

St. Giles, Matlock 2018 APCM Reports and PCC election results

1. Reports

The St. Giles Matlock APCM was held on 10th April 2018 and the following reports were presented.

a) Changes in the electoral roll since the 2017 annual parochial church meeting.

As at the beginning of April 2018, there are 113 names on the electoral roll - 67 living in the parish and 56 living outside the parish. We lost 5 names from the roll and gained 5 names so the roll is quite stable.

As the numbers on the electoral roll are no longer used to calculate the diocesan quota, there is probably a good reason to encourage more members of the congregation to add their names to the roll. *Alison Grindrod* *Electoral roll officer*

b) The proceedings of the PCC. 2017/18

Since the inaugural meeting of the PCC immediately after the 2017 APCM, there have been 5 scheduled meetings and one extraordinary meeting. The average attendance at the scheduled meetings has been 13, out of a possible 17 attendees. The worst attended scheduled meeting was that on 16th January 2018 where only 9 members managed to attend. The reduced attendance was due to a combination of the usual winter illnesses and also bad weather. The extraordinary meeting was attended by 10 members and was unusual in that neither Fr. Mark, nor Jean Haines (vice chair) were able to attend because of other commitments.

In addition to the full PCC meetings there have been 3 meetings of the Standing Committee.

It will come as no surprise that the most common issues discussed have been related to finance.

Every meeting has had a financial report and an examination of the minutes shows no fewer than 17 individually minuted items relating to financial matters. These range from receiving a financial report each meeting, consideration of introducing the Parish Giving Scheme, the spending powers of the Standing Committee, finding a new auditor and finding a replacement for our current treasurer, as Peter has indicated his intention to stand down from this role. Aside from finance, the next most significant issue discussed has been the role of the Barn as against the use of space inside the church itself. This is an ongoing issue and seems likely to occupy a fair amount of the next PCC's time. Linked into this is the question of moving the Fun Club from the Barn into the church itself, but that has not been the only discussion centring on children in church. Of arguably greater significance was the debate over allowing children to take communion without first being confirmed. This has now been approved by the Bishop.

Safeguarding has been another regular item discussed and Joan Link as our safeguarding officer has reported to each regular PCC meeting on the progress being made on this matter.

There are numerous other items that have cropped up over the year, involving church services, the garden party, other social and spiritual events, mission outreach and the inevitable church maintenance issues. The big roof project is behind us, but there are safety issues concerning fencing, lighting and handrails, to say nothing of insecure memorials in the churchyard. In the background there's change coming in the diocesan arrangements, with the establishment of the new Carsington Deanery and the likelihood of a reduction in clergy numbers over the next few years.

The 2017/18 PCC year has been an 'interesting' one and I have no doubt the 2018/19 one will be 'like unto it'. One of the matters we will need to address is the effect of the new data protection legislation, which at face value appears to preclude the Secretary of the PCC from sending out notification of an APCM unless people on the Electoral Roll have given their express permission that they can be contacted. Doubtless this was not the intention of the legislation, but the well-known law of unintended consequences has a nasty habit of kicking in when you least expect it.

Martin Smith.

c) Financial report

The 2017 Accounts were approved by the recent meeting of the PCC and have now been approved and signed off by the Auditor. Copies are available on request.

Examination of the various funds shows that income has been maintained over the year and there has been a slight decrease in expenditure. Regular giving has held up nicely and because of the Parish Giving scheme, Gift Aid is being received on a monthly basis. A number of people on the Parish Giving scheme have agreed to automatic increases in their contribution to the church's income, which is very welcome. However, there is no room for complacency, because St. Giles contribution to the Common Fund is scheduled to increase over the next few years.

The major expenditure on the roof repairs has obviously seen a diminution in the assets of the Roof Fund. As there have been no problems with the repair over this last 12 months we are now about to pay the contractors and architects the final tranche of the cost. This was held back pending any problems arising over the year.

The Bell Fund is increasing very nicely almost entirely due to the fact that the ringers make regular contributions to it, in order to fund minor repairs and enhancements to the bells.

