

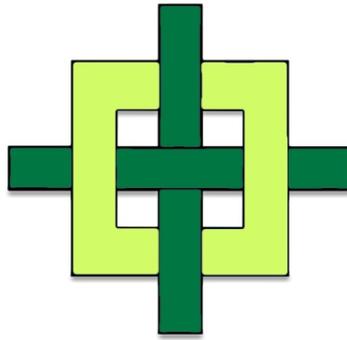
**Parish of St Mary's Lytchett Matravers**  
**Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting Agenda**  
held St Mary's Church Lytchett Matravers  
**27<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**VESTRY MEETING 2020**

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of Vestry Meeting 31 March 2019
4. Election of Church Wardens

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING 2020**

1. Opening Worship and prayer
  2. Apologies
  3. Minutes of the APCM 31 March 2019 (please read beforehand, see pages 21-32)
  4. Matters Arising from the APCM 31 March 2019
  5. The Reports
    - 5.1 Fabric and Inventory – Wardens
    - 5.2 Finance – Treasurer (please read beforehand)
    - 5.3 Electoral Roll (please read beforehand)
    - 5.4 Deanery Synod (please read beforehand)
    - 5.5 Other reports
    - 5.6 Any Questions
  6. The Elections and Appointments
    - 6.1 Members for the PCC
    - 6.2 Sidespeople – these can now be approved by the PCC
    - 6.2 Independent Examiner for the financial year to 31 December 2019
  7. Vicar's Vision
  8. Closing Prayers
- (A brief meeting of the new PCC will follow to elect PCC officers)**



## **St Mary's Church Lytchett Matravers**

### **Annual Report 2019**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

##### **Aims and Purposes**

St Mary's Church Lytchett Matravers is responsible, with the Team Vicar, the Rev Stephen Partridge (licensed to post July 2016), to enable worship of God and to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in and for our geographical parish community.

##### **Objectives and Activities**

We are also committed to maintaining a strong connection with the wider village community and to continue with our fundraising efforts in order to finance future reordering.

##### **Structure, Governance and Management**

###### ***The PCC***

The PCC met eleven times through the year, with the Standing Committee meeting once. Attendance for the year was about 75%.

All PCC meetings are advertised in the newsheet and all members on the Electoral role can request to see the minutes of these meetings after they have been accepted by the PCC (with any confidential matters removed).

###### ***Administrative Information***

***The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's the Virgin, Lytchett Matravers*** is a charity excepted from registration with the charities commission.

St Mary's is an independent parish within the *Benefice of The Lytchetts and Upton* in *Poole Deanery*. The position of Team Rector and Parish Priest for the Parish of Lytchett Minster and Upton is currently vacant.

The Benefice is part of *Diocese of Salisbury* within the *Church of England*. The PCC for the Year 2019-2020 consisted of the following members:

<b>Ex-Officio Members:</b>	<b>Office Held (if any)</b>	<b>Post Ends</b>
Stephen Partridge	Vicar	
Mat Riddell	Church Warden	
Elizabeth Carter	Church Warden	
Bill Carter	Deanery Synod Representative	2020
Elizabeth Carter	Deanery Synod Representative	2020
Kat Riddell	Children's and Families' Worker	
Roger Ong	Treasurer	
Riette Hodson	Secretary	
<b>Elected Members:</b>		
Jayne Catley		2020
Andy Dawson		2020
Heather Argent		2021 - RESIGNED
Alan King		2021
Nita Parke		2021
Arthur Henry		2022
Ann Manning		2022

The method of appointment to the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

## Services

Our year at St Mary's continued with our regular pattern of services with our 8am Book of Common Prayer (BCP) communion, 9.30am Holy Communion with a joint Service of the word on 3rd Sundays with our Methodist community and the @11 all taking place in St Mary's. The monthly Evensong service on third Sunday evenings is led by Rev Stewart Timbrell and we are grateful to him for his dedication to this.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated six baptisms and four weddings and held nine funerals in our church this year.

**The Terrier, which lists the land belonging to the church, remains unchanged.**

### **Items added and taken away from The Inventory this year.**

The fabric of the church has been well looked after during the year lead by Bill Carter and Andy Dawson. We are very grateful for all the work they do. Details of the work done are in the Fabric Report.

