

ST PETER'S KINVER



ST PETER'S CHURCH, KINVER
God loves you, you are welcome
here, and we want you to know it!

ANNUAL REPORTS BOOKLET

MAY 2023

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to St Peter's Annual Reports Booklet – an old friend from pre-covid days, but now in a new format. Our intention is to give a snapshot of all of the many activities that together make St Peter's the lively, thriving and growing church that it is. The brief reports of recent activities are written by the many volunteers who are the lifeblood of St Peter's and I thank them for their contributions.

But apart from being an interesting read, what else is this booklet for? When we appointed Rev'd Rich, I sent him a copy of the last edition and he kindly said it helped him get to know his new church even before he arrived. And I think that is the key – helping all of us understand a bit better what makes our church tick and perhaps to see some different areas of activity where God might be calling us to get involved.

Mark Middleton, Deputy Warden

RECTOR'S REPORT

Reading the different reports that have been sent in for this booklet it's fantastic to see how much goes on in the life of St Peter's, and how many people are involved in so many different ways. It feels to me that this has been a really positive year in the life of our Church. We have emerged (though not unscathed) from the challenges of the COVID precautions, and our Benefice is growing in faith and in numbers.

Towards the end of this booklet you can read a little about our Mission Action Plan which outlines some of our priorities for the coming year, but as these reports make clear there is so much more going on in our Churches. My thanks go out to every single person who is involved in the life of St Peter's and of our Benefice. As I often say, being a Christian means being part of a Church community and this is a good community to be a part of - I'm excited to see what God has in store for us over the coming year!

Rev'd Rich, Rector

AD33

The objects of AD33 have been amended to allow it to operate more specifically as a funding vehicle and to make clear that it can fund (as well as organise) activities for children who are below secondary school age, as well as for “young people.” In the last 12 months, it has provided funding for the after-school club (J-Team) and also for purchases of equipment which should be helpful in the context of events for secondary school children.

The churches in the village have been strengthening links with the local schools and it is expected that there will be more such events in the next 12 months, especially around festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest. It is hoped that it will also be possible to arrange more regular activities for older children over the next 12 months or so.

I would encourage St Peter’s to apply to AD33 for funding, wherever possible, as it is there to be used and it is a pity to use other charitable funds when AD33 has funds available and needs to be seen to be using them. We do need to restart activities for secondary school age children – activities for younger ones are, inevitably, easier to arrange and perhaps less intimidating for the “oldies.”

Andrew Stilton, Chair of AD33 Trust

BAPTISMS

During 2022 we held 16 Baptisms at St Peter’s, and were particularly busy in the summer term with 11 baptisms between Easter and the Summer holidays! Baptisms are usually held on a Sunday afternoon which means that we can make the services much shorter and more child-friendly than having them in a communion service. However it is nice to have the occasional baptism in a morning service too, and now that we’ve caught up on the covid backlog I’ve started offering families the option of either. I’m also hoping that we’ll have our first Messy Church baptism soon as well!

Rev’d Rich, Rector

BELL RINGERS

We rang for most Sunday services, 20 weddings (12 at Kinver), a memorial service and tolled for three funerals, all Christmas services and for the New year. We rang a Quarter Peal and open ringing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and tolled and rang half muffled following her death.

We welcomed Brindley students, demonstrated and explained ringing and supported them to chime a bell. We rang for the Village Christmas Lights Switch On, Rev Rich's Installation and a Quarter Peal for him. For the Daffodil Days Festival: open ringing with ringing room visits, and a Quarter Peal on Mothering Sunday.

We are teaching four learners (one for Kinver, three for Wolverley). Kelise rang her first Peal (approx 3 hours to ring). Hattie achieved Level 5 (six Quarter Peals in total). Charlotte achieved levels 1, 2 and 3 (includes two QPs). Leann achieved Level 2. The ringers paid £225 for Cumbrian Clock specialists to service the clock. Mo completed general ongoing belfry maintenance, repaired the clock hammer mechanism and replaced a broken stay.

Diane Awkati, Tower Captain

BLACK COUNTRY FOODBANK

We continue to support the Black Country Food Bank which helps vulnerable individuals and families in crisis through the provision of three days supply of food and toiletries. They particularly welcome tins and packets of food that are not out of date and do not contain alcohol. It is a large organisation with many locations over the Black Country and they have a website where they list shortages each week.

