

*St James the Great Church Colwall*



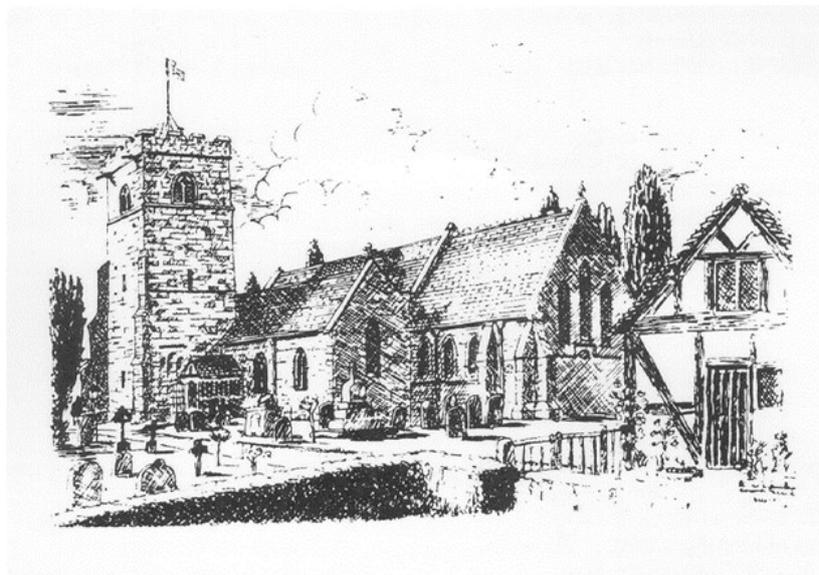
*Vestry*



*&*

*Annual Parochial Church  
Meeting*

*Sunday 7th April 2019*



Another full a busy year has passed and there is much to reflect on and give thanks for. This year I would like to begin with the thanks. We are very fortunate here at Saint James to have the blessing of the ministry of Anne and a number of retired clergy colleagues I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their continuing hard work and support in the worshipping and spiritual life of our community. Their preaching, their leading of services and their stalwart involvement in our worship and community enrich our services and their contribution to our life together is invaluable. Additionally, this year I would like to make a special mention of Andy Richardson our reader (whose preaching is always much appreciated) and our Lay Deacons, Jonty, Steve and Joy. In our new service format much of the first half of the service is led by those who are fulfilling the role of the of Deacon and all of our deacons do so with sensitivity and thoughtfulness.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the multitude of people who contribute to our worshipping life: wardens, assistant wardens, sides people, coffee makers, sound controllers, sacristans, servers, readers, intercessors, lay deacons, flower arrangers, singers, organ players, bell ringers, orchestra, and everyone who makes any contribution whatsoever. Unnamed but definitely not unsung you are the heroes of our corporate life, ensuring that our worship is all that it can be. Whatever you do please know that you are appreciated and your contribution matters.

In this as in many things many hands make light work and although there are a veritable army of volunteers more people are always welcome and needed, to lighten the load, and I invite everyone to think prayerfully about whether or not there may be areas of our life together that God is calling you to be a part of.

The phrase "many hands make light work" brings to mind this last year's triumphant Ale House Festival. Phil and Leslie Hitchen and their team recruited additional people from all sections of our community to produce yet another wonderful festival. It is a great fundraiser for the church and Ale House but much more than that it is an extraordinary community event. Both, those that ensure its smooth running and those who come along to enjoy the fun, are drawn from the community in its widest sense and its value in that form outweighs the pounds and pence it raises however valuable and needed they are!

Whilst we are reflecting on events that have happened in the last

year, we must also give thanks for the second pancake morning. This year Richard and his team bought the school on board and pancake races were run outside the Village Hall and it felt like half the Village came through the doors in search of pancakes to eat and conversations to be had. Again it was a wonderful event as valuable for its community aspect as its fundraising potential. Many thanks go to Richard for his organising and to the team in the kitchen who were kept cooking pancakes for three hours, and to all who ran stalls or games to add to the fun of the morning.

Fundraising has become a necessary part of our financial life, in order to have any hope of balancing the books, but it is much more than that. It raises our profile in the community and offers the opportunity for us to come together in friendship and fellowship as well as for worship. Many thanks to all who have offered their time and effort for this purpose and a special thank you to Steve Hockett who has agreed to take on the coordination of this area of our life together.

