



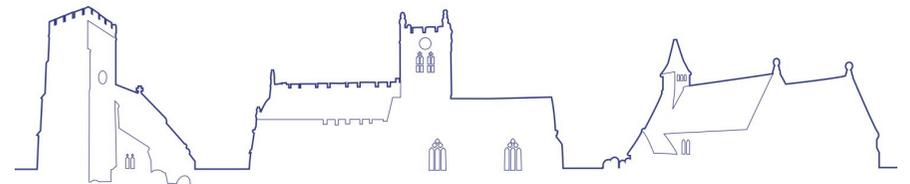
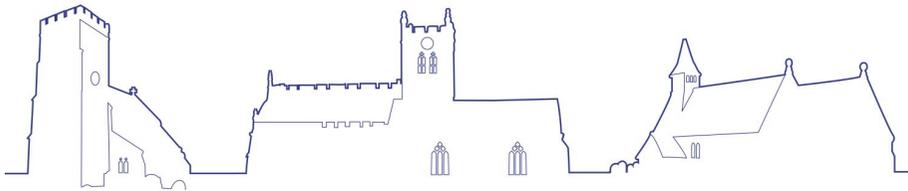
CLAVERDON,
PRESTON BAGOT
AND WOOTTON
WAWEN

ANNUAL REPORTS
2018

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Office
82 High Street
Henley in Arden
Warwickshire B95 5BX

Telephone:
01564 792870
Email: churchesofardenoffice@gmail.com
www.churchesofarden.org.uk



Dates for the

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Claverdon

Monday 29th April 2019
Church Centre, Claverdon

Preston Bagot

Monday 8th April 2019
The Old Rectory, Preston Bagot

Wootton Wawen

Wednesday 17th April 2019
The chancel, St Peter's Church

All are welcome to attend

Please note only those on the Church Electoral Roll

may vote during the meeting if needed.

There were four PCC meetings held during the year at the Old Rectory with grateful thanks to Hugh and Helen for their hospitality and the rock cakes! Valerie Rooke retired from the PCC in February and in April we elected Graham Coombs to join us, we thank them both for their support. The weather proved challenging during March when the Beast from the East arrived which caused the church to be closed on 4th & 18th March. However, the snow did create a splendid fundraising opportunity and Stephen Perrin bravely set forth with his trusty camera to take some stunning photos of the church which were then turned into Christmas cards. These in turn raised a magnificent £510.00 for church funds and we would like to thank both Stephen and Anne for the time and effort they put in to organising this.

We express our gratitude to our organists Guy Pardo and Jonathan Lucas who continue to play a special part in our services. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Joss Farmer in the summer, Joss went beyond the call of duty in March to battle through the snow, despite there being no congregation he and Kat stayed to play and sing hymns!! We are also very grateful to Jonathan Evans, David Apperley and Ingrid Moss who have kindly played for us at short notice.

We would like to convey our appreciation to the people who give their time and support to Preston Bagot - to Joy Cater and Anne Perrin for representing Preston Bagot on the Pastoral Team, Sheila Goudge for her assistance with the chalice, Pam Clark who organises the flower rota and helps create the beautiful flower arrangements we see in church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas plus those who faithfully provide the flowers on a weekly basis, Tony Belcher for stepping in to help with the chalice when needed and Ros for producing our final accounts. We are also indebted to Joy Cater for her wonderful funeral ministry in all of our three parishes.

Basically the fabric of the church is in good order and January saw the long awaited painting of the guttering. The only outstanding issue is maintenance of one or two graves, in particular the large tomb near the porch whose walls are starting to disintegrate. Hopefully in the New Year the extent of the problem can be assessed and remedial work implemented.

At the end of the year the decision was taken to start supporting the Trussell Food Bank Appeal after Maggie Duke, who was trying to get to the Jesus Centre, found that on several occasions she was following the road to Nuneaton and the North due to diversions on the Coventry Ring Road!!

Churchwardens, Hugh and Maggie would like to thank everyone from the clergy to volunteers who through their continuing worship and support help provide a quiet and reflective environment to worship God at Preston Bagot Church, which draws worshippers and visitors from far and wide.

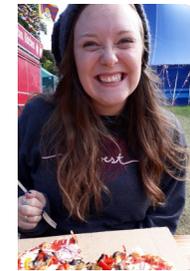
ANNUAL REPORT CHURCHES OF ARDEN 2018

INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

Our Church year opened with much celebration as we saw seventeen candidates confirmed with five coming from our Benefice. Bishop John led our worship at St Peter's and we were blessed by a tangible sense of the presence of God.

As our year began we were also welcoming Barbara Lord to our team as our new Benefice Administrator.