We usually take contributions from St Peter's on Tuesdays after lunch to 'Replenish' at Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church in Stourbridge where the hardworking staff are delighted to receive our donations of food, toiletries and money. Members of the congregation have been particularly generous at Harvest and during Lent when many people

have accepted the challenge to donate an item each day for the 40 days of Lent. Well done! Donations may be left at the back of church or left in our porch if we are at home. Thank you very much for all your donations; it is good to help those who are hungry!

Hilary and Ian Gapper, Foodbank Co-ordinators

CHAPLAINCY AT KINVER HIGH SCHOOL

The High School Chaplaincy continues to go from strength to strength, with a fabulous ecumenical team of Methodists and Anglicans. We started the academic year meeting at Kinver High with the other chaplaincy teams in the Invictus Academy Trust, and took part in a vital safeguarding seminar with the school staff. As part of our meeting, we also looked at mental health, what our role is as chaplains, and how to help in an emergency.

The team have had some lovely conversations throughout the year and supported both student and staff wellbeing. Feedback from the school staff is overwhelmingly positive, they really value an extra pair of safe, trusted adults walking round the school at lunchtime checking in on more vulnerable students. Because of the relationships built up over the years the High School have attended Easter Experience at the Methodist Church with year 7, and the whole of Lower School attended a Christmas Service led by Chaplains and Students at the Methodist Church.

Lucie Clarkson, School Chaplain

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

In supporting 'The Children's Society', we aim to fight for the hope and happiness of young people when they are threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect and our contributions support them through their most serious life challenges. January is our designated month for emptying boxes, and in 2022 our boxes raised £607.08 and we have raised even more in 2023, so many thanks to all who have been involved.

However, it has taken me many months to gather this total, so it would be absolutely great if box holders would bring their boxes for emptying on Sunday 14th January 2024, please. We also collected for the Children's Society at our ever-popular Christingle Service.

Hilary Gapper, Children's Society Representative

CHOIR

In 2023 our Church Choir has 11 regular members. This includes five sopranos (Amanda, Gail, Betty, Hazel, Margaret and Barbara H), Four altos (Barbara R, Judy, Ann and Margaret T) and two basses (Ben. and George). Since 2020 the choir has lost four regular members, sopranos Maureen (deceased), Mary, Gloria and Barbara A, and one bass, Will.

To help supplement choir numbers, members of the Kinver U3A choir have joined us for special services including the Carol Service, Remembrance Service, and numerous weddings and funerals. Ian and John G. have also helped on occasions.

A few choir members performed carols in the village on Business late opening evening and a Saturday morning before Christmas. The nine lessons and carols Christmas Carol Service, postponed from 2021, went ahead this year and was one of the highlights of the year.

To try and boost membership, Rev'd Rich and I collaborated to run a workshop to learn to sing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah in 2 hours on a Saturday afternoon in early March. This was very successful with 50 people attending. We repeated the 'performance' in our Easter Sunday service which was very well appreciated. Choir practices are on Thursdays from 6-7 pm in Church, and anyone would be welcome to join us.

Barbara Hanke, Choir Director

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN KINVER & ENVILLE

Members from St Peter's, St Mary's, and Kinver Methodist Church meet usually about three or four times a year. We rotate around the three Churches to have our meetings and it has now become a tradition that wherever the meeting is held then a member of that Church takes the minutes.

We share news from each of the Churches and plan services and events which involve all the churches, e.g. Easter, Christmas, Harvest, Christian Aid, Bible Studies, Lent course etc. We also catch up with what has been happening with the schools and also the Chaplains work. We also might discuss what is happening in the villages if it is relevant and we can be involved e.g. Queen's Jubilee and King's Coronation.

Along with our seasonal activities, our Churches also join together for a fortnightly midweek communion service at the Methodist Church at 9.30am on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month. It's a very relaxed and friendly service to which everyone is welcome!

Anne Drew, Churches Together Representative

CHURCH HALL

During 2022, the committee continued with the usual programme of quizzes, but cancelled the September quiz because of the death of the Queen. We held an Easter Fair on St George's Day and instead of a Christmas Fair, we chose a date in October to avoid clashing with other events. We continued to hire out the hall for Irish Dancing, Severn Valley School of Dance, Rainbows & Brownies, Horticultural Society, Bridge, Upholstery, KLOS, Harp Lessons, Mothers' Union and Mother & Toddler Group as well as various parties and church events.