*The inventory of the church belongings has been done and the following have been added:*

- New Choir frontals
- Fixed ladder in the tower
- 2 blue Display stands
- A router for the internet

*Removed from the Inventory:*

- The old choir frontals
- Assistants chair and frontal

All other items remain the same.

## REPORTS

### **5.1 Fabric Committee Report and Inventory**

During 2019 we have done a number of things:

- Replaced a section of fence by base of the Horse Chestnut tree.
- Added hinges to the hatch at the top of the tower and attached a safety chain.
- Fixed a permanent steel ladder in the tower.
- Removed, refurbished and rehung the bells.
- Painted and repaired the bell frames.
- Painted the walls of the bell chamber and intermediate chamber.
- Taken possession of the new choir frontals.
- Had an autumn clean up both inside and outside of the building.

We have also been working on the following:

- Sound and vision system – We have a faculty to install this but are waiting for the rewiring of the church to do the work.
- Fibre optic cable into the church – this has taken a while but should be completed by the time you read this.
- Connection of the fibre optic cable to a termination box and router providing superfast broadband for the church – permission has been granted and the necessary connection should have been made by the time you read this.
- Replacement lighting and rewiring of the church – after a couple of false starts, we have in the last couple of months been working with Hooke Electrical who are very keen and proactive in their approach.

Looking forward to 2020 we hope to do the following:

- Complete the fibreoptic / broadband work
- Install a new lighting system and complete the rewiring of the building. This will include removing all redundant and old cable trunking, thus tidying up the interior of the church.
- Install a new audio-visual system.
- Add a number of enhancements to the church tower.
- Put up three peal boards and a plaque to commemorate the bell refurbishment.
- Replace the wooden ladder in the bell chamber with a steel one with security hoops to assist in opening the hatch.
- Carry out a number of quinquennial repairs.
- Begin exploring our options for better kitchen and toilet facilities.

## 5.2 Finance Report

This year, through the support of parishioners, the local community, local businesses and Trusts and Foundations, we have been able to undertake further improvements at St Mary's whilst continuing to provide support to the local community and other charitable organisations. A special thanks to the Lion Hall Trust who have continued to pay for the church printer toner which helps to produce resources for the advertising and enabling of our children and adult teaching work.

### General Fund

These funds are utilised for the provision of meeting the operating costs of St Mary's with these being funded through donations (standing orders, collections, gifts and legacies) and also through a variety of fantastic fundraising events (Burns night, art exhibition, cream teas, historical talks). These funds can be increased through donations made with Gift Aid, with St Mary's able to reclaim an additional 25% on top of the donation for those that are UK taxpayers. The challenge will be to ensure that sufficient funds are received for 2020 to ensure that St Mary's can be maintained, and the community work continues to be undertaken.

### Mission

Through kind donations St Mary's was able to provide support for a number of charitable works to both local, national and international organisations helping to support and encourage people through sometimes difficult times.

### **Restricted Fund**

These funds are given by individuals, Trusts and Foundations and businesses and are designated for specific purposes. This year saw the new choir frontals being delivered in time for the Christmas services, a new access ladder allowing safer access to the bell tower and the tremendous fundraising effort that enabled the six bells at St Mary's to be fully refurbished with the oldest bell dating to 1430. Special thanks must go to Allchurches Trust Limited; Dorset Historic Churches Trust; Sharpe Trust; LEBRF; The Elmgrant Trust; Dorset County Association of Church Bellringers; Church Buildings Council; Erskine Muton Trust; Hobson Trust, Barron Bell Trust and The Talbot Village Trust and the many bell ringers and their supporters.

### **Proposed Works – Funds to be raised**

As a Grade 1 listed building with parts dating back to the early 15<sup>th</sup> century all works have to comply with exacting standards (as should be expected), although this does tend to increase the cost of any works due to their special nature. Proposed work for 2020 subject to funding being received are to: -

- Renew the electrical wiring to bring up to current standards
- Improve the lighting and change to energy efficient units
- Install a sound and vision system
- Provide additional toilet facilities
- Improve and modernise the kitchen facilities
- Undertake repairs to the church walls

There will also be general maintenance work to be undertaken in addition to the above, so all donations are very welcome!