We have other expenditure pending, e.g. to make the Barn more accessible and useable, purchasing new chairs for the Lady Chapel, repairs to the footpath, so we cannot rest on our laurels.

Our Auditor is suggesting a much simplified system of accounts which I'm sure will please my successor.

Peter Steele.

d) Churchwardens' Report 2018

We've had a positive year over the last 12 months. However much of what the warden team have been doing this year is invisible to most.

We were tasked with updating the business side of church in many ways. For example. Job descriptions and basic safeguarding advice with Joan's help, have been prepared for many volunteer roles: Welcomers; Flower arrangers; Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens; Treasurers, Coffee teams. Slowly these are making their way to our wonderful volunteers. These will help us going forwards if someone wishes to join the merry team. Everything will be clearly written down. If you perform one of these roles and haven't had the papers, please let me know.

A permissions faculty is in progress to purchase 15 new oak chairs for the Lady Chapel to allow Mark to use the space to better accommodate the individual services held there. We hope our congregation will offer kind donations to help with the costs. £3,000 from Beryl Findon's estate will be used to purchase some chairs and we thought that would be a fitting reminder of her as she loved the Lady Chapel and this church. Cost £306 ea.

Plans have been commissioned with the architect to assess the requirements and costs to make the barn compliant to the new disability and access laws, whilst preserving its fabric, on the current footprint. The PCC will see those plans and budget proposals in due course.

A new grant has just become available which means we can potentially apply for funding to upgrade our kitchens and even bring Wi-Fi into the church. This would offer us interesting opportunities to make the church a more inviting and familiar space for newcomers and be more practical for our larger social gatherings. The PCC will debate this soon.

You will have noticed that the North Aisle is becoming a more open space with much of the clutter removed and the notice boards gone. A new board will appear soon in the porch for important notices, others will be in the News and Notices book by the entrance until we settle on a more visible alternative. We also await the faculty decision about certain items of unrequired furniture that we can hopefully auction to part fund the new Lady Chapel chairs.

Special event – We are planning a special event for Mark's 40th anniversary of ordination as priest on Sunday 24th June. This will be held in church and all the work to tidy the aisles will make this a better space for the 150 plus people expected to join us at the service and lunch afterwards.

The Path renovation is still in discussion. We are exploring the best options, will it be a rail or new surface to make the entrance to church easier? This is ongoing.

The barn's perimeter fencing has been costed and commissioned for repair. This should happen very soon. The driveway entrance has been resurfaced successfully.

Parking remains an issue. I would urge everyone to remain calm when faced with thoughtless parking. We are working on this and very soon you will see better signage outside which we hope will reduce our problems.

Unstable memorials are keeping the team awake at night and the DAC have kindly picked up the baton and are in conversation with the local council regarding responsibility. We hope to avoid the suggestion of finding and contacting family members for each memorial on the churchyards 9 acres, asking them to kindly tend to them!

We hope that 2018 will see the successful fruition of the time and energy that the team have invested in multiple complex projects.

Angela Neale, Emily Brailsford; CHURCHWARDENS

1e. Carsington Deanery Synod

There was no report on the Deanery Synod as such, but it was noted that the old Wirksworth Deanery had now been replaced by the new Carsington Deanery with R. Duncan Ballard as Area Dean. A copy of the latest minutes of the Carsington Deanery is attached as Appendix A.

1f St Giles Matlock MU Report 2017

Our small group of members achieve a lot and I thank them all for their support.

We meet monthly for a talk or demonstration and to organise the month's activities.

As prayer is a major part of MU we meet, once a month, at the 10am Thursday Communion service.

Our help with Godly Play continues and four or five members help. They talk to the children, are involved in story time and craft making as well as providing a substantial tea for the children. The parents and helpers have a cup of tea and eat up the leftovers. It is good to see 80 year old ladies playing with children from a year old to 9/10 year old.

During Lent we provide the food for a Lent lunch- the donations go to MU charities.

This last year we held a CONCERT/TEA

With a great deal of help from our church organist a varied musical programme (of a high standard) was performed. This was followed by Afternoon Tea again of a high standard. This raised £250 for MU charities.