Our small but very hardworking committee are all sad that Will & Gloria Allway will be leaving us to be near to their family in Wolverhampton, but want to thank them both very much indeed for their many years of valuable time spent in organising the hall bookings.

We shall miss them! The success of our fundraising does entirely depend on the support given by loyal members of the congregation and wider community in attending the various events and providing excellent goods for us to sell. Sandy's Preserves certainly are a particular attraction for many people. We look forward to seeing you all at our future quizzes and events.

We were very fortunate to receive a very substantial grant from the Ken Wrigley Trust for replacement of the steps and path and early in 2023 the Wylde Trust funded the trimming of trees and hedges. We are all most grateful to these charities. I should like to thank all members of the committee for their sustained efforts throughout the year. Well done!

Hilary Gapper, Church Hall Committee

CHURCHYARD

The main churchyard around the church is maintained for us by South Staffordshire District Council. It is an open space shared with church visitors and with the wider community and it provided a wonderful location for our open-air services. Over the last year the council has tested the safety of the monuments, trimmed the line of lime trees and has regularly cut the grass to a very high standard. Old, dangerous benches were removed and new ones are being installed. The flagpole was repaired in time to fly the flag for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are continuing to work hard to ensure that repairs to the wall are appropriate and necessary, and that they are funded fairly.

We have done our bit to improve access to the church and the cremated remains area by resurfacing paths, steps and parking areas. Across the road the churchyard extension remains the church's responsibility and we have maintained it to a more nature-friendly standard. Our churchyards were entered in the 2022 Diocesan Churchyard competition and we were awarded a "Silver". In March the icing on the cake was our hugely successful Daffodil Days when the churchyard looked its golden, splendid best.

Mark Middleton, Deputy Warden

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

An Electoral Roll of Church Members is held by every parish within the Church of England. Members can vote at the Annual General Meeting, hold office within the church, and be a part of the structure of the Church of England. The numbers on the Electoral Roll do not affect our Common Fund payment to the Diocese.

Every six years we are required to renew the Electoral Roll. This will next take place in 2025. During the intermediate years, the Roll is updated when members join the congregation, move away or when members sadly pass away. With recent additions the number on the Roll currently stands at 150. The Electoral Roll is also uploaded to 'iKnowChurch', St Peter's secure online database to assist with communication with Church Members. If you can supply an email address it would be much appreciated!

Ian Campbell, Electoral Roll Officer

FABRIC REPORT

Two major church fabric repairs took place during the year as recommended in our architect's last Quinquennial Inspection. Our very expert stonemasons the Fear Brothers, replaced perished stonework to the doorway of the bell chamber. They then returned to repair the south elevation window above the library. Here crumbling stone frames were threatening to loosen historic stained glass.

In both cases, the choice of stone and the workmanship is so exact that it is difficult to see the repairs. The tower lightning conductor received its annual inspection and in the south porch, an electrician finally sorted the problems with tripping lights. And, finishing on a more tuneful note, our wonderful organ was tuned and serviced.

Mark Middleton, Deputy Warden

FLOWERS

Last year saw our flower arrangers busy during Harvest and Christmas, making sure that we contributed visually to those traditional Great Festivals. 2023 gave us a new challenge “The Daffodil Weekend”, when 1,000 daffodils were given to St Peter’s by a generous local business. Wow! Fortunately, we had many baskets, trugs and jam jars trimmed with hessian and with help from willing members of the congregation, every stem was used!

The church looked stunning and the many daffodils planted in the churchyard were breath-taking. What a wonderful weekend. We hardly had time to catch our breath and it was Easter! Once again, the ladies excelled themselves and St Peter’s was a sight to behold. Well done to everyone who took part. Thank you.

Barbara Rundle, Verger

FUNERALS

Members of our Ministry Team took 27 funerals during 2022, with approximately half of them held at St Peter’s Church and the majority of the remainder at Stourbridge Crematorium. This is a vital and valued part of our role as a parish Church. We held our annual All Souls Service in October, to which all those families who have had funerals in recent years were invited. We also restarted the Life-After-Loss support group on the first Saturday morning each month.