Whilst thinking about the good times it is also important on occasions such as this that we remember those who have been part of this congregation and who are no longer with us. Sadly, this year we said goodbye to Barbara Eagles, Alec Berry, and Elizabeth Lloyd. Each in their time have been valued members of this congregation and they will be missed.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Heather Philpot who stood down this year as coordinator of the Alehouse lunches. Heather has carried this responsibility for nearly a decade and has done so with efficiency and good humour. Certainly, my thanks go to her for that, but even more so my thanks go to her for ensuring that the Ale House lunches continue even in the face of there being no single person willing to take on the responsibility. Reaching out across the village community Heather has ensured that there are people to take the lead, from different groups and organisations. Another person laying down a long-held responsibility is Pinkie Elliston who has given up coordination of our flower arrangers. Pinkie, who was both arranger and coordinator ensured that we had wonderful flowers to enhance our worship for many years and our thanks go to her. The flower arrangers are a wonderful team and different members of the group have agreed to taking on specific responsibilities with Kay, who has taken on the responsibility of wedding flowers, stepping into the coordination role.

This year has also seen progress in the plans for the redevelopment of the rear of the church to provide toilet facilities and a surgery. Plans are beginning to coalesce, and it is hoped that by the summer

we will be in a position to propose a possible scheme, you can read more detail about this in Richards report. The future of St James' Church depends on our being able to reach out to other people, to share the good news of God's love, and to help them to build a relationship with God and make their own commitment to him. The alterations to our building along with a myriad of small steps offered to those on the fringes of our community are essential tools in this task. The changes proposed will of course make the building more fit for purpose and user-friendly for us on Sundays, but the true purpose is much wider, transforming our building into a tool for mission and evangelism.

Through this year there has continued to be an emphasis on prayer with it forming the subject matter of this year's Lent course. A four-week course led by Gill Pennington, the spirituality tutor at Woodbrooke College, Birmingham, titled Adventures in Prayer. These have been well attended and as I write we have had three interesting weeks which have provided much food for thought and variety for exploration

Much of this report has comprised of thankyou's and rightly so. It is an opportunity to remember how many people contribute to our life together and I cannot end without just a couple more thankyou's. The first of those goes to Bill Clucas for his work as our churchwarden, along with his team of assistant wardens. The responsibility of the churchwarden is a heavy one when there are two of you and Bill has borne that responsibility alone this year and as I write seems set to continue to do so. He has given of his time and energy to keep us running on a practical level and embraced the wider legal responsibilities. We are very grateful to him and I would like to add my personal thanks for all his support. Another person without whom I suspect the life of the church would grind to a halt's is Joy. I've said it before but it bears saying again Joy works many more hours than she is paid for and supports many many aspects of our churches life. Our thanks are owed to her and again my personal thanks for her generous support.

As we look forward to the year ahead there are of course challenges to be met, not the least finding personnel to undertake all the tasks that our life and outreach require. But there are also definitely signs of hope. Most significantly the beginning of a café for people with Dementia and their carers, an idea picked up by Mike Paulson and Marcus Allen and set to become a reality with a team of people inspired by its purpose and outreach to offer their services to help. Please keep this and all our outreach activities in your prayers. Part

of our purpose as God's family in this place is to reach out to the wider community, to meet them in the places of need and to share God's love not just through word but first and foremost in deed. The café is a perfect example of this. So, I pray for a year ahead where we can grow together in fellowship and faith and share the love of God every more widely.

With love and prayers Melanie

## **Churchwardens' Report**

Bill Clucas

This year has had a successful range of Sunday services at St James, and, unlike last year, the church has been open every Sunday. We have had many Weddings and Baptisms and unfortunately Funerals and Memorial services, which are now organized by our Verger, Steve Hockett, who is doing as good a job with this as he did as Churchwarden.

In spite of the recent gales the fabric of the church is in good order. The power distribution has been modernized and the whole system tested. The replacement of the tower flagpole for a ground level one, due to the unsafe access to the tower, should be completed soon.

I must express thanks to a local family who have removed and cleared the unsightly 'compost heap', leaving space for a number of additional burial plots.

Work on the trees on the North side of the church will also hopefully begin in the near future.

This year has been busy with efforts to clarify what is needed, wanted and possible with the church development project and our conclusions and requests for further input from the congregation and the wider village will be presented soon.

