

ST James the Great Church Colwall



Vestry & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 3rd April 2016



To be presented at the APCM meeting

Churchwardens' Report

Steve Hockett & Richard King

At the 2015 APCM, Jane Hill stood down after 4 years as a Warden, and Richard King replaced her. So this year I have been on a steep learning curve about all the ins and outs of the job here at St James. It has been a year when we have been blessed by the hard work and support of our SSM Anne and our retired clergy Ken, Barry, Tim, and Bernard in maintaining out church services so faithfully during the period when Melanie was very ill. It is a great relief to all that she is now recovering and slowly but steadily getting back into full harness.

As well as all the usual Sunday services (some with baptisms), we have had quite a few weddings and funerals to look after. This is a heavy load, and so the PCC has agreed that we should aim to have a bigger team of people who can act as a vergers for these services. This also means that we should charge and pay them a vergers fee each time.

As in previous years, the heating has been a big headache, trying to get the church warm enough in the winter. We had a new energy efficient boiler installed last October, and after a number of teething troubles associated with its power and finding new leaks in old pipes, it has now settled down and the church is warm. We are very grateful to Bill Tyndall for all the time and expertise he's given in sorting all this out with the contractor. To achieve the warmth, however, we have to run it at least 12 or more hours before each service, and this is going to be expensive on oil. We are working on finding the most cost effective compromise! The fabric of the church is otherwise in general good order and our recent quinquennial inspection did not find any serious problems. We are very grateful to John Stock for managing the maintenance of the building and Paul, our 'handyman', who has done a lot of the practical work until he had to step down

last year with other family commitments.

We'd like to thank very much all the assistant wardens for their help at the services: Jane and Syd Hill, Stuart Hands, Bill Tyndall, Bill Clucas, Sarah and Colin Davies, Marcus Allen and Mary Roberts. Mary and Jane regularly warden the 8:30am services in St James and the St Crispin Chapel, and we are very grateful to Cicely Palmer who looks after the St Crispin services.

And finally of course our thanks to Joy Conlon for all she does to support Melanie, the staff and wardens and the whole parish. It is a huge contribution for which we are immensely grateful.

Church Electoral Roll

Carol Pearce -Joy Conlon

Following the renewal process for membership of the electoral roll, our numbers stand at 163 (a decrease of 2 from the previous year). If you are not on the electoral roll and would like to be included, please see one of the churchwardens for a form.

Health and Safety

Jane Hill

A regular check is made of Health and Safety issues including the first aid boxes and accident books, and potentially hazardous areas that could cause trips, slips and falls.

The Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) was carried out in the Church and Ale House at the beginning of December by JRS electrical Ltd.

Child and vulnerable adult protection is attended to by Kate Stock.

Risk assessments for services is overseen by Melanie.

The 3 emergency exits are pointed out at all special services and events.

Fire extinguishers are checked annually.

Vermin control is dealt with by .

Light bulbs are replaced when necessary by 2 wardens.

A Risk Management Report has been received from Ecclesiastical following a visit from the Insurance Consultant and Surveyor with the Wardens in Nov 2015.

It is recommended that a photographic record is made of the contents and building features.

Three requirements are: Portable Appliance Testing (implemented Dec 2015), Electrical Inspection and a new Fire Risk Assessment. (All in hand)

Finance & Fundraising

Treasurer's Report

Richard Beard

I am pleased to report on the summary accounts attached to this report as follows:

Although our general church collections have increased this year our gift aid income has fallen by £5657 (including the tax element), which is a major cause of concern. Regrettably a number of our regular donors have moved or died and new donors have not replaced these.

Steve Hockett and his committee have again been busy running events this year and raised £4473 but in 2014 we also ran the Ale House Festival. Our fund raising income is therefore down by £7898.

These two major reductions account for our overall income drop of some £14063.

Our Diocesan Parish Share was £52287, £2497 less than last year as the Deanery agreed to lower the figure in view of Melanie's period of absence from work.

Overall our total expenditure increased only slightly this year as the Parish Office continues to control costs as far as is possible. Your

Finance Committee has met quarterly to review progress and any items of an exceptional nature are approved at the PCC meetings.

The result of our Parish financial activities for the year is a deficit of £6359 (2014 £8307 surplus). This is after making a proposed contribution from our funds to mission giving of £3000 (2014 £3000) and additional payments to The Parish Council of £1000 and to the village school of £186. This giving, together with the special collections during 2015, means we will have sent to Charities a total of £10298 (2014 £9887).

Overall our total funds now stand at £119950 (2014 £134677), a decrease of £14727.

