribution. There is no doubt in my mind that we will need to prioritise seeking out more support and resource if we are to go on to achieve the plans that we have for the fabric of the church whilst making space for development and nourishment of the spiritual life as a church too, both for our existing congregation and also for inviting and leading new members too. We are a great team and it is with great regret that if elected for the coming year of service, that it will be my last in the role of churchwarden after six years in post. I look forward to the coming year and preparing the way for a new churchwarden and handing over as carefully, clearly and sustainably as I possibly can.

The PCC would also like to record its thanks to Messrs H.L Barnes and Sons, Chartered Accountants for their generous auditing of our accounts; their guidance and help is greatly appreciated.

Matthew Arnold

Churchwarden

TREASURER'S APCM REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED DEC. 2018

At 31st December 2018, monetary assets totalled £39,752 (2017 = £41,177) represented by £23394 in the Unrestricted General Fund and the remaining £16,358 being distributed amongst the various restricted and designated funds detailed on page 7 of the financial statement. The accounts of 2018 demonstrate a general downward trajectory in income, both by giving and also by events, during a year that has been unusually expensive in maintenance.

Unrestricted General Fund

As an overview over the last two years:

	2018	2017	% + / -
Receipt over payment	£1,825	£ 5,775	68% decrease
Voluntary giving	£8,527	£10,187	16% decrease
Regular collections & planned giving	£5,128	£7,092	28% decrease

The PCC would like to thank all regular givers and those who provide donations to the church. Once again, regular collections and planned giving have covered our Parish Share fee of £6,230 in its entirety. A lower income this year has been noted; this is partially due to no large donations from the Champion family - 2017 & 2016 both gratefully received c.£2,000 from the Champions in each year. The Parish Share rose from £6,052 to £6,230 due to both inflation and also as the churches of Shipston Deanery no longer rely on the Coventry Diocesan Support Fund at all.

Considering the incoming funds: voluntary, regular collections and planned giving (£8,527) raises more than double the moneys than the activities that generate funds for the church do (£3,565).

Continuing the analysis of 2018 incoming funds, regular giving has raised £4994 and service giving has raised £2,481, totalling £7,475. Butlers Marston church has three proportionally significant donors by direct debit, raising £4,320. The giving strategy of the Church of St Peter & St Paul, Butlers Marston, needs consideration in its development, in terms of sustainability and access as this is clearly a vulnerable situation. 2017 giving demonstrated the success of digital campaign giving through *VirginMoneyGiving* with our New-Testamentathon. Thus a future aim would be to

consider how we give in church services, digitally and otherwise, whether by using a card reader for the collection or by SMS text-scheme, whereby one is invited to text £5 and then that money goes to the church (instead of / as well as the traditional collection).

Total receipts including all fundraising totalled £13,663 (2017 = £17,282), with an additional £3086 transferred into the account from both the restricted & designated fabric funds to cover the building works accomplished by Matthew Hemmings.

Total payments were slightly higher, at £11,838 (2017 = £11,507).

The PCC will continue to monitor its finances closely and focus its efforts in the coming period to ensure that expenses support mission and growth of the church whilst balancing its reserves to maintain the building and support its development. We are in a financially robust position; although we cannot afford to be complacent we should be very pleased with the results of everyone's efforts to maintain a healthy balance during 2018. Thank you to everyone involved for their hard work.

To provide some perspective on the running costs of the church, if we consider that our total payments for the year of 2018 were £11,838, this figure equates to a daily operating cost of £32 and therefore a weekly operating cost of approximately £224.

Other Funds

The restricted and ring fenced funds are divided as follows:

- The BMCS account has fallen by £64 as a result of the income from four concerts during the year being offset by tuning and servicing the organ.
- The Bell fund has risen by £98 through income from donations from those ringing quarter peals.
- The Churchyard fund has fallen by £277; a kind donation from Derek Campion from the Church Fete has been offset by costs for mowers repairs and services for use in the churchyard.

The PCC holds its operating funds with HSBC Bank, Stratford-upon-Avon and the NS&I Savings accounts, and it is our policy to invest our surplus fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try and maintain a balance of free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least six months' unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations which may arise from time to time. This is equivalent to approximately £6,000 based on 2018's costs and the balance of £23,342 held in the Unrestricted General Fund clearly meets this need.

Lynn Arnold

Treasurer