As ever I must say that the Wardens job would be quite impossible without the support of many people, you know who you are! However they include the assistant wardens; Jane and Syd Hill, Stuart and (hopefully) Carolyn Hands, Mary Roberts, Richard King and last but not least Steve Hockett. Also Cicely Palmer for St Crispin's. Many thanks to you all. Without Joy Conlon nothing and no-one would be where they should be. Thank you Joy. And finally thanks go to Melanie for putting up with a stressed and, occasionally, grumpy Churchwarden.

## **GDPR**

All confidential records and personnel information is kept in a locked metal filing cabinet in the parish office or password protected computer.

Baptism, Marriage & Funeral registers remain locked the Vestry Safe.

## **Safeguarding**

**Joy Conlon**

The PCC have adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and are compliant with its regulations of displaying relevant notices

There is a file at the back of church in which all the relevant information is available to be seen

All Adults who work with young people and vulnerable adults have DBS certificates, and we regularly check this list and update/ renew as necessary.

We keep a register of all regulated activities organised and run by St James Church.

We will be working to ensure that the Website is compliant with Safeguarding regulations over the next few months.

## **Health and Safety**

**Parish Office**

Fire Safety: all fire signs and extinguishers are in place and serviced in 2018

Evacuation procedures are explained at any non regular event.  
First Aid: first aid boxes and accident books in the Church, Ale House, Belfry and Parish Office are checked regularly. No accidents have been reported in the last year.

Electrical Appliances: checked regularly, details in Parish Office  
Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection: Joy Conlon is the relevant Officer and no incidents have been reported.

Pest Control: Red Kite is contracted to carry out regular checks in the Church and Ale House.

Slips, Trips and Falls: a careful eye is kept on potential hazards. The new path at the West door will enable easy, safe access into the churchyard.

## **Church Electoral Roll report**

**Carol Pearce**

Every 6 years, the electoral roll of St. James' Church is required to be renewed. The roll's main purpose is to allow church members to have a vote in church matters, but also to give St. James an idea of the size of its regular congregation. In accordance with GDPR rules, the details are kept undisclosed within the church office.

All current members of the roll have been contacted, and the returns show that the roll now stands at 124. This is a decrease of 27 on the previous roll. It includes 3 who have passed away, 2 who have moved parishes, 2 new members, and as at the time of writing, 24 non-returns.

If you were on the roll but have not received a form, possibly due to a change of address or, if you would like to be on it, please contact Carol Pearce on 07494 435032.

Risk Assessments: these are overseen by Melanie for all services.

## **Finance & Fundraising**

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Richard King**

### **Colwall PCC Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2018**

The summary accounts are attached and the following gives the main highlights:

**Thanks to the excellent and financially successful Ale House Festival, and other fund-raising events, we had a general income surplus of £3135, compared with the deficit of £3050 in 2017.**

The Parish Giving Scheme, launched in January, has done well. 39 households have joined, raising their overall giving by 10%. 35 people remain on the old envelope and bankers order schemes, and several people have left in the last year. However, because 2017's gift aid total includes several generous one-off gift aided donations, our general church giving actually fell by £2,252 (including the tax element).

**Legacies:** We received one legacy (which arrived in early January so was not included in these accounts). Legacies are a very important aspect of church giving, as many people in later life may have little income to spare for charitable giving. So offering a legacy may be the

best way people can respond to God generously. We now have an active legacy policy at St James and a St James legacy leaflet (launched February 2019).

In addition to the Ale House Festival (net £11,005), for which we owe Phil and Leslie Hitchen and their team a huge thank you, other fund raising events raised £3563: the Forgiveness Project and the Terry Waite evening (a net surplus though not promoted as a fund raising event), Pancake and Brunch coffee mornings, and several other smaller events and activities.

The Ale House was in deficit (£249). Excluding the full electrical test assessment this year (£860) required for insurance, it would have again had a surplus of over £600.

Our Diocesan Parish Share (Parish Offer) was £53,100, a decrease over 2017 of £3844.

Overall our total expenditure was very little changed on the previous two years. But offsetting the fall in Parish Offer, there was the cost for electrical testing in the church of £1419, and we had several one-off office costs: secure cupboard to meet the new GDPR regulations, a church projector, a new office laptop and a new church crib set. We are continuing to maintain a warm church so costs of heating and light have remained high at £3594 (winter 2018 was very cold!)