Rev’d Rich, Rector

HOLY DUSTERS

2023 has seen the same faithful group but with the welcome addition of Ginny and Roger to our team. There is a rota and traditionally we meet on Friday mornings between 9am and 11am with a break in the middle for a cuppa and a chat. It is wonderful to see St Peter’s flourishing, congregations increasing and many more events taking place, as we leave the horrors of Covid behind us. However, this also

means that the 2 hourly session, usually by 4 of our ladies and gentlemen is more important than ever.

St Peter's is a beautiful old church, but it is large and needs our constant commitment to keep it clean and welcoming for all who visit. We are hoping to devote a morning for "Spring Cleaning" when as many of us can join in and make St Peter's ready for summer and all the weddings! The date will be announced in the pew sheet. If you are reading this and feel that you would like to help or could spare 2 hours every 3 or 4 weeks please let us know. Finally, thank you, to all those who have worked so hard over the last year. You know who you are!

Barbara Rundle, Verger

LIBRARY

The last year has seen some changes to our Church Library. Childrens books are now kept in the children's area in the North Aisle. A makeover of the library began in 2013 and three years later we were able to purchase some new books with the aid of a small grant. Since then, the library has continued to grow and is due for an update and some reshelving as we no longer have room for all the books. For this we must thank the Revd Mary Morris who is an avid reader of theology. She gives all her newly read books to us, and thanks to her we have one of the most up-to-date and well used church libraries in the Diocese.

Revd Dr Anne Furness and Revd Nicki Caines

LIGHTS

In the summer of 1993, the Kinver Rainbows gave the first donation to sponsor the Church Lights. Since then, members of the local community and other friends have gladly contributed to this fund to mark special occasions and anniversaries. The floodlighting of the church each evening does give enormous pleasure to everyone to whom it is visible and it is a constant reminder of the presence of St

Peter's Church on the hill above the village. During 2022, we raised £1821 towards the church electricity bill, but more importantly, it has been a great privilege to share in the joys and sorrows of so many people. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their cheerful generosity over the years and to commend the scheme to everyone. I am always delighted to accept donations, together with the dates and dedications; cheques should be payable to 'St Peter's PCC Kinver'.

Hilary Gapper, Lights Co-ordinator

LITTLE ST PETER'S TRUST

"The aim of the Trust is to give priority to aiding young church people in educational travel. Special consideration is to be given to the Stourton ward of the parish. Otherwise, the funds are to be applied for the good of the people and church of the parish of Kinver". The Trust Fund is administered by the Rector, Churchwardens and two nominees from little St Peter's Church (currently Ian & Hilary Gapper). If you live in Kinver Parish and are in need or know of someone in need, please feel free to contact the trust by email to ian.gapper@gmail.com or via the Rectory, Vicarage Drive, Kinver, DY7 6HJ

Ian Gapper, Little St Peter's Trustee

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is going wonderfully well with an average of 17 children and the same number of adults coming each month! Families with children of all ages gather for lunch, crafts, songs, stories and prayers. We regularly see new members who have seen advertisements, or have been invited by friends who have loved it! It is fantastic to see these families, many of whom also attend Outdoor Church in Enville, regularly exploring themes of faith, love and community in an engaging and fun way.

Because of our brilliant links with the schools, we have a lot of school aged children, some of whom are gradually taking on leadership roles,

leading the action songs, helping younger ones with crafts etc. We have some budding musicians in this group and over the next year we would love to give opportunities for them to start to lead the worship, celebrating their God given gifts. We love Messy Church!

Lucie Clarkson, Messy Church Team

MINISTRY TEAM

2022 saw some valued additions to our Ministry Team - Barbara Hanke joined the team in the Spring as a Locally Commissioned Lay Minister following her completion of the Diocesan Living Discipleship course, and Rev'd Beryl Pritchett, a regular worshipper at St Mary's, received Permission to Officiate from the Bishop of Lichfield in the Autumn. The team, which also includes Sheila Harryman, Rev'd Nicki Caines, Rev'd Anne Furness, Rev'd Nick Pedley and myself, meet monthly to plan services and discuss issues related to the worshipping life of our Benefice.

One of the big changes in our services this year was the change of times for our communion services following a trial period and consultation with the PCCs and congregations. The new service pattern has settled in well, with weekly communion services and monthly all age services in both Churches, and we have also held various special services led by different members of the Ministry Team.