We thank Fr Mark for his interest and encouragement. Men as well as women are welcome do come and join us. *Joan Pybus*

1g Safeguarding Report

A Safeguarding report was submitted to the PCC in January and as one of the elements of the new Diocesan Policy is to keep Safeguarding in the minds of our congregation ongoing it is important that the APCM is made aware of what is happening. It will be a standing part of the APCM agenda from now on in order to give it due priority, in the same way that the Bishop and Archbishop have led on the subject.

Safeguarding at St Giles 2017- summary

St Giles has done a lot of work on implementing the 2016 Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and the systems for its management are now in place. This includes adoption of a Parish Policy on Safeguarding in January 2017, the appointment of a Parish Safeguarding Link and a supervisory member of the PCC, the carrying out through the DST of the required DBS checks, all now completed or in hand for volunteers working with children's activities, the key members of the PCC and most others and for the PSL. More work will be required on DBS checks with the new PCC and as new volunteers come in.

We have worked on explaining the new policy to the congregation and volunteers through a magazine article and training sessions, both informal and in the new Diocesan training framework. We have set up Volunteer Contracts for all posts directly involved in children's work and we have done some Risk Assessments, although some remain to be done. Advice has been on-going for all leaders of specific work as required, mainly about the setting up of the new systems but sometimes on specific points re safeguarding concepts and minor issues. *Joan Link*

1h St Giles Fellowship Report

Fellowship is just about still in existence. We have had a difficult time over the last winter months and we are wondering if it is worth having meetings when the evenings are cold and dark and not many members feel like turning out. At our next meeting in April we will discuss being only a Spring, Summer and Autumn organisation. (Apart from Christmas of course!) Together with Barbara and Jackie we will think hard about what to do. We will certainly still be meeting and enjoying being together. *Alison Grindrod*

1i Bell ringing report 2017-2018

We welcomed two novice ringers this year to the Matlock band, Jason Knighton and Gill Hallas who are progressing well.

Now we have 12 local ringers and visitors from local towers and further afield come quite often.

We have been on a few bell ringing outings well organized by James Bishop

We continue work on the bells, new muffles arrived, new ropes to replace worn ones and maintenance to keep the bells ringing. Thanks to Angela Neale for sorting out the Archdeacon's letter of authority and John Thorpe for work on our 5th bell.

The ringers continue to improve; learning to handle their bell, striking well and learning new methods.

We won the first round of a striking competition and go onto Derby association finals at Horsley in June.

I wish to thank all the ringers who make the job of tower captain so enjoyable and rewarding.

Helen Legood

1j Fun Club Report

We moved the children's corner over to the north aisle for one month to see if this worked any better for both the children and the congregation. The children have said they prefer the original children's area and I am inclined to agree with them as there is a strong draught to the north aisle from the main door and the north aisle just doesn't seem to work. We have purchased a Sunday school programme called Faith Map, which takes us through the whole year. It fits in with our worship and is proving very successful with the children. They are using the box files to put their worksheets in and are taking Sunday school very seriously.

Emily Brailsford

1k Godly Play

We have had a very positive year, maintaining our numbers and nurturing our group. The children have a very strong bond with each other and the Mothers Union helpers. We are sorry that Dorothea won't be making jam sandwiches for us anymore, but we hope she is happy in her new home. Last year we explored the Eucharist and the giving of bread and wine. We then offered those children in our group who were seven plus, to partake a more detailed course so that, with the Bishop's permission, they would be able to receive Holy Communion. Three of our members very successfully fulfilled this and we are very proud of the integrity and commitment that they showed.

We would like to thank Fr. Mark, the Mothers Union and all the other adult helpers. We could not manage without their support.

Bridget Caudle

1l Forest Church.