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

We are making a proposed contribution from our funds to mission giving of £2500 (2017 £2250). In addition, £1000 from the surplus for the Ale House Festival was given back to the village by way of a donation to the Village School. This giving, together with the special collections during 2018 from our normal services and charity fund raising (£2,555) and from weddings and funerals, means we will have sent to charities a total of £9,797 (2017 £11,512).

**Overall our total funds now stand at £127,599 (2017 £132,168), a decrease of £3,844.** The £5,500 from The Awards for All Scheme of the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the Church Development Project/ Re-ordering Project has been used to develop the plans for the church improvements and facilities with the Architects Caroe & Partners.

The deficit projected in our budget for 2019 is £2,898. **However, this requires a significant increase in our planned giving ( £4,000 plus the extra gift aid of £800) and £2,000 more in our fund-raising**

than what we achieved in the last year without the Ale House festival.

If 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 541215.

### **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 King

### **Fundraising**

Steve Hockett

As our Treasurer Richard, will have shown in his report, this last year has been successful in terms of general fundraising very much due to The Church and Ale House Festival last summer. Our heartfelt thanks goes to the organising team and helpers who do such a marvellous job.

This coming year will be one of our “lean” years as the Festival is only every two years. I have taken back leading the general fundraising efforts and remain very positive. Many things are planned but can only come to fruition with your support.

### **Church Development Group**

Richard King

The group has been working to finalise a design for the re-ordering of the back of church to introduce servery facilities, toilets, comfortable seating and tables, and a re-vamped vestry which can also act as a small meeting room. Also included would be a more welcoming church porch. Much time has been used in trying to find a better form of heating to keep the church warm in a more flexible way, and using the best eco-sustainable system, and also better lighting.

Initial designs covered our full wish list, but the costs came out very high. We are now costing a reduced set of features for the development. For heating, unfortunately there are no easy answers. The best sustainable systems involve ground or air source heat pumps, and underfloor pipework to bring the heat into the church. This has a high initial capital cost which we cannot afford. We plan to make new proposals to the PCC and congregation in the first six

months of 2019.

Very many thanks to all the group (Bill, Christine, Ian, Steve, Mike, Melanie) for all their hard work in working through all this and researching the options. One positive spin-off already under way is the plan for a monthly coffee morning developed from the ideas about a new friendly cafe facility for those who suffer from dementia and for their carers and friends.

## **Churchyard**

**Carol & Jonathan Pearce**

The Churchyard continues to be looked after by a very small number of volunteers and a contracted grass and hedge cutting team. We would warmly welcome any new helpers. The contractor team are as careful as they can be, but the small placards provided by the undertakers are very fragile and, being at ground level, are easily damaged as are grave goods outside of the recommended guidelines. The hedges are kept in as good order as possible, but the seasonal hedge cutting ban introduced in England to protect nesting birds lasts six months between 1st March and 1st September.

We are aware of concerns expressed regarding the tidiness and upkeep of the Northeast corner under the yew tree where the ashes are interred. This is being addressed as part of a wider plan to trim/fell some of the trees on the Northern boundary and generally tidy up the area. These works require a Church Faculty approval which has now been received and work will commence shortly.

The area where composted flowers and cuttings had formed a large mound has been cleared as this area is required for burials. New bins for recycling and general rubbish are now in place and will be emptied regularly, but it does help if grave visitors could take their own rubbish home. Once this area has been used for burials St James's Church needs to resource more burial areas. The PCC is looking into this.

The church has booked an expert from the national organisation Caring for God's Acre to run a survey of botanical species to be found in the churchyard. It is hoped that this is the start of an ongoing recording and monitoring of wildlife in the church grounds. We also hope to do something similar with animals and monuments, but this will require a team of interested volunteers. It is also hoped that such activities will support the Eco-church initiative.

In order to support these plans we have publicised our intention to form a Friends of St James's Churchyard group. If you are interested in any of the above initiatives, please contact Carol on 07494 435032.

## **Churchyard Records**

Steve Hockett

This past year has seen eight burials and six ashes interred in our churchyard. Last year's report however ended with the thought of re-use of parts of the churchyard or looking for ways to extend it to cope with new burials in the next few years. Thanks to the very kind offer and subsequent clearing and flattening of a large section of the far end of the churchyard we now have, probably, two - or three - more year's grace. However, the search must continue.