### **Reserves Policy**

The continuing aim of the PCC is to have reserves for both the general fund and also reserves for the fabric of the church, but this is currently not possible although will continue to be the aim going forward.

## **5.3 Electoral Roll Report 2019**

A new roll was compiled on 14 March 2020

There were **5** new names added.

The roll now stands at **94** of whom **9** live outside the parish.

## **5.4 Deanery Synod Report**

The Deanery Synod representatives are Bill and Elizabeth Carter and they have been to three Meetings this year with Rev. Stephen Partridge.

The Deanery Synod met three times during the year. On each occasion the meeting starts with a brief statement on where the host church is at followed by a short service of worship.

In May members were welcomed to St Mary's Church – the first time for about half those present. The Rev. David Price looked at church growth sharing his experience of starting a church on a new housing estate. He described the benefit of starting with a clean slate. He listed a number of lessons he had learned which included confidence in Jesus, having a common vision, starting early, sticking to basics, something for the local community to be able to access and the role of the wider church in its support.

We also heard from Jude Perring who is supporting Rev Nisbet Tessa in Hamworthy. Jude believes genuine commitment to the church and to each other has resulted in sustained growth.

Finally we heard from Rev. Louise Ellis vicar of Holy Angels, Lilliput. Church schools in the area impose church attendance for a year prior to starting school. The church decided to introduce a service at 9:00 which is very family oriented and lasts about 45 minutes which has proved extremely popular.

In October we met at St John's Parkstone. The Rev. Carole Peters-King, the Communications Director for the Diocese, spoke about the use of modern forms of communication. She encouraged us to look at how we might use different modern media to "chat" the gospel to different audiences, perhaps tweeting, emailing, texting or using Facebook depending on the listener. She also encouraged us to share our parish news with the diocese to encourage others.

In February this year Bishop Nicholas spoke at an open meeting about the environmental challenges facing the world today, citing the rapid loss of global ice sheets, as well as mentioning some small encouragements such as the concept Eco Church morphing to include Eco Synagogue and Eco Mosque. The Paris Summit demonstrated politicians need pressure from their constituents to activate change. The Eden project listed amongst its top ten tips / habits "Giving Thanks". Major charities have discovered that people are paralysed by fear but motivated by love. If you love it, you will want to protect and nurture it or its environment. I am not loving my neighbour if I am polluting his water.

Different people within the church will have different ideas about how to effect change, the important point is that we do not let different tactics divide us and weaken our action. Our main challenges to ecological change are selfishness, greed and apathy.

## **5.5 Other Reports**

### **5.5.1 Fundraising**

The fundraising team has this year continued to hold events both in the church and within the community, raising £3,620 in the process.

This year we have held two new events - a Burns Night evening in the village hall, and a quiz evening at church.

The Burns Night tickets sold out before we even had time to advertise! An enjoyable evening was had by all. This event was supported by church members and members of the community freely giving of their time to raise money for church. The quiz evening was held in church. Again, but after a slower start, the event was a 'sell out'! We are holding a quiz evening again this year.

Our cream teas continue to be popular, with holiday makers joining us on many occasions! This year saw an increase in numbers, with many new members of the community joining us. These events have encouraged not only visitors to church, but they have also helped develop a sense of fellowship too. It seems many people know our signs around the area and are positive about our advertising! We have gained this knowledge by asking visitors their opinion.

We also held a Christmas table decoration lunch in church. This was well supported and is something that will be repeated in the future.

St Mary's can also be seen within the community as we join in with local events. This includes the Not Just Women's Institute fair, as well as the village fair when organised. This not only creates an opportunity to raise money, but also a time to chat to members of the local community.

Without our generous congregation and friends, we would not have been able to have raised the monies we have. It is everyone's effort, in whatever capacity, that has contributed to the successful outcome of our events. A real St Mary's team effort!

If you feel you would like to join the fundraising group or have any ideas for future events, then please notify one of those on the team.

All monies raised contribute towards the repair and upkeep of the church. As always, we appreciate and thank you for your continued support.