This was a bit of an experiment as there are only two books and one website on the subject. I didn't feel that any of them really did what I wanted. I am a trained Forest School leader and so I wanted to incorporate elements of that into our Forest Church too. We carried out the Forest Church for three weeks before the February half-term and three weeks after, with four infant children. Fr. Mark attended as did Helen and Brian. It ended up being a kind of 'messy church. Outside where we had a Bible story, then a woodland craft and then squash and biscuits. It was most enjoyable and the school has asked if we could do another six weeks before and after the May half-term. We hope to open this up to the year 3 and 4 children (ages 7 and 8)

Emily Brailsford.

1m St. Giles School

The school has changed a lot over the last four years. There is now a much better relationship between the school and the church, but further church/school involvement would still be welcomed, including more attendance at services. Emily has taken over the school choir. The school was inspected in November and has improved its rating from 'Satisfactory' to 'Good'. This has involved an enormous effort by the staff but is a very pleasing development. An Ofsted inspection is looming and I have agreed to delay my resignation as head teacher until the Ofsted inspection is completed. I will then take up a post with VSO. After I have left the school will have an Executive Head who will cover both St. Giles and Cromford schools and who will not have a teaching role. There will be a Senior Teacher at St. Giles rather than a Deputy Head. The diocese feels that combining the executive functions of small schools in this way will enable them to survive. This arrangement will begin in September.

Suzanne Forster; Head teacher

1n Fr. Mark's Report

It is now fifteen years since I arrived in Matlock. After I had been here a year, I was asked to take over the care of Dethick, Lea and Holloway and that obviously meant that I wasn't able to care for the Saint Giles Church, congregation and parish in quite the same way as my predecessors. This was the result of both a shortage of clergy and a shortage of money. Both parishes had to get used to a few less services and also to me being a little less involved in certain aspects of parish life, rather than others. For example, I tend not to get over involved in fabric matters and instead try and

concentrate on pastoral matters. So someone saying to me on a Sunday morning that the light on the clock isn't working or the loop system is faulty, will have me saying 'Have a word with the churchwarden'. For that reason, I am immensely grateful that in the United Benefice we have a first class team of four churchwardens, in turn backed up by a team of deputies, in turn backed up by very committed PCC members. So thank you very much for all that you do to provide superb support to me and give first class work to the church.

This last year Duncan Ballard, our area dean and Vicar of Ashbourne, visited both PCCs to talk about the difficulties facing the Church of England. Over the next five years, a considerable number of clergy will be able to retire, and there are not enough new clergy able to fill their places. The result will be that we will have to get used to less priests, certainly less stipendiary priests. In this deanery where we have nine stipendiary priests plus two curates and one pioneer minister plus of course one or two non-stipendiary and readers and retired clergy, that will in all likelihood drop to six stipendiary priests, two in Ashbourne area, two in Wirksworth area, two in Matlock area. How that will work out in practice I am not sure. But there are two or three ways of preparing for that eventuality.

One is that we must be realistic about the number of services we can provide, certainly on a Sunday. At Dethick, Lea and Holloway they have roughly one service a Sunday between two churches. Saint Giles has roughly three services a Sunday. We are going to have to look at that. Evensong on the first Sunday of the month is attended sometimes by seven people. Is that sustainable? Benediction gets sometimes ten or eleven, Breathing Space 12 to 15, Healing Service perhaps ten. Maybe we should look at those. Sometimes the 8 am gets 7 or 8 although other times it will be 12 or 13. Certainly in the future, we will have to make do with one regular service at Saint Giles at 9.30 am. And it would be irresponsible for me not to prepare for that while I am here.

Another way of preparing for that is for me to be less involved in administrative matters. Because administration prevents me being a pastor. A few years ago, we did make an effort to take the burdens of administration from me. But time goes by, and administrative tasks have a habit of multiplying! So that is an area we need to look at or I will find I never leave my study or am caught up in numerous committees.

A third way is to look at how we can renew church life and carry out our mission as a church. At Holloway they have had a series of special PCC meetings aimed at seeing how they could work more effectively in the community and also at the whole question of what type of services they should provide and what should happen if a priest is not able to be there every Sunday. We are going to have a SG special PCC meeting dedicated to just this issue, and at the other points I have just made, especially seeing what services are viable and which are not.