Rev'd Rich, Rector

MOTHER'S UNION

We currently have 19 members - one member retired last year and we enrolled Mary Jennings as a new member in December. Our oldest member continues to support us but she cannot attend meetings so we visit her now and try to hold at least one meeting with her in the summer. We meet on the Third Thursday each month at the Church Hall, and we have a range of interesting speakers.

We visit other local branches sometimes and we'll visit Penn Branch in May for our annual Deanery Festival. Other important meetings for the Diocese are held in Doxey, Stafford each year. We also have an annual gathering at places throughout the British Isles and several members have attended these meetings. I myself have visited Scotland, Wales and Ireland and also various counties in England and met at Churches and all the Mothers' Union members at each of their branches.

Our aims and objectives remain faithful to being united in prayer and worship you just need to be baptized to become a member and you can be of any age - men are very welcome too! We have some wonderful cake makers and always have a cake stall at the Church Hall Fairs which everyone appreciates. We have our own prayer book and the Bible plays an enormous part for us. We welcome you to our meetings and there will be a friendly welcome for you.

Margaret Davies, Mother's Union Branch President

OPEN CHURCH

In May 2022 we started opening St Peter's on Saturday mornings again, with refreshments available. From September onwards, following a tweak to our insurance, we also began leaving the Church open during the day on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. This has been much appreciated by the local community and by visitors from further afield. We are continuing to build up the Saturday mornings with various activities planned including gardening, board games, and some community singing round the piano!

Rev'd Rich, Rector

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team was reinstated during the year and all members were introduced to the congregation and commissioned by Rev. Rich. We telephone and visit people who are ill through our group of volunteers. We continue to send cards at Christmas and Easter time to those who for various reasons are no longer able to attend church

on a regular basis but have been long-standing members St Peter's as well as flowers to those celebrating a 'special' birthday.

A prayer group was established to pray for people who would prefer not to be included in the church list. This service is open to anyone, whether they are members of St Peter's or St Mary's or not, ie. for family members not associated with church, neighbours, friends or anyone who requests prayers. These are kept strictly to the Prayer Group until we are notified that they can go into the public domain.

Gail Davis and John Gibbons, Pastoral Care Co-ordinators

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

This year, due to Covid, we had several breaks in face-to-face services at the retirement homes, but continued to offer services using Facebook. We are now offering live Morning Prayer on site at the Coach House most Fridays for eight to ten residents. They seem enjoy the spectacle of me trying to stay on key in the three hymns I select, and afterwards, the on-going recitation of my life's encounters with the NHS, and other disasters!

Sheila Harryman, Lay Reader

SCHOOLS

The Summer Term last year was a busy one. I went into Brindley to do Transition work with Year 6 which was a real privilege and a pleasure. I was also invited to attend the Transition Days at Kinver High, which was very enlightening. It was great to be part of this and see Brindley pupils exploring their new school environment and making new friends. Rev Rich also went in to teach Year 5 some Ancient Greek. As part of their Transition journey near the end of term, Year 6 visited St Peter's taking part in creative activities and giving them a great opportunity to chat with their peers and with other adults.

In the Autumn term we started with Experience Jesus where the whole of Brindley school came up to St Peters. Experience Jesus has been written by Rev Anne Furness and Rev Nicki Caines and we are very grateful for their hard work. All of Brindley and Year 2 at Foley celebrated Armistice Day at St Peters and we finished the year with the Christmas service in December with all of Brindley and Year 1 and Year 2 from Foley. Year 3 came up to learn about the building.

Starting 2023 all the schools, playgroups and Nursery took part in the Daffodil Days. Some children from Rich and Barbara's choir learnt a song for Mothering Sunday. We look forward to Year 6 returning as part of their Transition and Experience Harvest coming up in the Autumn Term. The teachers and the Head Teachers were very pleased with what the classes did and how involved the children were. I might be writing this but activities would never happen without the awesome St Peter's team.

Anne Drew, Schools co-ordinator

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING

Activity in this area is very varied, from Social & fundraising events including concerts, 100 Club, FOSPER's Membership, Lights, Bells Sponsorship etc, to grant funding applications to 3rd parties. Overall, social & fundraising activities raised a net income of £9.3K and grants were received for major repairs and improvements. The sums raised are reported in the annual accounts and the contribution of these funds is invaluable. So thank you to all who make this possible, you know who you are.