During the summer a group of us attended the Greenbelt Festival 2018 'Acts of the Imagination'. It was perhaps the best Greenbelt I've attended, inspiring us to live out our faith in the world around us, to challenge poverty and to support the vulnerable.

This year our Harvest services supported the sinking of a new well in Kaduna, Nigeria, the Addington Trust, Lifespace and Coffee Tots. It was a particular joy to work with our Church School to respond to the urgent request for help from the people of Kaduna. I've recently received news that the new borehole is almost complete.

September saw Phil kick off our annual Alpha Course with a cohort of ten. Chelsi began a Youth Alpha at the end of January with a cohort of over 20 teenagers. It is a great joy and privilege to share our faith with people.

Christmas is always such a special time in the villages and 2018 was no exception. Our congregations swelled, in some cases pushing our buildings to capacity. A wonderful time of worship and witness. Our choirs and musicians offered a strong lead, enhancing our worship.

During December we were blessed by the visit of the Caramba Theatre company with their new play Nativity. Gritty and challenging the play looked to bring a little reality to a narrative we know so well. The chill of the evening didn't prevent the cast from giving a memorable performance.

January concluded with our annual Wedding Preparation Morning. Fourteen couples are looking to marry or renew their vows this coming year.

There were three weddings during the year, all of whom were connected to the parish, David Ruddock and Felicity Wright, and Christopher Nokes and Paige Phinnemore both married during June and in September the church was filled with splendid floral arrangements provided by Stephen and Helen Haighton for their daughter Jenny's marriage to Gavin Atherton. Preston Bagot hosted the Ash Wednesday service in February conducted by James Holden and we were very pleased to welcome Revd. Anne Hibbert founder of the Well Healing Centre in Leamington to assist him.

May saw the welcome return of Andy Larkin after a period of ill-health and we extend our thanks to Phil Hanson, James Holden, Norrie Moore, Alan Davies and Steve Tash who conducted services for us during his absence. Also in May it was announced that James would be leaving us to join Aston Cantlow for 18 months and at the Evensong service on 24th June many from the Churches of Arden joined with the parishioners of Aston Cantlow to witness James's induction.

In August the ladies from Claverdon's Friday Group visited to offer prayers for our community.

Judith Cox was very warmly received in October for her first service of Morning Prayer after being licensed as Lay Reader to our Group of Parishes in September. Also that month we held our Harvest Festival and the church was alive with the vibrant colours of autumn beautifully arranged by Pam Clark and her superb team. We were also very grateful to Peter Cox, husband of Judith, who played the organ for us on Remembrance Sunday. The service was made more poignant by the War Graves Commission laying a memorial of poppies and barbed wire on the grave of one of Preston Bagot's soldiers Clement Jones who was injured near the end of the First World War and subsequently died at home.



We were very heartened at the size of the congregations for our Christmas services with the church full to capacity on both occasions. Peter Cox had very kindly organised a choir for the carol service with members coming from all the 3 parishes and they helped to make the evening a resounding success. Afterwards Hugh and Helen Carlslake's mulled wine and mince pies were very well received by all. On Christmas day members of Hugh's family rose to the occasion by providing music and choral support to an appreciative congregation.

This is a significant ministry which often results in further contact when children are born.

Over the year, under Chelsi's leadership, our youth work has flourished. We now find ourselves at capacity on a Thursday night and in need of some volunteers who feel called to commit to join Chelsi and Sandra as they lead.

My thanks to all of you who have played a part in these or the many other activities that have taken place over the last year. So many of you give generously of your time in so many different ways. Easily overlooked in the thankyou's are our bell ringers and those who clean our churches, provide flowers and look after our churchyards. Through the commemoration of the end of World War One, Harvest and into Christmas our buildings have looked so very beautiful - which helps to make our worship even more special.

As we come to this new year please join me in praying that our Lord will inspire us afresh to his service, that in His name we will be a blessing to our communities, following His lead.

Wishing you Christ's peace

Andy

Revd. Andy Larkin, Vicar

St Michael and All Angels, Claverdon

Writing a report which manages to encompass the life of St Michael and All Angels over the last twelve months is always a daunting task. Its only then, looking back, that you realise how much has happened both spiritually and materially in a single year. This is only a brief snapshot of the life of the church and I'm sure that I will have missed things so please accept my apologies in advance for any omission.

On a practical note we are very fortunate that the fabric of both the church and church centre are in good condition and that we have had no major issues to address over the last twelve months. We would like to convey our thanks to all those involved in the maintenance of the church, churchyard and church centre who together ensure the wellbeing of the land and buildings.

The graveyard is approaching the limit of its space and over the last few months we have begun the process of consultation and getting approval for extension prior to consecration so that this can be achieved in good time. New hedging has been planted around the area provisionally designated.