## **Ale House**

Leslie Hitchen

The Ale House suffered damage as a result of the late snowfall in March 2018. The substantial repairs required were, thankfully, completed well before June 30<sup>th</sup> so it was looking lovely once more for the Ale House Festival especially when decorated by Ann Baker's beautiful bunting. My thanks to Steve Jennings for the excellent quality of the repairs and to Ann Baker for the bunting.

After 3 years, Ken Appleby gave up the role of booking secretary at the beginning of January and we gave him a thank you present of wine for the huge amount of time and hard work he gave the Ale House even though he is not a member of our Church.

I am pleased to report that Jane Fanshawe, with Lynn Lee's assistance, has taken over the role.

The Ale House Lunch Club donated £100 in December to the Ale House funds for which we are very grateful.

The Ale House 100 Club is rather short of members this year and is still nowhere near 100 so if anyone would like to join we would be very pleased to enrol you. For a subscription of £10 the member's name is placed in the draw 10 times between February and November with the chance of winning a first prize of £15 or a second prize of £5

## **Communication & Outreach**

### **The Clock**

Joy Conlon

The Clock continues to be an important means of communication for the community. The variety of information, advertising and 'what's on' is appreciated by all our readers.

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

I welcomed Philippa Machin last year to the team- and this year Andy Meany has joined us, and is efficiently managing the advertisers and working on getting new copy.

### **Welcomers**

Jill Withington

Many thanks to the 70 Welcomers who welcome newcomers to their area and give them our Welcome to Colwall Pack. It contains lots of information about our churches and the many village activities and organisations, and also includes a current copy of The Clock.

To keep the information up-to-date, I'd be grateful if leaders could let me know of any significant changes in regular dates, venues or contact names. Last year 38 packs were delivered and were as always much appreciated. It was a larger number than usual because of the new houses in the village. Many thanks also to Joy who amends and prints all the booklets for us.

### **CTiC**

Ian Baker

The Farmyard Nativity took place in early December at Coddington Vineyard. We were grateful to Sharon and Peter Maiden for hire of their barn which was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season and also for arranging for calves and donkeys to be outside. The format was not dissimilar to previous years with Barbara Ashton leading a participative reading of part of the Christmas story, her sharing Barry Ashton's testimony due to his illness and Kate Stock providing musical accompaniment to familiar carols on her accordion. It was estimated that about 100 people attended and many of them had no direct connections with our local churches so outreach objectives were achieved.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity followed in January and our

Unity Service was broadly based on the form of service provided by the Indonesian churches on the theme of Only Justice. Our speaker was Stephen Grey from the Church Army. A considerable number of people helped in many ways to make this service a success and a bring and share lunch was enjoyed afterwards.

The above two events pre-occupied much of the six committee meetings held during the year and meant there was limited time to focus on other matters such as new outreach possibilities.

Tom Jarratt from Colwall Community Church took over as Chair from Melanie Horton in line with the rotational arrangements. Three people are to be stepping down as committee members at the next AGM so there is an active need for replacements if the work of CTIC is to continue and to be extended.

### **St James Aston Link Activities**

Joy Conlon

We welcomed a group from Aston to our Patronal Festival service in July, this was followed by a lunch in the Village School hall—we were also joined by members of St James, Cradley for the service and lunch.

Our visitors were given a tour of the new school before closing worship led by Rev Anne Lanyon-Hogg

We look forward to inviting our friends to Patronal Festival this July.

## **Ministry**

### **Ministry Team**

Marian Paulson

Following the comprehensive revision of our Sunday 10a.m. services we have now been preparing a new Baptism service. The aim has been to incorporate the Baptism more smoothly into our Eucharist and make the whole more accessible for families who may not be regular church goers. We have simplified some of the language and made the promises more meaningful for the Baptism party and all of us and we shall be using the nave altar table for the actual Baptism (we hope to have a new special bowl for this eventually).

Tricia Hockett and Joy have now joined Ministry Team and Bill Clucas, Anne Lanyon Hogg and I will shortly be retiring.

## **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

The Alehouse Lunch Club has enjoyed another good year, providing lunches to our members. Heather Philpott stood down as team leader after ten years in the role.