The replacement boiler cost of £8628 has been charged directly to the Fabric Fund. The PCC is developing proposals for various improvements to the Church fabric and equipment which will further reduce our funds.

This year the funds raised by The Friends of St James are shown as a separate fund.

Also as no one is aware of the purpose of the Designated Funds that have accrued historically this fund has been amalgamated with the Fabric Fund.

As a result of my illness I decided to step down as Treasurer after eight years in the role and I am very grateful to Richard King who has agreed to take this role on. However anyone who would like to see a copy of the full detailed accounts or have any questions to ask on these accounts please do not hesitate to contact me on 01684 540539.

Covenants, Gift Aid

Phil Probert

The church is very grateful for the generous giving of the congregation the majority of which is supported by gift aid declarations enabling the church to benefit from a tax repayment. If

you have any questions on giving please contact me on 01684 540506 or speak to the treasurer Richard Beard.

Fundraising

Steve Hockett

A quieter year this year in comparison with last year. Looking back over the year though, we have been quite busy. Ale House Arts talks, Scarecrow Day, a Curry Evening, a Dog Show (with Torrential Storm!), a Pet Service, St George's Day Supper with Entertainment, a Wine Tasting Evening, a Concert, Good Friday Music plus other things including an extended Bric-a-Brac sale, E-bay sales, Book sales, a Silent Auction by the Friends, Tea & Coffee after services and all the other one off things like sale of plants at church and contributions from a wide range of folk.

I hope you are all looking forward to the second Church & Ale House Festival this year. Plans are looking good for more of the same as last time PLUS loads more! Your support is always appreciated and with your help we will continue to meet the challenges offered to us.

Finally my thanks go to my Committee members for this year : Carol Pearce, Phil Hitchin, Trish Hockett, Christine Bagust, Sue Armstrong, Marion Percy, Sarah Davies and Colin Davies.

Fabric & Building Development

John Stock

The Quinquennial Inspection No. 12 was carried out on 18 March 2015 by Michael Bartosch who noted

“The church continues to be well cared for by an active PCC....

There are no major areas of concern although the heating and lighting will need attention soon and some roofing works are necessary

It is most encouraging to note that the gutters, downpipes and gullies are cleared regularly”

Unfortunately Paul Rodgers who has carried out a substantial amount of work to the church and was responsible for ensure we had such an excellent Quinquennial report is no longer able to assist as he has other family commitments. We are of course extremely grateful for all of Paul's efforts.

At the last APCM there was much discussion about the heating and it was resolved a new boiler would be provided in an external cabinet to avoid the flooding issues of the basement and issues with the flue. This was installed in October and following some return visits to address leaks, is completed.

Churchyard

Mike Paulson

During the past year, the clients of the Probation Service have continued to mow the grass fortnightly and have additionally cut back hedges and pruned bushes ensuring that the churchyard remains tidy and accessible to all. A letter of thanks has been sent from the church to the Service.

As we no longer have to rely on volunteers, it is right that their efforts are recognised by the congregation. Machinery is in good order - it has rarely been used in the last 12 months and will not need servicing. There is therefore, little need for a churchyard co-ordinator and I shall make myself redundant as of the APCM. Changes and improvements have been accomplished by officers of the church without such co-ordination in the past and I am confident that this can, and will, continue into the future.

Another big thank-you must surely go to John Amies for his many years of service in the churchyard. Until his recent illness he dug all the necessary holes for the deposition of ashes committed to our care. A successor needs to be found as soon as possible.

Ale House

Leslie Hitchen

The biggest change this year has been the departure of Marion who joined the Ale House Committee when it was originally set up by Carl Attwood in the 1980s. Marion was the only original member still involved in the committee so it was sad to see her leave and we are very grateful for all her hard work over the years.

Ken Appleby has taken over Marion's role as booking secretary and is doing a great job. Thanks to him we now have a website, colwallalehouse.org.uk, and a google calendar which makes co-ordinating events in the Ale House much simpler.

The Ale House still has a steady stream of bookings, both private and Church related. The Ale House Lunches Club generously donated £50 to the funds in December, for which we would like to say thank you.

The Ale House 100 Club is still running but has far fewer members this year, just 60, so if anyone would like to join we would be very pleased to enrol you. For a subscription of £10 each member's name is placed in a draw 10 times during the year with the chance of winning a first prize of £15 or a second prize of £5

Communication & Outreach

The Clock

Joy Conlon

As a community magazine—we continue to include lots of interesting and topical news—upcoming events -and pull all the dates into the centre page diary.