### **5.5.2 Pastoral Care**

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Our Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) team, along with Reverend Stephen Partridge and Reverend Stewart Timbrell, has visited all church members who have requested it to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or at Castle Farm Nursing Home. Alongside the LPAs we recognise how many of our church community pay pastoral visits to their neighbours and those around the village.

Our current LPAs are Ann Jones, Jayne Catley, Claire Coakes, Charles Hodson and Liz Southgate.

### **5.5.3 Messy Church**

Normally held once a month on a Sunday afternoon between 16:00 and 20:00, we had a number of sessions during the year. Latterly we have tweaked the format slightly and now mingle/chat and complete the craft activities before the celebration and worship time. This seems to work well and gives everyone a chance to 'bond' before we have a 'show and tell' type session to 'celebrate' what the children have made. This leads into a story enabling Stephen to draw everything together with the children taking an active part in the narration and also in the following worship time. Regular attendees have 'adopted' a number of songs as their favourites and they enjoy demonstrating the actions to their parents and any new participants. Good friendships are being forged between some of our regular families.

Good preparation is key, so each Messy Church session is planned carefully beforehand by the team (Stephen, Kat and Karen) who also set up on the day. We have a small but loyal band of helpers who are always happy to be asked to help with running crafts, chatting to parents, making tea/tidying up/baking/helping with shared meal preparation etc. Although there are a number of people who offer their time and talents in this way, we are always happy to welcome more helpers to this important area of ministry.

A large part of resourcing the crafts is met by the Lion Hall Trust whose support we are very grateful for. We also endeavour to re-use and recycle wherever possible to save on costs. Leaders also regularly donate resources as part of their 'church giving'. The storage of resources continues to be a challenge in terms of a relatively inaccessible location which is hard to organise and is not always 'user friendly' in terms of the health issues of some of our leaders and helpers.

Aside from leaders and helpers we have three or four families who attend Messy Church regularly. On average there are between six and eight children per session along with their parents. There are a couple of older children who do attend and who are now starting to 'help out' with the technology and the running of a craft activity. There is a certain challenge balancing what we do to engage children across the age range but encouraging the older children to 'help' gives them a valued 'role' to play.

#### **5.5.4 Cheeky Monkeys**

Our numbers at Cheeky Monkeys fluctuated from week to week during 2019 but we usually had between 7 to 12 adults and 10 to 16 children.

Themes we have had during the year include - Dinosaurs, Teddy Bears picnic, Autumn, Chinese New Year and Christmas.

We had the following at each session:

- A sensory table where the children have explored different mediums including gloop, moonsand, playdough, water and cooked and dry pasta,
- Art and Craft activities including junk modelling, painting, printing, sticking and making bird feeders,

- Role play including the sandwich shop, the Doctors, the cake shop, gardening, the office and the kitchen.

### **5.5.5 *Mission and Evangelism***

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. We have been able to support a number of charities with our giving at special services and events such as the Churches Together Lunch. It is good that these efforts on behalf of others can be combined with opportunities for fellowship.

Our parish magazine is distributed monthly to all parishioners who subscribe and is available in the Church and the Library. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Stephen has been taking half-termly assemblies in the Primary school and we hope and pray this will pave the way for more connections between the Church and the School.

### **5.5.6 *Churches Together***

The Churches Together group consists of two or three representatives from St Mary's Church, The Methodists and The Lighthouse Church. We are also called the Church Family in Lytchett Matravers and seek to represent the Christians in the village at various joint events through the year.

In 2019 we met once in January to review various Autumn and Christmas activities and were pleased with how they had gone. The Harvest Meal was again well attended, and the fish and chip meal, and desserts provided by each church, were enjoyed by all! Once again food bank items were collected for distribution to those in need within the community. In September we met again to confirm plans for the Remembrance Sunday service, which was well attended. The rain just held off!

It was decided to hold a Christmas card 'competition' for the design of the 2020 Christmas card. This will be actioned next year. The committee thanked Tina for her designs to date. The Community Christmas Carol Service was enjoyed by many in the Village Hall. The community fellowship was evident as everyone shared traditional Christmas treats, mulled juice and hot drinks.

