

*St James the Great Church Colwall*



*Vestry  
&  
Annual Parochial Church  
Meeting*

*Sunday 29th March 2020*

## Rector's Report

Rev'd Melanie Horton

I would like to begin this report with its most important function - saying thank you. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank the multitude of people who contribute to our worshipping life: warden, vergers, 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 life together, ensuring that our worship is all that it can be. Whatever you do please know that you are appreciated and your contribution matters.

In addition to all of these, thanks must go to my clergy colleagues who give of their time and talents to lead the worshiping and spiritual life of our community. Their preaching, their leading of services and their generous involvement in our community enrich our life together and provide me with much appreciated support. We are also much blessed in the ministry of Andy, our reader, whose preaching is always a highlight. It is always invidious to mention names since there are so many people who give so much to our corporate life but I do not feel that I can submit this report without acknowledging the great debt of thanks that I personally and we as a church owe to Joy our administrator and Bill our warden, both of whom give of their time and talents freely.

In all of 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.

It has also been wonderful this year to finally finish the installation of our audio visual system. The realisation of this is in no small part due to the persistence of Tony Philpott and the skill of Richard King in acquiring grant funding! I do understand that certainly at the moment it's a little like marmite people love it or hate it but there is no doubt that it offers us the opportunity of a wider scope for our worship and a tool for outreach. As well as its use in Sunday services it has also been used very effectively for a funeral adding a dimension to that particular occasion which brought great comfort to

the family and friends involved. It will be sometime before we see the demise of the printed booklet but going forward we will no longer use resources to print single use booklets and instead will save both money and resources by using the screen. It also offers us the opportunity to experiment with some new hymns without having to purchase books or print loose sheets of paper. Thanks go to those sound operators who have embraced this new technology and being willing to learn how to use it but we could always do with more people to help. If you feel that you might be able to do so, it really is very simple to operate, please have a word with Joy or Tony.

Thinking about new things, much progress has been made in our plans to develop and modernise facilities available at Saint James and we had three lively and very valuable consultation meetings to Consider the proposals. There was some concern about funding and about the scale of the project but despite this there was broad support for the plans to make our space more flexible and user-friendly and for the vision lying behind the practical works. I'll say no more as you can read all about it in Richards report further on in this booklet.

Another wonderful enterprise to note is the Admirals café. Initiated by Mike Paulson and Marcus Allen, supported by a veritable army of volunteers, and used by a growing number of regulars, this monthly event is a much valued addition to our activities and an example of what active collaboration between church and community can achieve. Many thanks to Mike and Marcus.

There are many aspects of our village life that were begun by and continue to be supported by St James. One of these is the care scheme. Over the last few years this has been run by June Webber but she has now decided that this is the time to step down. Many thanks go to her for her hard work and commitment in keeping this going. At the present time we do not have anybody to take this over so if you feel able to do so please have a word with me and I will explain what is involved.

In the life of any family there are always things to celebrate and sadnesses to share. This year we said a sad farewell to Helen Price, Sheila Evans and Pinkie Elliston Each of them in their own way and using their own talents made a great contribution to the church and the wider community and it was with great sadness we had to say goodbye.

As has become our normal there were a number of fundraising events through the year. Thanks go to Sue Doswell and the Pax singers for a wonderful concert, to Steve Hockett and his team for organising a wonderful Jazz night at the Village Hall and also the relocated dog show which, despite the terrible weather, was a super event for those who attended.

Whilst fundraising is a necessary part of our life together it is also an opportunity to be involved in events which reach the wider community. This is very much true of our now annual pancake morning. This year's event received overwhelming support both from the church family and the wider community. It felt like the whole village had come to visit and eat pancakes, the buzz in the hall was amazing. Thanks go to Richard and his team, especially those who soldiered on in the face of overwhelming demand for pancakes to keep everybody fed and happy. We must also thank Mrs Webb and Colwall Village primary school for their support, providing pancake races and a wonderful tombola. The Christmas counterpart to our pre-Lent celebrations was also a great success on its maiden voyage and I am sure it will become just as much a part of the village calendar in the years to come.