Having said that, our church life remains vibrant. The Sunday average adult attendance is 62. We had a spectacular congregation on Easter morning, and the Christingle Crib service was positively heaving. Advent Sunday when the School Choir came was also wonderful. We had three adult confirmations this past year and three children were admitted to Holy Communion. A year or two ago someone complained that a baby was crying in the service and I said that a lot of congregations would give their back teeth to have a baby crying. It is lovely that we have some children in church and that we have Godly Play and, with Emily's leadership, Fun Club and now Forest Church. I am very grateful for all the help that Emily gives me in the mission and pastoral work of our two parishes and for Fr Brian who fills in whenever I ask. I am also immensely grateful for the very fruitful relation we have with the school. Thanking Suzanne and John Higgs and for all they have done to make such a good relationship between church and school.

Of course, with children, and with vulnerable adults, there is the issue of safeguarding and I am immensely grateful for the leadership that Joan and Sarah give in this very important work. The church must be a safe place for everyone and that is why DBS checks and job descriptions and so on are so vital, they are part of the work of the church, not an inconvenience.

So we press on with Christian confidence, facing the challenges that lie ahead with optimism and a smile but also grateful for the many opportunities and graces we have received.

Fr. Mark Crowther-Alwyn

2. PCC Election results

Results of the elections for Churchwardens, members of the Parochial Church Council and members of the Carsington Deanery Synod are as follows;

Election of Churchwardens			
Nominee	Proposer	Seconders	Result
<i>Angela Neale</i>	<i>Jackie Steele</i>	<i>Peter Steele</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Emily Brailsford</i>	<i>Judith Duggins</i>	<i>Cynthia Hallows</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
Election of PCC members			
Nominee	Proposer	Seconders	Result
<i>Brian Legood</i>	<i>Alison Grindrod</i>	<i>James Bishop</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Claire Drabble</i>	<i>Martin Smith</i>	<i>Angela Neale</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Gillian Briggs</i>	<i>Jane Pomphrey</i>	<i>Cynthia Hallows</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Jackie Steele</i>	<i>Jane Pomphrey</i>	<i>Gillian Briggs</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Jane Pomphrey</i>	<i>Peter Steele</i>	<i>Gillian Briggs</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Jason Knighton</i>	<i>Michael Amos</i>	<i>Peter Steele</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Jean Haines</i>	<i>Alison Grindrod</i>	<i>Annette Lowe</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Michael Amos</i>	<i>Jason Knighton</i>	<i>Lee McClean</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Peter Steele</i>	<i>Joan Link</i>	<i>Claire Drabble</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Sarah Higgs</i>	<i>Bridget Caudle</i>	<i>Emily Brailsford</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
Election of Deanery Synod members (to serve until 2020 APCM)			
Nominee	Proposer	Seconders	Result
<i>Joan Link</i>	<i>Martin Smith</i>	<i>Emily Brailsford</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>

NB Martin Smith remains a member of the Carsington Deanery Synod having been elected in 2017 to serve until 2020.

3. Inaugural Meeting of new PCC

At the inaugural meeting of the new PCC the following appointments were made:

Deputy Churchwardens; Jackie Steele, Jason Knighton, Sarah Higgs

Secretary; Martin Smith

Treasurer; Jane Pomphrey

Vice Chair; Claire Drabble

There were no co-options onto the PCC at this stage.

APPENDIX A

Minutes of the Carsington Deanery Synod 12th March 2018

On the evening of Monday 12th March 33 members of synod met at Holy Trinity, Matlock Bath and 7 sent apologies.

Duncan thanked Rev Nick Grayshon and his wife Val for the refreshments they provided for us and for the use of Holy Trinity.

The evening started with Compline followed by News from the parishes.