Everything again went well thanks to the great work of those on the committee and others from the churches. We planned our next January meeting to be in the Chequers Inn which duly took place and again was a review of a successful year of events. Thanks, was given to the outgoing Treasurer and it was

considered to seek advice regarding whether a Churches Together account could be run through one of the churches. It was also very pleasing to welcome Chris Dawson, from St Mary's, who joined the group as we plan further events for 2020 and beyond.

#### 5.5.7 *Safeguarding*

Our Safeguarding policy was reviewed during 2019 and minor alterations were made. All notices etc were refreshed. No incidents were reported.

Jo Sepkes-Jones resigned as Safeguarding lead in July 2019 lead due to ill health; Rev. Stephen Partridge has taken over responsibility for Safeguarding with help from Claire Coakes.

#### 5.5.8 *Health and Safety*

'We aim to provide a safe and comfortable environment for all of our Church community and visitors to St Marys Church' (Statement of intent, PCC Meeting 20 February 2018)

I am pleased to say that no accidents have been registered in the last 12 months.

The following regular checks are carried out: - Fire extinguishers - positional check and ensuring fully charged. Condition of floors, stairs etc, looking for any building defects and hazardous substances as well as any hazards in the churchyard. Ensuring all light bulbs and emergency torches are working.

On a yearly basis, the fire extinguishers and all portable appliances are professionally examined. A fire risk assessment is done and fire warden training undertaken. The electrical installation is required to be tested every five years, and the next test is due in September 2021.

Eleven risk assessments were completed for special occasions such as fundraising events throughout the year.

Wi-Fi is in the process of being installed which should improve the speed in which we can contact the emergency services if we need to do so.

In the near future, it is planned to upgrade the lighting installation in the church which includes the provision of emergency lighting. The plan is also to fit external lighting to cover the car park area as currently it is unlit. This should make the car park area safer.

#### 5.5.9 *Bell Ringing*

We were highly involved in Branch and Guild events. We attended 10 of the **Branch monthly practices** and 17 **training courses** throughout the year. All our ringers have now passed ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) Level 1 Bellhandling. Four have also passed Level 2 and one passed Level 3. Six of us

attended the ART mini conference where Debbie gave a presentation. We entered 2 novice bands and 1 band for the main competition for the **Branch Ringing Competition**. Our teams did well and Ann and Debbie won the cake competition. Cathy and Debbie joined Spetisbury for the **Guild Ringing Competition** in September which we won as a joint team.

Our more experienced ringers continued a monthly practice with Lytchett Minster. Through these sponsored events we raised over £243 which enabled us to donate No 5 clapper to our tower. We now have 4 of our ringers who frequently ring Quarter Peals. We rang for 3 weddings, 2 funerals and in support of Notre Dame. We had 5 groups of visiting ringers but sadly had to turn away 3 or 4 when we were without our bells. We rang for several Christmas services and we also rang out the old year and the New Year in.

Our social events were a Band Christmas party and our annual visit to **Brownsea Island** for a tour, lunch and ring with some of our Lytchett Minster friends. Before the bells were taken out we had a final ring and Band BBQ. Also a day out for some of our ringers to **Devon** and a visit to Taylor's Bell Foundry.

Emma and Debbie continue to put up entries into the Lytchett Matravers Bellringing **Facebook** page and Debbie puts posts into the Branch Facebook page, church and village pages and **Church website**.

Over 700 visitors came to seven Fundraising events for the Bell Restoration Project raising over **£4,500**. We had seven small groups who we gave presentations to or they visited the church and we took Display Boards to the Lytchett Matravers Library and Poster and Flyers to the Wareham Museum.

In March our ladders were installed making access to the bell chamber much easier and safer. Painted black they look good from the body of the church and don't get in the way of ringers.

The Restoration project itself started with a **Project Launch** in April when 48 visitors came to hear what we were planning on doing with the bells and how they could join us in this exciting project.

In August, after just under a year of Grant Applications, Fundraising Events and talks, we were ready to begin the process of preparing our bells for restoration. Our bellringing band volunteered to help with the bell restoration and along with other church members we provided workers, bakers and tea ladies. After the bells were taken out of the tower our volunteers cleared out decades of dust and rubble leaving the belfry ready to paint the frame. In October, a team of volunteers painted the frame and walls but in November we found a crack in the frame which had to be repaired. It took 3 weeks for the bells to be installed but we are told we have one of the best ring of 6 bells in the Branch now and are delighted with the results.