We are always happy to receive tourists and visitors to the church and especially grateful to Shirley Davies taking on the guided groups. It would be lovely if more people were available to take an occasional party around the church, so if you have an interest in this ancient building and all it has stood for and would like to get involved please be in touch.

The Village Magazine, under its fairly new editorship, appears seamless, continuing the pattern with the previous team of reporters and supporters. Always full of interest, news and pictures for our enjoyment.

In December a few of us went to the Cathedral for the first Advent Service, a happening in atmospheric candle light, lovely singing by the choirs. All followed by mince pies and wine. Also at the beginning of December we were pleased to be able to contribute to the Wootton Archives with a loan of our Philip Shepherd paintings detailing the history of the parish over several hundred years

...and finally thank you to the team who provide refreshments after the Services, it is no small effort and we hope the Servedy will make lighter work in due course. But please, if **you** are able to volunteer to join any of the teams, your help will be very much appreciated. Speak to those on duty or see the contact numbers on the back page of the Magazine.

In the middle of February we received notice from the diocese 'that our vicar Revd. Andy Larkin is to become interim priest in charge of the Barford group of parishes while remaining in the Wootton Vicarage, for a period of six months from the 1st of May. Andy will still retain the title of priest in charge of our Benefice and we shall hopefully receive ministerial cover as promised by the diocese.'

Thank you to everyone for your valued support.

All Saints, Preston Bagot

Our Sunday services continue as they have down the years in their usual format of two services of Holy Communion and two of Morning Prayer using Book of Common Prayer.

2018 started with the sad loss of Nick Cater, who, with the devotion of his wife Joy, had bravely fought ill health and numerous falls but regrettably passed away after another accident in the New Year. The funeral service was held at Claverdon and Nick was laid to rest at Preston Bagot. The service and burial of Peter Horrocks took place in July, Peter was a long-time resident of Preston Bagot and had lived in the village all his married life after his wedding to Mary at All Saints in 1951.

grateful to the Flower Guild and those on the regular rota and for all who create the lovely arrangements at special times. There is the opportunity for anyone to contact the Flower Guild if you would like to help and there are always spaces during the year for anyone to arrange flowers, maybe for a special family occasion you would like to share with us?

Thank you to those who keep the church clean and tidy – the regulars and those who tackle the one off's. All very necessary in helping with the maintenance of the church fabric. To the reliable team of stalwarts who act as sides-persons' every Sunday, those who play their part during the Services; readers, intercessors, chalice holders, they are so dependable, always ready to step up to help in any way they can.

We held an Applefest in September which was a variation on the summer fete including an 'all things apple ' competition which was different and quite successful.

The two house groups continue to thrive and are always pleased for new people to join. The sharing and expanding of bible knowledge by study and discussion are most enjoyable, not to mention the fun, tea and cakes.



The Pastoral team are kept busy with daily prayer; pleased to support the sick and bereaved wherever invited. Vicar Andy does lots of hospital and home visiting as well as supporting the team wherever possible.

The PCC are grateful to everyone on the Wagen Trust for all their past support and ingenuity in providing exciting concerts and events. We wish for the association to continue in a mutual, beneficial format for the good and appreciation of us all. We look forward to any newly planned events.

As ever we are grateful to the bell ringers for their constancy - less weddings this past year but more 'official' functions such

as the 100th anniversary of WW1 and the special Remembrance weekend. What a splendid memorial that was and we thank Amanda and Alan Elliott who organised such a great event for us. So touching and yet joyous too. Thank you to all the poppy makers for the wonderful colourful drapes they were tremendous.

It has been a busy year in the life of the church.

Our Youth work has continued to flourish though there remain challenges in providing enough adult support to work alongside Chelsi. The youth club has grown rapidly and been a huge success. At the time of writing over 25 young people have been attending Youth Club and doing Youth Alpha on Thursday evenings. Awesome club, Messy Church, Open the book, Noah's story book, Baby and toddler morning all continue to attract significant numbers of children. In common with most other churches we have some difficulty in maintaining numbers on a regular basis at Sunday school but newer forms of children's ministry are proving attractive.

Highlights of the year included the confirmation service at Wootton Wawen where four of our congregation were confirmed, James Holden taking up his role at Aston Cantlow, the recent No Planet B study day which was attended by over 50 people and the continuing success of the adult Alpha course.

It takes a very large number of people to keep the church running successfully and although there are far too many to mention by name we would like to send our heartfelt thanks to all of you. It takes a lot of different talents, some spiritual, some practical, some administrative but all are important and God given and without your help the church would suffer. We would like to take this opportunity to send our thanks to Julia Seymour Smith who has served for many years as librarian of the church books and who is now taking a well deserved rest from that particular aspect of church life.