We always welcome new copy—so if you have an interesting/ topical/ local story to tell, please send this into the Parish Office -by the 10th of each month (no edition in August). Suitable photos and pictures are also needed for the front cover, please.

I must thank Sue Armstrong for co-ordinating the advertising -no mean task, as we usually have a waiting list from local businesses and trades.

Welcomers

Jill Withington

This is the new name for what was previously called The Road Warden Scheme. The whole parish is covered by Welcomers who have agreed to deliver, with a word of welcome, a Welcome Pack to all newcomers in their area. The packs, which are collected from 19 Oak Drive when required, contain lots of information about our churches and other village groups and activities. The information is as accurate as possible, but I do need to be informed of changes of regular dates, times, venues and contact names.

CTiC

Rev Anne Lanyon-Hogg

The CTiC group have met throughout the year and organised joint events and services witnessing to our Christian life in Colwall community. These included the Farmyard Nativity, a Unity service, the Lent Lunches, the Lent study course on St Luke's account of the Passion and the Holy Week meditations and services, including the Walk of Witness. Forward planning included more services and events for Pentecost and the summer.

Marion Percy, who was a leading enthusiast and organiser is sorely missed! More representatives are needed from St James so that we are making our full contribution to ideas, organisation and of course witness. Please talk to Melanie, Anne or one of the Wardens if this is an area you would like to become involved in.

St James Aston Link Activities

Joy Conlon

Our friends from St James, Aston again joined us in July for our Patronal Festival service here in Colwall—this was followed by an excellent lunch and our usual array of scrumptious desserts, made and donated by members of our congregation—thank you. Much chat

and socialising followed before a service of choral evensong and tea. We again held a Village Quiz in December; ably MC'd by Steve Hockett (who also set the questions)—the money raised is much appreciated by St James.

Ministry

Ministry Team

Barbara Ashton

The Ministry Team met and discussed how best to increase fellowship and attract more people to our lovely church. Various ideas were generated.

To have pre-Advent talks, based on the theme of 'Healthy Thinking' and given by three health professionals. These indeed occurred and were most successful.

Bill Clucas : From Nowhere to Psychotherapy

Mike Baird: Medicine: where Orthodox and Complementary Meet

Sarah Davies: Caring for the spiritual needs of those with dementia

We are considering building on this success by offering talks from Easter to Pentecost under the umbrella of 'Spiritual Thinking'. They could possibly have an inter-faith perspective.

We also discussed issuing a questionnaire to members of the congregation with a view to learn how best to meet their needs.

It was decided to have five Lenten bible studies, instead of talks, each of which should focus on the same Gospel.

Colwall Care Scheme

June Weber

The Care Scheme continues to provide a valuable service with transport to medical appointments, emergency shopping, occasional meals and sitting with people to give carers a short break.

For this service to continue we are in need of new volunteer drivers. If you can offer a few hours on an occasional basis please contact June or the Parish Office.

Please contact me if you know of anyone (or yourself) who is in need of help from the Care Scheme—details on the inside cover of the Colwall Clock.

Solo club meets weekly on a Saturday at the Community Church and this is a good contact point to promote the Care Scheme and to advise on access to various services—to hear by word of mouth about people who may have a currant need.

Finally I would like to thank our Volunteers for their great willingness and support they give—without them the scheme could not operate.

Ale House Lunch

Ale House Team

We have continued to provide monthly lunches at the Ale House for older folk who live on their own and who would enjoy the opportunity to meet friends and have a chat over lunch and a glass of wine. Transport is provided by volunteers or by community minibus. The lunch takes place on the first Wednesday of each month except for January and August. It is well attended and the Christmas lunch was especially successful with about fifty people enjoying the traditional festive fair. Donations cover costs and the lunch is organised by a willing group of volunteers. Surplus funds have this year enabled us to make a small donation of £50 towards the upkeep of the Ale House building and to purchase a mobility aid to assist in transport.

If you know of any older folk living on their own who may like to join us please let Heather know on 01684 541681 or have a word with any member of the team. Also if you would like to join our team in any capacity and can commit to about five sessions a year we would love to hear from you.

There have been no safeguarding incidents to report in the Parish in the past year.