It has been a busy year, we have had the privilege of supporting many families through bereavement and the pleasure of sharing with many others in weddings and baptisms. We have also had the pleasure of welcoming new members of our church family. There are challenges that face us both locally and on a wider stage, not least the plans to reduce clergy numbers in every deanery across the diocese, But there is much to be thankful for and much to celebrate. In an early meeting to develop a mission action plan Caroline Pascoe made the comment that nothing ever improved by dwelling on the negative. There is much truth in this and whilst a reasoned consideration of where we are and what we need to do to get where we want to be is important it is also crucial that we remember and give thanks for all that is positive. So with that in mind I look forward to the coming year, to sharing together it's triumphs and its challenges, to praying together and sharing in worship and together seeking new and exciting ways to share the good news and to build Gods kingdom in this place.

With love and prayers, Melanie

## Churchwardens' Report

Bill Clucas

This year has had a successful range of Sunday services at St James. We have had many Baptisms , Weddings and unfortunately Funerals and Memorial services. These last three have been ably managed by Steve Hockett, as Verger, and Joy Conlon operating the audio/visual system.

Thanks are due to Tony Philpot for organising the installation of our new audio visual system, which has been particularly appreciated during memorial services , allowing photographs and videos to be displayed. During other services the on screen notices and orders of service are saving paper, and hence trees , which is good for the environment, and reducing the items held in the hand, particularly useful during Christingle.

In spite of the recent gales the fabric of the church seems to be in good order. However our quinquennial (five yearly) inspection took place on the 24th of this month so the report may show any unexpected problems. The new flagpole has been installed, and flags flown on Remembrance Sunday. our patronal day and Sunday and during the Christmas period, this last being a time when it would have been particularly dangerous to use the tower flagpole.

Work on the trees on the North side of the church has been completed producing a more open churchyard, and more natural light in the church.

As the flagpole on the church tower, over time, damages the lead on the roof, and allows water ingress, it is proposed to take the flagpole down and store it for future use.

To cope with the amount of waste generated in the graveyard, dead flowers, wreaths etc. we have acquired extra bins. To allow for collections at the north gate of the graveyard it is proposed to lay down hard standing for the bins and at the same time improve the entrance into the graveyard.

Due to a generous donation a shed is planned for the flower arrangers to store their materials outside the north chancel door.

We have finally finished the consultation phase of the development project, and are now moving on to the the funding application phase, thanks to Richard King for his past and future work on this.

As ever I must say that the Wardens job would be quite impossible without the support of many people, including the assistant wardens; Jane and Syd Hill, Carolyn and Stuart Hands, Richard King and Steve Hockett , doing three jobs at the moment.. Also Cicely Palmer for St Crispin's. Many thanks to you all. And of course, Joy Conlon bringing a new meaning to multitasking. Thank you Joy. And finally thanks go to Melanie for remaining calm while her Churchwarden stresses around her.

## **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 2019, with replacement's purchased as advised by contractors.

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.

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

## **Church Electoral Roll report**

**Joy Conlon**

My thanks to Carol Pearce who efficiently oversaw the Electoral Roll renewal during 2019. Carole has now handed over the reigns to the Parish Office.- BUT—if you would be interested in taking over this role - please contact Joy in the Parish Office.

The Electoral Roll (as of 12 March 2020) stands at 142 (increase of 18 from 2019)

This accounts for 2 deceased, and 1 moved away in 2019

## **Finance & Fundraising**

### **Colwall PCC Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2019**

The summary accounts are in the St James Annual Report and the following gives the main highlights. However, following the audit of our accounts, the format of the accounts has been adjusted to comply with the latest best practice. To aid understanding, last year's figures have been restated in the same format. Essentially, we now incorporate all income and expenditure on our special funds in the main report. For 2019 it includes the grant for the projector, a legacy and a donation in memoriam. Expenditure on fund raising, the Ale House, and The Clock are now stated explicitly, not netted against income. The increase/decrease in valuation of our investments is added to income/expenditure as appropriate.