A new format has been sought to share out the organisation of the lunch club, under the umbrella of St James church, but across the Colwall community. Currently, Colwall Community Church, The Ladies Club and St James Church have stepped forward; each taking responsibility for two lunches per year. These groups will come together to provide the Christmas lunch. This means that seven months of the year will be covered. It is hoped that, in time, other groups within the village will become involved and take on the remaining three slots.

The Alehouse lunch is a valuable resource, particularly to those who live on their own, and it is encouraging that we are able to continue this voluntary service into the future.

## **Choir**

Trish Hockett

A very busy year began on Palm Sunday last year when the choir with their friends gave an evening of sacred music and readings. This was conducted by Peter Johnson with Sue Humphrey on the piano.

This was the year of the Ale House and Church Festival and at a concert in July the choir performed a mixture of secular and sacred songs with the theme of Summer. Sue Humphrey led us in this with Pam Richardson on the piano.

Some members of the Sunday choir attended the annual Diocesan Choir Festival in the Cathedral in October. This is always lovely occasion and gives us the opportunity to perform with other choirs from all over the diocese. We thank those members of our congregation who faithfully support us each year by attending the Festival Evensong.

November 2018 being the century of the end of the First World War it was fitting that we should commemorate this with the follow up to Remembrances (2014). Lest we Forget was devised by Steve Hockett, conducted by Peter Johnson, accompanist Sue Humphrey. This was an evening of trench songs, anthems, music and readings from that period. The church orchestra performed works by Butterworth and Janet Geerlings played the slow movement from the Elgar Cello Concerto.

Finally, our very busy year ended with the annual Village Carol Service on the 21 December when we sang a mixture of carols both old

We also sang at seven weddings during the year both here and at Coddington and at the Unity Service in January.

My thanks go to the team of Sue and Marian and to all our friends who sing with us on the big occasions. However, a special thank you must go to our regular Sunday choir who attend week by week and sing whatever we put before them! We welcome new singers in all sections both in the Sunday Choir and as an augmented. If you are interested, please have a word with one of us.

## **Orchestra**

Susan Humphrey

The orchestra has only played for five services over the year but we will see whether more will be in store for 2019. We have been very pleased to welcome 2 new Colwall clarinettists - Ian Wilson and Janet Wheeler. I played my violin with Colwall Community Church instrumentalists at the January Unity service, and the customary carols in the Ale House were led by violins, 1 viola, 1 recorder, 1 clarinet and 1 bassoon. Some of us were pleased to play in 'Lest we Forget', held in church in November, a commemoration of the end of

the First World War. This included readings as well as the music for the singers and orchestral players. Thanks go to everyone in the orchestra for your support.

## **Flowers**

Kay Smith

We were saddened at the end of last year when Pinkie decided it was time to hand over the running of the church flowers. She has done such a wonderful job for many years, sorting the rota, organising wedding and funeral flowers, running the Christmas and Easter arrangements and having the knack of making it all seem quite effortless when in actual fact there is a lot of behind the scenes work required. We thank her so much for everything and on a happier note are very pleased that she is remaining on the rota.

Late last year Melanie invited everyone to the vicarage for afternoon tea to discuss various aspects of going forward, we have agreed to delegate a bit more which will spread the load, Melanie had also found us some new recruits which are very much needed and this has bolstered our flower team which is just as well as we have a busy church year coming up.

Lastly a really big thanks must go to everyone on this team who willingly give their time (and foliage) to ensure that the church flowers always look lovely for the pleasure of both the congregation and visitors alike.

## **Church Bells**

Robin Riches

At the 2018 Ledbury District AGM, held in February in the Ale House, two new members were elected for Colwall and they are progressing well.

Our Sunday service ringing continues for the 10.00am communion service when we can sometimes ring the ten bells. We do have help from members from Coddington to whom we are very grateful, and in return some of us help out for their services on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's and also at their practices on Thursday afternoons.

Visiting bands to Colwall were down on previous years with only one peal attempt and 3 outings from Gloucestershire, Shropshire and the annual Hereford ringing course in April. Weddings which requested bells were 7 in total.

We were saddened to learn of the death of David Fox in the spring. Although he had stopped ringing a few years previous it was still a

shock to us. We at Colwall and Coddington owe David much gratitude in getting the bells re-hung at both towers, and in the case of Colwall increased to 10 in number and the installation of the ringer simulator. 2 quarter peals were rung in his memory, one in each tower.