The safety and well-being of the children and 'adults at risk' (vulnerable adults) around us are the responsibility of all of us. Please continue to be vigilant and report any concerns you might have to the Rector (540330), myself (540950) or the diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

The new diocesan Safeguarding Officer is Mandy McPhee. You can contact her on 07875 757396 or by email on m.mcphee@hereford.anglican.org. She is working with colleagues at the Diocese to create a new page on the Diocesan Website which will give readers ready access to current information regarding Safeguarding in the Diocese. It will contain all National Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. There are several new national policies and guidelines out on safeguarding. The National Safeguarding Team have developed a new training package in relation to basic awareness and how to respond when a safeguarding incident occurs. This package is referred to in the new Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Learning and Development in the Church of England and will be rolled out within the Hereford diocese this year.

Choir

Patricia Hockett

Another busy musical year. On Good Friday evening a large augmented choir sang excerpts from the Mozart Requiem interspersed with Bach chorales and congregational hymns.

At Marion Percy's leaving tea party the choir sang two numbers. Marion had for a good number of years prepared our cups of tea and hot cross buns on Good Friday between our rehearsal and prior to our evening performance. We are very grateful to her for doing this and we shall miss her.

Parish Praise in June nicely coincided with the RSCM Music Sunday and we had our own songs of praise where members of the

congregation choose the hymns. This is something we hope to repeat in the near future.

In August Claire Baron (daughter and step-daughter of the late Peter and Mary Baron) held a concert in our church for the organ fund for St. James, West Malvern. We were pleased to join in with this and one of the items we performed was a carol specially written for Peter by John Raine.

The annual Hereford Diocesan Choir Festival in October was a celebration of the Magna Carta. Everyone is invited to attend if they wish and we are always pleased to see members of our congregation joining us for the evening service.

A large augmented choir sang at the annual Village Carol Service on the 19 December. However due to ill health and age limitations we only had six members of the choir for Midnight on Christmas Eve and two of these were augmented. With myself playing the organ for that service meant that we had no sopranos available. Fortunately our numbers were greater on Christmas morning.

The choir has sung at three weddings during the year and performed anthems at all the main festivals. Members of the choir from St James Church, Cradley joined us for evensong at the patronal festival in July.

A big thank you must go to all our regular choir and augmented members and to our team of Sue, Marian, and all our conductors during the past year, Sue Doswell, Peter Johnson and John Raine.

If you would like to join us as regular Sunday choir or as an augmented you will be very welcome.

Orchestra

Susan Humphrey

The orchestra gives me and St. James' Church loyal support and it was exciting to have 18 players at the service on December 20th when Barbara Ashton took Parish Praise. Thank you all very much. I should like to mention Abi Grimshaw who with her family has moved away

from Colwall. She was a very able player on both violin and cello and we shall miss her even though she had lately not come so often, having commitments rowing on Sundays. The orchestra has only played five or six times since the last AGM partly because I have not been well or have been away, but sometimes Parish Praise leaders have different wants as regards music and this is perfectly in order. If anyone else in the congregation would like to join the orchestra or knows an instrumentalist, (child or adult) who might like to join please let me know. We would love to swell the numbers. Do come and try us out!

Flowers

Pinkie Elliston

Our Coffee Morning was better attended in March and we shared the Ale House with the ladies making posies for Mothering Sunday which made for quite a jolly affair.

We had the pleasure of arranging flowers for only three weddings last year and one coincided with Harvest which made it all extra special. We also arranged flowers for some funerals, the three festivals and the weekly flowers. This year we have eight weddings so far, so we should have our work cut out.

We raised £150 from the Easter lilies, which is getting back to form, thankfully.

My thanks go as ever to the ladies who keep the flowers looking so lovely each week and to the beautiful gardens where I am encouraged to pick greenery.

We also had a mention in The Clock from "a faded flower fanatic" who

so kindly thanked me and my team for our work. It was much appreciated - thank you.

Church Bells

Robin Riches

Last year was a rather disappointing time for our team of bell-ringers. Our membership has fallen slightly of experienced ringers through various reasons. Anita from the Buddhist Community at Coddington has had to leave and return to Australia. Also David Fox has found it increasingly difficult to climb the tower steps and has decided to cease ringing at St James. We miss him on a Sunday morning but thank him for his support and especially his drive to have the bells re-hung.

On the plus side we have 2 new ringers who have moved to the area from Ireland, although they are members of Coddington, they ring regularly with us on Sunday mornings. We are also teaching a young couple who started just before Christmas and are progressing well. One advantage of sparsely attended practice nights, we can really concentrate on the bell-handling technique.

We did not have many weddings last year but several visiting bands, including peal attempts came to ring.

The bells were inspected last year as a maintenance visit and all seems well, but we have an ongoing problem with a water leak in the top of the tower.

I must thank all members for their support and look forward to a more pleasing year.