In addition, we should not forget those who often had close links to St Peter's and Kinver in the past who had the vision to make provision for the future of this wonderful Church. Going forward we have a great line up of events to enjoy over the rest of 2023. The Classical Guitar concert, The Battle of the Organs, Kinver Krufts, and the Christmas Tree Festival.

Ian Gapper, Social and Fundraising Committee

ST MARY'S, ENVILLE

2022 was a good year at St Mary's, with a number of activities taking place. The monthly Indoor/Outdoor All Age services continued to grow in numbers and are much appreciated by people of all ages. Peter and Diana Williams kindly hosted a Ghost Walk in the autumn which was very popular, and the Christmas Tree Festival was a great success too with over 30 Christmas trees displayed, the joy of this was tempered slightly by the heating bill which followed.

In the run up to Christmas we ran a Community Choir who had a lot of fun rehearsing for the Carol Service, and this was repeated for the Palm Sunday service. Particular thanks must go to Lin Hingley (Church Warden), Carolyn Gloss (Deputy Warden), and all the team who work hard to keep St Mary's Church going.

Rev'd Rich, Rector

THE ROCK MAGAZINE

I took over as editor back in June 2020 on a temporary basis (3 months!) when the former editor had a family emergency and also took over the distribution of the magazine at that time too. Since taking over I have introduced some regular features such as a business page introducing new and established businesses to the church community. John Gibbons continues to write a monthly quiz which is always popular, which goes alongside articles from the Mothers Union, Community Library, Food bank and articles written by our clergy.

We currently circulate 580 copies of the magazine each month, delivered by 40 distributors, which go to our local care homes, library, advertisers and village households. During 2022 we delivered 40 magazines free of charge to two new housing developments in the village. The distribution list changes on a monthly basis with people moving away, moving in or passing away so it's ever evolving. We aim to get 12 paid advertisements in the magazine each year which should cover the printing costs. Unfortunately, we only managed to get 11 in 2022, so advertised our own Church Hall in the vacant slot (with no

charge to them). Huge thanks to everyone who contributes content and helps distribute The Rock each month.

Julie Lindon-Jones, Magazine Editor

TRYSULL DEANERY SYNOD

The Diocese's "Shaping for Mission" initiative was the focus of our three 2022 meetings. At our February meeting Bishop Michael explained the aims of SfM and how it would help to deliver the Diocese's three priorities of Evangelism, Discipleship and Vocation. We considered the SfM working group's proposals for giving our deanery more responsibility for mission and finding ways to become more effective through closer cooperation. This work has evolved into the Trysull Mission Enabling Team (TMET) who meet regularly to support mission initiatives across the Deanery. This Benefice is represented on TMET by Rev'd Rich and Barbara Hanke.

We had a most useful discussion on ministry to children and young people when the many initiatives across the Deanery to deliver this priority were shared. This session has produced greater cooperation between Trysull's churches and this March we hosted an away-day for children's work leaders. This February, we heard from the Diocese's leader for lay ministry development on the different learning pathways that are on offer to help people discern their particular calling.

Mark Middleton, Deanery Synod Representative

VESTRY HOUR

I started the Vestry Hour (Monday evenings 6-7pm) at the end of February 2022 to simplify the administration around booking weddings and baptisms, and also as a way of making myself more available to parishioners. I have now been doing this for over a year and I would say it has been extremely successful, not least because when anyone enquires about booking a baptism or wedding they can be invited along to Vestry Hour rather than try to find a free slot in my diary. There have only been 2 or 3 sessions in the year where nobody has

come, and they have usually been because of miserable weather!

I have had a variety of appointments, some prearranged but most 'walk-in'. I meet with people in the Library area of St Peter's, and have a small set of drawers with all the forms in. The rest of the Church is lit gently with quiet music playing and from time to time people come along just to sit and pray. I am grateful to the Church Wardens of St Peter's who take turns to be there for safeguarding purposes (we usually have useful conversations too!)