Looking forward is not really the function of this report but we would like to take this opportunity to send our best wishes and continued prayers for Andy and Jo and the children as he looks to taking up his secondment to Barford very shortly.

St. Peter's, Wootton Wawen

April 2019 is the year the Church of England re-writes the churches electoral roll, the old one is scrapped and everyone who wishes to uphold the Christian faith may rejoin their local church by applying to join the new electoral roll. This happens every 6th year. The new roll will be available for the APCM on 17th April 2019.



Our Benefice worship team of Vicars Andy and Phil, and occasionally James, Lay Reader Norrie, Youth Leader Chelsi and our three congregations have benefited by the addition of Lay Reader, Judith Cox.

Judith and her husband Peter joined us from their previous parish in Somerset and are a very welcome support not only to the preaching team but also to St. Peter's choir and organ on occasions. It was good to see and hear the choir tackling a 'Capella style singing for the first time this year which was well done and enjoyed by all.

Norrie Moore still divides her time between lay readership and main office contact and support for Barbara our secretary. Barbara has not had a good year for her health and we wish her improvements this year.

In January we ran the Wedding Preparation morning. With a few more weddings promised across the three churches for 2019 it was a worthwhile event and our prospective couples had the opportunity to ask all those nagging questions which keep popping up. Along with those to be wed this year were two couples going for gold and planning to celebrate by re-taking their wedding vows. How exciting for them.

Our PCC lost Linda Gilbert and gained Mavis Harvey. Our thanks to Linda and we are grateful that she continues to be a mainstay for the Social team. Mavis has moved across from the choir and now supports St. Peter's from a different chair, welcome Mavis. Our Treasurer for the past eight years, Vivien Haggarty, retired at Christmas. Viv has been a wonderful support keeping everything computerised, dealing with the demands of modern day accounting with their different requirements for church and state. We wish Vivien well in her retirement to enjoy her garden and her music. We are most fortunate to have Lynne Woolley to take over the treasurer duties. It is good that Lynne and Viv have been able to work together over the past year so the hand over has been well managed, welcome Lynne. With a shortfall in our accounts this year our Social team are looking for fund raising ideas and we shall continue to support the British Legion and an overseas charity as usual.

Our last Harvest appeal was so successful and we thank everyone for their support in aiding Pana Village in northern Nigeria. After the collapse and failure of three water wells we are pleased to report that since mid-January 2019 drilling work to provide a borehole has begun. We trust this will eventually bring prosperity and permanent clean water for Pana. Thank you to everyone who helped raise a £1K towards the £3K required to get this project moving. We are promised more pictures and news as the work progresses.

In May 2018 the Deanery Confirmation Service was held at St. Peter's with 22 candidates of all ages going forward to make their vows; the Service was led by Bishop Right Revd. John Stroyan of Warwick and was a great success.

Our Deanery group of churches continues to meet several times a year at different churches and the PCC are pleased to receive Sue Steele's report each time and to know what is happening across the Alcester Deanery. At one of their meetings the newly appointed Archdeacon Sue Field was in attendance. Our special 'thank you' was sent to the Deanery finance chairman, Alan Greathead of Studley and Mappleborough Green parishes. Alan has now retired having done sterling work on behalf of the parishes, always arguing for fairness which he did so well, he will be much missed.

In June we were sad to say a farewell, for the time being, to Revd. James Holden, Curate, who is now on an eighteen month placement with Aston Cantlow church.

Our faculty application for the Servedry has been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee and is just waiting for the final OK from the Chancellor, we look forward to having this facility in due course. Our new architect also carried out the Quinquennial report covering items for attention over the next 5 - 10 years. Oh! that we had the finances to do all that this old building requires.

With the recent trend towards burials rather than cremations following a funeral, parishioners will understand that we are, of course, using ground that has been previously buried. We can, if required, reuse land after 75 years but as a village churchyard and not a local authority cemetery we will endeavour to stick to the previous 100 years guide. The make-over for the Garden of Remembrance for the burial of ashes has been started and will continue throughout the year, funds and weather permitting, eventually making an attractive and peaceful area for the bereaved and all to sit and contemplate.

We are enormously grateful to mowing volunteer, Derek Hill and the occasional team effort for the bulk of the work done in the churchyard. What would we do without them. We are also pleased that Debs and Andy Humpherson are keeping the church pathway refreshed so that it always looks good, despite the battle with the rabbits.

In August there were another two attempts to deprive the church of its lead roof - the alarm was raised and the CCTV took pictures but no one has been apprehended.

Flowers in church are supplied by those who arrange them and we are