**Without the Ale House Festival in 2019, normal income failed to match expenditure and resulted in a deficit of £1,813 before special items and the revaluation, compared with the surplus of £3135 in 2018.**

But for a set of one-off adjustments to clear historical allowances for expenditure which was never made and expected income never received, the true deficit would have been £2,739 more (this sum is included under Other Payments - Sundry).

**The Parish Giving Scheme:** A further 5 households joined the scheme in 2019, bringing the total to 44. Just over 30 people remain on the old envelope and bankers order schemes. Overall, planned giving and collections rose £1,577.

**Fund Raising:** £3,829 was raised after costs from a range of events including the Pax Singers Concert, The Jazz Evening, the Dog Show and the Pancake and Christmas coffee mornings, and several other smaller events and activities.

**Church Fees (Weddings, Funerals):** We had 10 weddings this year, and 31 funerals/cremations giving a large increase in fees received compared with 2018.

**The Ale House:** returned to surplus (£305) after last year's deficit.

**Our Parish Offer (Diocesan Parish Share)** was £54,428, an increase over 2018 of £1,328.

**Expenditure:** was very little changed on 2018. Office costs were higher with a one-off cost for purchase the 'Goodbox' contactless terminal. In 2019, over £200 was donated through the terminal, much of it at weddings and funerals, with about half going to the families' charities, and the rest to St James. In January & February 2020 we have already had donations of £224.

A further £1358 has been spent on the development project to cover the fees for the Quantity Surveyor cost estimates and a heating consultant report.

**Legacies:** We received one legacy (from Pamela Lloyd Owen), and one substantial donation in memory of Pinkie Elliston. 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).

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

We have made a contribution from our funds to mission giving of £2350 (2018 £2500). Together with the special collections during 2019 from our normal services and charity fund raising (£3,465) and from weddings and funerals, means we will have sent to charities a total of £13,805 (2018 £9,797)

**Overall our total funds now stand at £134,775 (2018 £127,599), an increase of £7,176.** However, this is primarily due to the annual revaluation of our investments with the CBF which has gone up by £5,310.

The deficit projected in our budget for 2020 is £2,260. **However, this is based on budgeting £7,000 for fund-raising including the Flower Festival planned for June. As always, the full support of everyone will be needed to achieve this.**

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

This last year has not been as successful in terms of general fundraising as I would have liked. However great efforts were made and many people deserve praise for all their efforts. Our heartfelt thanks goes to the organising team and helpers who do such a marvellous job.

This coming year will see new (?) ideas such as a Flower Festival weekend and the return of our successful events such as Scarecrow Day, Jazz and Welcome Christmas. My job is coordinating our fund raising and sometimes being involved! I remain very positive that with your continued help and support we will achieve great things, but remember, your support is most important.

## **Church Development Group**

**Richard King**

The group has been working on plans to upgrade the church building to support ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **The vision for our church is:**

- To be a Christian family which reaches out to our village community:
- welcoming and supporting families and young people, and those in special need - the lonely, elderly, bereaved, those with mental health issues.
- Nurturing our communities spiritually, and also enabling learning and new skills to enhance communities and care for the natural world
- To build partnerships with specialist and local groups to provide such support professionally
- To be a Christian family which is growing and developing its faith and spirituality both individually and corporately

For our **church building** to help us serve our community effectively, it needs to be:

a place for a range of transformative worship -including eg Café church

a place of meeting and hospitality - eg Admiral's café, 'singles' café

a place for listening, learning, telling stories - eg churchyard learning/care; bereavement groups; mothers' and toddlers' group; quiet mornings

a place of creative and artistic endeavour - eg concerts, arts/ drama/flower festivals

a place where our care for God's world is shown through helping

one another live more sustainably and reducing our impacts on the environment in all aspects of church life

**The Church Development Project** aims to create a space which will enable this vision and ensure our Christian heritage (both our Christian community and our ancient historic buildings) is sustained for current and future generations.