Mothers' Union

Jan Bartlett

Our Members continue to be active and supportive of all that happens in the name of Mothers' Union in this parish. This includes our Branch Activities, the wider Mothers' Union in Herefordshire Diocese and here at St James. Members are involved in all aspects of life at St James, with three of our Clergy leading the way! I won't list the

many and varied jobs done by members but we know they are appreciated and we certainly appreciate the support we receive from everyone in the Church, especially for our MU fundraising. Mothers' Union does such important work across the world.

During the summer we continued to host visiting groups from other branches to St James as the major part of our fundraising. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Marion this year. She has been such a wonderful ambassador with her warm enthusiasm and great knowledge about the life of Mary Sumner. She will in this, as in many areas, be a difficult act to follow.

We had a varied programme during the year with speakers from both home and away. Thankyou to the local 'friends' who gave their time to enlighten and entertain us and to the other speakers who travelled to Colwall.

Sacristans

Jenny Houghton

Our team consists of Barbara Hatton, Jan Bartlett, Gillian Turner, Dorothy Lockyear and Alicia Denny with Cicely Palmer as our sacristan in chief at St Crispin's. Thanks goes to all of them for their help over the past twelve months. As always we would welcome some additional volunteers for this service to the church, so if you would be prepared to occasionally help set up the elements before a service and wash up afterwards I would be grateful if you would contact me either in church or on 01684 540158. Jenny Houghton

Servers 'Who lead the way'

from the Parish Office

We are indebted to Barbara Hatton, who co-ordinates the SMALL team of Servers (some have been doing this for many years!), BUT we still need more recruits—age no restriction!

PLEASE see Barbara if you would like to find out what this role involves.

Social Activities

Joy Conlon

In addition to events organised by the fundraising team—we also provided refreshments for Epiphany Sunday, Parochial Festival lunch and Harvest lunch.

My thanks to ALL who give their time and talents so generously for these events.

The Church Website

Mark Illingworth

The church website colwallchurch.org covers both Colwall and Coddington churches. It provides information primarily for the churchgoers of the parishes. This includes dates, times and locations of forthcoming services and other events, as well as a library of sermons delivered over the last six years. There are pages on how the church can help with life events of birth, marriage and death. There are memorial pages for everyone commemorated on the Colwall war memorial and others for individuals whose relations have provided recollections. There is reference information on the people and management of the churches and on ways that people can support the work of the churches.

The website is widely read. During 2015 there were 11,883 visits to the website and 43,115 pages were read. Most (13,939) were read by visitors from Britain, but over a thousand from each of USA, France, Ukraine, Germany, Japan and the Russian Federation and hundreds from other countries. The War Memorial pages are popular and two sermons had over a thousand visits each.

The website has evolved, assisted by the reduction in the cost of web space and technical progress, with approval of version 5 of the hypertext mark-up language (HTML) in October 2014. This has enabled readers to read the text of a sermon while they listen to the recording, where both are available. Mark Illingworth has been maintaining the website since February 2011 and would be glad to hand it over, so please contact him (webman@colwallchurch.org) if you are interested.

COLWALL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

INCOME	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
	£	£
Collections	7686	6833
Gift aid	38672	42664
Income tax recoverable	10368	12033
General donations	505	540
Investment and bank interest	2444	2426
Church fees	7799	8550
Magazine (net of expenditure)	3499	3193
Property income less costs	-80	819
Fund raising	4473	12371
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	75366	89429
EXPENDITURE		
Clergy allowances and training	1809	1600
Sanctuary expenses	559	842
Organ and organists expenses	2473	2937
Church maintenance (including heat and light, insurance, cleaning, repairs and maintenance)	9847	11224
Administration (including books, stationery, postage, secretarial and stewardship)	10218	9241
Insurance claim re stolen equipment	0	-2954
Miscellaneous	346	448
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25252	23338
Diocesan Parish Share (Quota)	52287	54784
Contributions to Missions and charities	4186	3000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	81725	81122
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<hr/> -6359	<hr/> 8307

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
FUND BALANCES		
Friends of St James	5872	4,362
Designated	0	13923
Parish General	1948	8307
Organ	5331	5331
Fabric	102207	98259
Flower	2696	2621
Bells	1896	1874
	<u>119950</u>	<u>134677</u>
INVESTED IN:-		
CBF shares and deposits	67823	69170
Lloyds Bank Plc	1243	3628
Santander	7009	20845
Cafcash Deposits	51010	47218
Debtors less creditors	-7135	-6184
	<u>119950</u>	<u>134,677</u>