- Rev Carolyn McDonald kindly invited anyone that is interested along to a briefing on Safeguarding on the Thursday 15th March, Parish Giving Scheme on the Wednesday 9th April. 7.30 - 8.45pm at St Peter's Parwich
- Tina Harbinson announced that Clifton will be having another Flower Festival after last years was such a success, the theme will be Wedding Anniversaries and it will be on the 5th, 6th and 7th May.
- David Truby shared the successful news they had secured a grant of £8,000 from 'Aviva' to renovate the Wirksworth parish room floor.
- Rev Paul Taylor kindly offered to share their new contact form with the deanery, so we comply with the new GPDR guidelines and Data protection which will take effect in May.
- A very happy announcement that Rev Naomi Barraclough has had a baby boy!
- Rev Richard Reade will be leading the 'Derwent Trek 2018' in aid of USPG on the 23rd April leaving from Derby Cathedral, more information on <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Richard-Reade4>
- Exciting news from Rev Phil Michell that the first Messy Church was a huge success!

- Monty gave us details about 'Songs of Praise at Carsington' at 3pm on 17 June, sounds like it going to be a brilliant day with lots planned. A fete will run from 11.30- 2.30pm, parishes are invited to bring a stall to join Ashbourne Town band. Please contact Monty. monty.stuartmonteith@gmail.com

Duncan gave us an update regarding the Statistics for Mission and Finance, Mission is 100% completed and Finance can be completed online once you've had your APCM's. Please add photos of your Churches, both inside and out on to the Strategic Buildings Review website, if you need any help resizing them, please get in touch with Claire.

It was agreed that a letter would go out to the Treasurers regarding a collection for the Bishop's leaving present from the Carsington Deanery.

The local vacancy-in-see consultation is on the 27th March at 6.00pm and it was also agreed that we would have a meeting to discuss what ideas we have beforehand. Bookmarks were available for people to take for congregations to pray for the appointment.

What had the Deanery ever done for us?

We are looking at lots of exciting different projects across the Deanery including

- Shops in Churches
- Toilets in Churches
- Library of resources
- Weekly thoughts for the Day
- Help for Treasurers – accountancy packages
- Warmer Hubs

Helena Stubbs, Community Buildings Officer from Rural Action Derbyshire (RDA) spoke at length about how the RDA can support parish Churches and how we could 'market' our Churches and to be more commercially minded to encourage more people through our doors.

At this Synod, Helena discussed a project of having shops in Churches, a pilot scheme would initially be rolled out to 3 churches, for this to be a beneficial project the villages would need approximately 500 residents but other factors could be taken into consideration for example, if the village was located on a main through road, the shop would potentially benefit from the passing traffic. The shops would have initial costs but could be managed several different ways to suit the needs and aims of that particular area. There were questions and answers after the presentation.

I have attached the survey and SWOT analysis for your Parishes to fill in and return to Helena.

An exciting project was announced by Gareth Greenwood from Derby Church House, **The Raymond Ross Fund**, Gareth said we are now actively seeking applications to a newly established fund to enable parishes in the imaginative, mission focussed use of their church buildings. Parishes will be able to make a single application during the life of the fund, with the focus on making church buildings fit for the purposes of mission in the 21st Century. A simple application form is available for you to tell us about the specifics of your project, and the missional outcomes you are aiming to support. Assistance is always available from the Parish Support Office in working up plans and ideas, and will help you make sure your project fits the criteria.

The three categories for which the fund has been established are:

- Toilets
- Kitchens / kitchenettes
- Wi-Fi / Broadband projects

The maximum grant a parish can apply for is 25k, and will generally require 50% match either from the PCC, community or external funding body. More information about the purposes and criteria for the fund will be available on the Derby Diocese Website, and for any advice and/or application form, you should contact Gareth Greenwood, Community Project Development Officer – 01332 388690.

Learning Needs Exercise

Rev Carolyn McDonald, Priest in charge of the Peak Five spoke about Duncan's Vision for Carsington Deanery.

In Duncan's Strategy he clearly would like to see a flourishing Christian presence in every community, but what do people need in order to achieve this?

God is calling people to be a part of this beautiful picture as in the next 7-10 years there is to be a big decline of stipendiary clergy.

The synod was asked to fill out a chart of how we can best train and equip people that have been called by God, whether that was in our own churches, in the deanery or diocese.

In the future we will speak to people that have skills and experience to share across the deanery.