Following presentations of draft design proposals in the summer, consultations with the parish have helped the plans to evolve to meet many of the viewpoints made.

Further discussions with heating consultants and the CofE buildings team have shown that the main eco-sustainable systems are not economic for our church at present, so we must continue with the existing relatively new oil boiler for the time being. To improve heating levels in church, the radiator system will need to be upgraded.

The group has now started on more detailed consultations to identify where we can best make more of a difference in the community through care and support. The Admiral's Café has been a great success since it started in the spring. Another focus could be community involvement, awareness and education with the churchyard, its wildlife and conservation, and its heritage through the churchyard memorials. We are investigating grants available from national funders and developing a local fund-raising strategy to supplement the grants to meet our targets.

Very many thanks to all the group (Bill, Christine, Ian, Steve, Mike, Melanie) for all their hard work. It has been a long haul. We hope 2020 will be the year when final decisions will be taken.

## **Churchyard**

**Carol & Jonathan Pearce**

It has been a very productive year in the maintenance of the churchyard. The trees and scrubby overgrowth on the North side have been cleared or felled, and the area near the interment of ashes tidied of brash. Consequently, many village residents have voiced appreciative comments regarding the improved appearance, lightness and openness of the churchyard.

On the South side, a large area has been cleared to provide more space for burials. As part of this clearing, the area for the disposal of

rubbish has been moved so it is next to the gate on Flapgate lane. New, larger bins have also been provided. Once this burial area is filled, we will have to look at finding or creating further spaces within the churchyard, as extending our grounds is not possible. The PCC have been investigating this during the year and it is an ongoing process.

The last surveys of churchyard plant life were done in 1996 and 2006, so in June, fifteen people enjoyed a delightful morning identifying the current flora of the churchyard under the expert guidance of a member of the organisation Caring For God's Acre. We found 110 different species, several of which are important food for wildlife and several of which are classic indicator species of ancient mediaeval hay meadows, reflecting the agricultural practises that were used before modern agro-chemical methods began. It is hoped to hold more events of this nature, especially as many of the monuments are rich in lichens, some of which are restricted in distribution and churchyards are important strongholds for these species.

The Spring Tidy in late March will be concentrating on clearing and improving the area where the ashes are interred under the yew tree.

The churchyard continues to be looked after by a very small number of volunteers and a contracted hedge and grass cutting team, who keep the grounds in as good order as possible. They are as careful as possible, but some of the small temporary plaques provided by undertakers are fragile, and being at ground level are easily damaged, as are grave goods outside of the recommended guidelines. Last year, unseasonably wet weather made for very long grass that could not be cut for some weeks and this made the task of the mowers more difficult. Also, a government directive means that hedges cannot be cut between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> September in order to protect nesting birds.

The Friends of St. James' Churchyard oversee the more general needs of the churchyard and the organisation of events to make it a pleasant and peaceful area for all who visit. We know that the churchyard is used by a very wide range of the public, including many who have travelled from far away. If you would like to join the Friends please contact Carol on 07494 435032 or the Church Office.

## **Churchyard Records**

Steve Hockett

This past year has seen four burials and ten ashes interred in our churchyard. 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 a larger area for burials. The area for ashes burials is intended to be tidied and improved soon.

## **ALE HOUSE REPORT**

Leslie Hitchen

There has been a steady number of bookings both private and church related but it would be good to have more. If you hear of anyone looking for a venue for classes or a party please recommend the beautiful, historic Ale House.

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 doing well this year and but is still nowhere near 100 so if anyone would like to join we would be very pleased to enroll you.

For a subscription of £10 your name is placed in the 10 draws between February and November with the chance of winning a first prize of £15 or a second prize of £5. We are very grateful to those who have joined as this provides much needed funds for the upkeep of the Ale House. It's not too late to join if you haven't already.

## **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.

This year Andy Meany has ably and efficiently managed the advertisers and worked on getting new copy, but now is the time to hand over to a new Advertising person, please contact Joy if you, or someone you know would be interested in taking on this role.