Rev'd Rich, Rector

WEDDINGS

Our weddings ministry continues to flourish, with 19 weddings in the Benefice in 2022. The first contact couples have is with Rev'd Rich to book the wedding, usually at Vestry Hour. We then offer a group meeting in the spring where the couples meet the Ministers and Wedding Team. Following Covid, instead of meeting our wedding couples on Zoom, in early 2022 we were able to invite them all to a face to face get-together in the North Aisle. This took the form of an afternoon tea interspersed with information on legalities, choices, after the wedding, the actual service and much more.

Earlier this year we were able to offer our twelve wedding couples for 2023 the same preparation. This proved popular as the couples relaxed with lots of useful discussion and good humour. Our Weddings team is Glen Cutler, Mary Middleton, Debbie Page, and Sharon Day and they do a wonderful job to look after the couples on their big day.

Glen Cutler, Weddings Team

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 3rd March, 2023, saw St Peters Church playing host for the annual World Day of Prayer service on its 40th Anniversary. We had 28 in the congregation. The collection made £150 which will contribute to many Christian charities. The service had been written by the Christian

women of Taiwan and was entitled 'I have heard about your faith.' Through the service we reflected on the struggles and injustice in Taiwan.

A lovely postcard, based on the front cover of the service booklet could be taken home and sent to a friend with our own message of support and encouragement. I am sure that with such a wonderful hopeful picture arriving on your doorstep it would hopefully cheer you up. The WDP service, as with any event, does not happen without a team of people, often unseen. I thank this team for contributing to the service at St Peters. You all know who you are. All help with any aspect of the service was very much appreciated.

Anne Drew, World Day of Prayer Co-ordinator

MISSION ACTION PLAN

In March 2022 St Peter's PCC had an away day where we prayed about and identified areas of particular focus for the coming year. The three key areas of focus we settled on are:

Caring: We want to be a Church where we care for each other in the same way that God cares for each and every one of us.

Welcoming: We want to be a Church where everyone finds a welcome as a beloved child of God.

Communicating: We want to be a Church that communicates well so that no-one misses out on opportunities to hear that God loves them.

All of this is summed up in the phrase:

"God loves you, you are welcome here, and we want you to know it!"

We have made a lot of progress on each of these areas, and early in 2023 the PCC got together to review them and see what our next steps might be. Some of the things we will be working on over the coming year are:

Caring

We have re-established our our Pastoral Care Team, and we will now look at equipping that team to care for the wider Church community.

We will explore training on issues like Dementia and Mental Health so that we can support people more effectively, and we will put systems in place to try and make sure that nobody is missed and anyone who needs extra care knows how to get it. We will also develop our follow-up support for people who connect with St Peter's through Life Events such as Christenings, Weddings and Funerals.

Welcoming

St Peter's Church building is now open 4 days a week - Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, with refreshments served on Saturday mornings too. We will try and build up the 'tourist' aspects of this so that visitors to the area as well as locals know that they are welcome to come and look around this very special place. We will continue to work on making sure our Church and Churchyard are as welcoming and accessible as possible, and that people can find all the information that they need when they visit. We have settled into a good pattern of Sunday services, and will continue to look for opportunities for regular extra services like outdoor worship, Folk Communion, contemplative services etc. We are also hoping to develop a pattern of small groups/house groups to build relationships within our congregations and help people deepen their faith.

Communicating

We have set up a communications team who have begun to review the many different ways that we communicate both within the congregation and out into the community. They are also looking at ways to make better use of the iKnowChurch admin system, updating the Church website, and developing a strategy for communicating different types of event and activity. We have introduced a weekly email where the pewsheet is sent out along with other relevant information (contact Rev'd Rich if you'd like to receive this). We are looking into the practicalities of employing a Benefice Administrator to ease some of the admin burden on volunteers and on Rev'd Rich, and to be a focal point for communication.

As you can see there is a lot to be working on, and that's just one small part of the life of the Church, but we're really excited to see how it develops!

Rev'd Rich, Rector

ST PETER'S  KINVER

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Thursday 18th May 2023

St Peter's Church Hall, Vicarage Drive

6.30pm Bring-and-Share supper

7pm Annual Meetings

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

A joint meeting of the persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish and the persons whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of residence

For the purpose of:

Electing two (2) Church Wardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

A meeting of those persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish

For the purposes of:

Electing three (3) lay representatives to Deanery Synod

Electing four (4) lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council

The appointment of the Independent Examiner

The consideration of the Annual Reports and Accounts

Other matters of parochial or general Church interest