In November we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War 1914-1918 with a quarter peal of Gransire Doubles.

## **Mothers' Union**

**Susan Humphrey**

We have been very happy to welcome 5 new members - Heather des Forges, who has moved here from Coddington, Caroline Shaw, Anne Spargo, Doreen Bateman and Rosemary Wilson. We were very sad to learn of the deaths of Barbara Eagles, a member for so long, and Pamela Lloyd-Owen. Jenny Houghton has moved away nearer family and we wish her well.

Last year our Lent lunch had to be cancelled because of snow and ice but we will be luckier this year on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The Diocesan southern region Lady Day service was held here at St. James' and a small group of us led midday prayers in Hereford Cathedral on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

We have had some inspiring talks - Jane Hill's brother told us of the work in South Sudan by Flame International, a charity for which he works and Anne Eglinton of Malvern Priory spoke of Children's Homes in South Kerala which she and her husband support and have visited. For these charities we were able to pass on our 'tea' money plus extra donations from members. We have enjoyed all our meetings and are grateful to the speakers. In January this year we were lucky to have a talk by David Longman entitled Royal Bouquets. Longmans' Florists, started by David's father and grandfather was chosen for a number of significant royal weddings and we were fascinated to hand round drawings and photographs.

Fundraising has gone well and last month we were able to fill the car of Trixy Goodger, who runs the Diocesan Crisis Intervention Fund, with kitchen utensils, towels and bedding.

## **Sacristans & Servers**

Parish Office

I start this report by expressing all our thanks to Richard King who has worked tirelessly in supporting changes to the servers and sacristans rota/ duties, in an effort to streamline the workload before, during and after services.

Our thanks to everyone who serves and takes on the sacristan role for Sunday and other Communion services.

We must record our thanks to Cicely Palmer who ably acts as Sacristan at St Crispin's along with washing communion linens.

As ever we would welcome new members to join this team, if you would like more information as to what is involved please contact Richard King or the Parish Office

## **The Church Website**

Mark Illingworth

Mark has run the church website in much the same way for eight years, but it needs to reflect external changes:

Increasingly people, including church-goers, look for information on the web using their smartphones.

The Church of England provides pages for every one of its churches via the webpages of A Church Near You (ACNY). Mark has been maintaining our ACNY page from information provided by the church office. ACNY now allows each church to name up to five people to maintain its pages.

Possible developments are:

Keep the existing pages of our website but modify them to be mobile friendly.

Provide the programme of future services and events on the church's pages on ACNY and retain the administration and history pages and the library of sermons on the church's own website.

Find a new website manager to take a fresh approach.

COLWALL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

INCOME	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
	£	£
Collections	4,763	5,651
Gift aid/Parish Giving Scheme	39,561	40,764
Income tax recoverable	11,184	11,345
General donations	2,505	2,986
Investment and bank interest	2,471	2,428
Church fees	6,674	8,742
Magazine (net of expenditure)	4,926	3,210
Property (Ale House) income less costs -	249	684
Fund raising	14,666	3,613
Legacy		1,000
	<u>86,500</u>	<u>80,422</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Clergy allowances and training	1,200	1,200
Sanctuary expenses	757	497
Organ and organists expenses	2,938	2,617
Church maintenance (including heat and light, insur- cleaning, repairs and	9,861	8,830
Administration (including books, stationery, postage, secretarial and stew-	11,293	10,474
Children - Messy Church	559	407
Miscellaneous	158	253
	<u>26,765</u>	<u>24,278</u>
Diocesan Parish Share (Quota)	53,100	56,944
Contributions to Missions and charities	3,500	2,250
	<u>83,365</u>	<u>83,472</u>
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>3,135 -</u>	<u>3,050</u>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2017

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
FUND BALANCES		
Friends of St James	7,401	7,053
Designated	-	-
Parish General	-	-
Organ	5,331	5,331
Fabric	110,713	110,279
Flower	2,283	2,506
Bells	1,752	1,800
Church Development	119	5,449
	<u>127,599</u>	<u>132,418</u>

## INVESTED IN:-

CBF shares and de-	71,806	74,032
Lloyds Bank Plc	3,577	5,838
Santander	16,173	17,346
Cafcash Deposits	46,090	43,961
Debtors less creditors	- 10,047	- 8,760
	<u>127,599</u>	<u>132,418</u>