My grateful thanks to Andy for all his time and patience in so ably managing the Advertising.

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.

## **Welcomers**

Jill Withington

Thank you once again to all our Welcomers who keep an eye open to spot any new residents moving into their area and then welcome them with our Welcome to Colwall booklet, containing loads of information about our churches and our village, and a current copy of The Clock. Those on the receiving end are very grateful and I think most of the Welcomers find it an enjoyable experience too.

## **CTiC**

Ian Baker

In late September a drama performance called A Turbulent Priest marking the 850th anniversary of the murder of Thomas Becket and his relationship with Henry 11 was sponsored by CTiC. It also addressed contemporary issues of church and state relations. It attracted a better than expected audience with some positive feedback that similar outreach ventures should be encouraged.

Due to flooding at Coddington Vineyard the venue for the Farmyard Nativity in early December had to be changed at short notice to St James Church. Despite this a puppet based storytelling was appreciated, particularly by the children present, and refreshments afterwards provided an opportunity for fellowship with the reduced number who attended.

The Church in Malta provided the form of service for the national Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and was the basis for our Unity Service in late January. The title was Unusual Kindness and Rob Thomas from Hereford Street Pastors spoke powerfully to this theme. 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 three events pre-occupied much of the time of four committee meetings held during the year. Tom Jarratt from Colwall Community Church continued as Chair and Val Dipple joined as a

member from St James. I am stepping down at the forthcoming AGM in May. If the work of CTIC is to continue and prosper then new members are needed from both churches.

### **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 hall

We continue to support the work of St James, Aston- charity giving and raising funds through the Village Quiz each November.

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

## **Ministry**

### **Ministry Team**

Parish Office

We have now completed the revision of the Baptism Order of service booklet –this has now been used a number of times, and has been welcomed by the families who find it more inclusive for them and their guests.

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

### **Colwall Care Scheme**

Parish Office

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

Our grateful thanks to June Weber for overseeing and being the key driver for many years.

June feels to time has come for her to hand over the reigns, so if you feel this is something you could be involved with or know someone who may be interested please contact the Parish Office or have a

chat with June to see what is involved.

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.

### **Admirals café**

**Mike Paulson**

Marcus Allen and I with the help and support of Admiral Nurse Linda Price and Alzheimer's Society opened the café on the first Thursday of May last year in the Jean Simon Room. Thereafter we transferred to the main hall of the Village Hall and have now had 11 openings (May will be our 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary). Our average “customer “base has been around 7 living with dementia plus an equal number of carers, from Colwall Wellington Heath, and Ledbury

We have the very good fortune to have a team of between 12 and 14 volunteers drawn not only from St James but from the village community. We also benefit from supporting excellent cake and biscuit cooks. We are funded by 2 generous start -up donations and from monthly donations and a raffle. We are self supporting.

We have various activities, apart from conversation and a friendly atmosphere. Activities have included board games, seated dance, singing, and (courtesy of Mrs Webb) visits from pupils rom the village school.

We would like to acknowledge the support of our G P, our police community support officer, and others from the N H S and Alzheimer's but above all We must praise our hard working and imaginative volunteers, and Linda Price without whom we would never have got started and whose advice and expertise has been invaluable. We shall miss her and wish her well in whatever role she is given in April.

### **Ale House Lunch**

**Ale House Team**

The Alehouse Lunch Club has enjoyed another good year

The new format has worked well in sharing the organisation of the



lunch club, under the umbrella of St James church, and 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 Report

Trish Hockett

On Palm Sunday the augmented choir led an act of worship with sacred music and congregational hymns. A well-attended candlelit carol service was held on the Friday before Christmas. A selection of carols was sung by the augmented choir and congregation interspersed with readings. Both these events were conducted by Peter Johnson and accompanied by Susan Humphrey.

During the year sadly Helen Price and Sheila Evans passed away. Helen had been an original member of the augmented choir under Mary Baron in the 1990's. Sheila had sung with us more recently as an alto although I do remember her having a lovely soprano voice. We thank them for their dedication and contribution over the years.

My thanks go to all those who sing with us several times each year and who also join us for weddings. Special thanks must go to those choir members who faithfully lead the singing Sunday by Sunday. Thanks also to Peter Johnson who puts us through our paces, Sue who accompanies us and Marian who does the choir organisation for our big choral services.



## Orchestra

Susan Humphrey

Our little band has not grown this year. In fact one member has had to withdraw because of caring for her husband. However, we have enjoyed the few times we have played. I especially relished Mothering Sunday when my daughter-in-law joined us with her violin, the children looking on, and played piano duets with me while the posies were given out. Our playing at 'Welcome Christmas' was appreciated by the small number who turned out in in atrocious weather. If you are harbouring a secret musical hobby of - playing the flute, for example, or know of anyone else in a similar situation, young or young at heart, please let me know. Do come to try us out. We would welcome you.

## Flowers

Kay Smith

We have had a busy year arranging the flowers on a weekly basis and happily for the church there were also a lot of weddings. We have had some great feedback and thanks from most of the bride's who really appreciate how lovely the wedding flowers have looked and the Sunday congregation also hopefully get to enjoy them as well.

I have made the decision to try and be as environmentally friendly as possible when doing arrangements and have stopped using as much floral foam (which is not biodegradable) and invested in a couple of very nice tall urns for the welcome table and north window so we just use water in these plus galvanized buckets for the pew ends, which again only use water, there is a new floral foam just on the market but is very expensive and still not fully compostable so for now we are compromising.

I have also changed the way we source flowers for weddings and tend to use a local grower of alstroemerias and the flower wholesaler in Worcester plus the supermarkets so therefore our bride's get value for money and plenty of flowers as I am aware that weddings are expensive and it's nice for them to feel they are getting value for money.

We were much saddened at the passing of Pinkie Elliston last year, she had been a big part of the flower team for many years, both running and helping and we miss greatly, her memorial service was held at St James in October and I think we did her proud with the flowers (which the church kindly donated) as everyone in the team each did an arrangement plus several ladies came over from Coddington and the

church looked stunning as the sun shone through the windows on the autumn flower displays.

We had some new ladies join the team which is always a bonus especially as Mary Roberts decided to step down, she has been a stalwart for many years and still supplies us with lovely foliage, everyone puts in a lot of time and effort to ensure the church flowers look lovely all year round and in return we get great pleasure from doing them.

## Church Bells

Robin Riches

Again we have had an enjoyable and full year of Bell-ringing at St James Church. The number of weddings that requested bells during last year was 7. as always, the Sunday services were rung for, sometimes we have enough ringers to manage all 10 bells.

Practices on Monday evenings continue with a new venture organised by Ledbury District (of which Colwall is a member) of a monthly training week, using our bells on a Monday and Wednesday evening. This enables our learners a more intensive period to progress with more experienced ringers to help. Also a Friday evening is reserved for a more advanced 8/10 bell practice.

We entered a band for the yearly district striking competition in June, held at Much Cowerne, a new tower for some of us. Although we did not win a very credible performance was achieved- well done Ian! His first attempt.

A number of visiting bands were hosted at Colwall, together with the annual Hereford Ringing Course in April, and a number of quarter peals were rung.

An issue concerning rainwater entering the bell chamber has been ongoing for a few years. The fittings are protected from this. Hopefully when the redundant flagpole is removed this will be resolved.

Finally, once again, a huge thank you to all members and helpers during the past 12 months.



## **Mothers' Union**

Susan Humphrey

We marked our first meeting in 2019 in style with a memorable talk by David Longman whose family for generations had been florists in London, specialising in flowers for royal weddings. Clare passed round precious original drawings and photographs. Who can forget the length (and consequent weight) of Lady Diana's (as she was then) bouquet?

Unfortunately I had to miss the talk by Herefordshire Rev. Iain Skinner who had made a pilgrimage from Iona to Lindisfarne. Secrecy had been of the utmost importance for Longmans' florists and it was for the post of Tony Bair's bodyguard, held and described so well by Frank Armstrong.

Continuing the theme of local speakers, Anne Spargo's title was 'Be careful what you pray for', describing her journey towards being doctor and priest, thus fulfilling her childhood wish to care for others in her life, and Phyl King's was 'Wildlife in a Colwall garden', with photos of the interesting moths she diligently records, and the birds and insects which frequent her garden and two ponds.

At our forthcoming AGM we will discover we have not have raised so much money in 2019 as there were no visiting groups in the summer, but we were able to support several charities through generously supplementing and giving the tea money; and three MU funds - 'Away from it all', Overseas Fund, and the 'Crisis Intervention Fund'.

We welcomed new members, Rosemary Wilson and Christine Honeywill but were sorry to lose Anne Lanyon-Hogg to her beloved Wales. Very sadly, during the year, Barbara Berry died. She had been a member for 50 years.

## **Sacristans & Servers**

Parish Office

I start this report by expressing all our thanks to Richard King who has worked tirelessly in supporting our servers and sacristans BUT the number of 'helpers' is at an all time low, and to this end recruiting new Sacristans and Servers has become URGENT.

Please do consider whether this is a role you could undertake. Full training and support will be given and you would not be expected to be on duty every Sunday!

Please contact Richard, Joy or Melanie if you are interested

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.

## The Church Website

Mark Illingworth

Mark has run the church website in much the same way for nine years, but with his other commitments he would like to hand over at least part of this important communication role. Factors to consider are:

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

The Church of England provides mobile-friendly webpages for every one of its churches on A Church Near You (ACNY). Mark has been maintaining our ACNY page from information provided by the church office. No special IT skills are required and ACNY allows each church to name up to five people to maintain its pages.

Mark's suggested action is:

Provide the programme of future services and events on the church's pages on ACNY. Nominate a member of the Ministry Team to maintain the ACNY pages in a way that reflects the church's mission and outreach.

Retain on the church's own website the administration and history pages and the library of sermons. Find a new website manager to take a fresh approach, possibly keeping the existing pages of our website but modifying them to be mobile friendly.



COLWALL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

INCOME	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Non-gift aid Collections	5,240	4,763
Parish Giving Scheme	27,178	18,505
Old scheme (Envelopes, bankers order)	13,483	21,056
Tax recovered	10,933	11,184
Other voluntary receipts	7,490	3,277
Investment income	7,834	245
	Investments Revaluation +£5,310	
includes:	(2018: -£2,226)	
Church fees	9,887	6,674
Fund raising receipts	15,749	30,373
	Ale House lettings and 100 Club;	
includes:	Magazine sales & adverts (Clock); Fund raising Events	
Awards for All: projector grant	9,718	
	<hr/> 107,512	<hr/> 96,077
EXPENDITURE		
Diocesan Offer and Deanery Quota	54,428	53,100
Other payments	45,908	47,797
	Contributions to Missions and Charities	
includes:	Ale House expenses, Magazine print- ing, other fund raising costs; churchmainmtenance, admin, music Church Development Project; new projection system Sundry (clearing old ex- pense provisions)	
	<hr/> 100,336	<hr/> 100,897
 (DEFICIT) SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	 <hr/> 7,176	 <hr/> -4,819

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Balance at 1 January	127,599	132,418
Add surplus	7,176	(4,819)
Balance at 31 December	<u>134,775</u>	<u>127,599</u>

## FUND BALANCES

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Friends of St James	7,711	7,401
Organ	5,331	5,331
Fabric (designated)	118,172	110,713
Flower	1,858	2,283
Bells	1,704	1,752
Church Development Fund	-	119
	<u>134,775</u>	<u>127,599</u>

## INVESTED IN:-

CBF shares and de- posits	77,116	71,806
Lloyds Bank Plc	2,351	3,577
Santander	19,219	16,173
Cafcash Deposits	45,565	46,090
Debtors	1,150	2,330
	<u>145,401</u>	<u>139,976</u>
Creditors	(10,626)	(12,377)
	<u>134,775</u>	<u>127,599</u>