We were given grants from 12 Grant Bodies amounting to **£29,650** for the ladders and the bells. We were also able to borrow from The Purrier Fund to

get the project up and running but through the applications and fundraising we have been able to restore much of this fund so it can continue to work for its initial bequest which was to be able to **keep the bells in perpetuity**. It would have been inappropriate to take the money out and not restore it for use in repairs to the bells, structure and the tower for future generations.

During the next year we are hoping to improve the simulator facility and introduce a visual link to the bells to be shown in the church. Most of the work will be done by bellringers and not distract from other important work going on in the church. Both of these projects, when completed, will bring more people into our church.

I would like to thank Stephen, the PCC and church members in supporting this project. We are now one of the most active towers in the Branch.

More detailed report about our Bell Restoration Project can be found on our website - <http://www.smlm.co.uk/bellringing-at-st-marys/>

#### 5.5.10 Eco Church

*“The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it”*  
Psalm 24, v1

This year has seen us register with the Eco Church – a project run by A Rocha UK ‘to help us care for creation, to love our global neighbours and follow God faithfully’. We have gained a bronze award and are now working towards the next stage - a ‘silver’ award.

An Eco awareness day, open to the wider community as well as church members, was held to explain what Eco Church was all about and how we are assessed in the five areas of Worship and Teaching, Buildings and Land, Lifestyle as well as Community & Global Engagement.

The displays aimed to raise greater awareness about the challenges that our planet faces and included information and advice on how we can be better stewards of the earth’s resources. There was an emphasis on the 7 Rs for ‘Green Christians’ Rejoice, Refuse, Reduce, Re-use, Repair, Rent, borrow & share, Recycle.

The church now has three recycling ambassadors who are happy to facilitate the recycling of materials which we cannot put in our kerbside collections. Thank you to everyone who is embracing this initiative.

**Accounts January to December 2019 follow here with the examiner’s report for the year ended 31 December 2019.**

**Approved by the PCC on 17 March 2020**

**Signed on their behalf by Rev Stephen Partridge (Chair)**

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	<u>2019</u>			<u>2018</u>	
	<u>General</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> £	<u>Total</u> £	£	£
<b>Regular</b>					
Collections	8,294	-		6,859	
Regular giving	23,369	-		20,958	
Donations	5416	4,065		4,022	
			41,144		31,839
Gift Aid recovered	7,702	-	7,702	9422	9422
			48,846		41,261
Profit on sale of CBF shares	-	2668	2668	-	-
<b>Magazine</b>					
Sales	2,817	-		2,392	
Adverts	2,757	-	5,574	3,782	6,174
<b>Other</b>					
Weddings	1,819	-		2,302	
Funerals	2,079	-		2,356	
Bells	-	17285		3586	
Building	-	5,381		10,670	
VAT Recovered	6,372	-		-	
Fund raising	2,093	2,010	37,039	2,991	21,905
<b>Total income</b>	<u>62,718</u>	<u>31,409</u>	<u>94,127</u>	<u>69,340</u>	

**Restricted funds**

	<u>Purrier</u> £	<u>Total</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
<b>CBF Bells fund</b>			
Donations	-	-	-
Interest/dividends on CBF funds	416	416	565
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<u>416</u>	<u>416</u>	<u>565</u>

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**PAYMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	<b>General</b>	<b>2019 Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2018 Total</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Regular</b>					
Parish share	37,525	-	37,525		36,506
<b>Working expenses</b>					
Vicar	595	-		742	
Magazine printing	3,540	-		3,540	
Hospitality	31	-		-	
Cost of services	82	-		261	
Cost of weddings/funerals	6,362	-	10,610	2,836	7,379
<b>Building costs</b>					
Heat and light	2,058	-		2,034	
Maintenance	1,057	480		1,018	
Bells maintenance	-	34828		-	
Window maintenance	-	-		12158	
Frontals	-	5600		-	
Architect/Surveyor		1782		351	
Insurance	1,878	-	47,683	1,832	17,393
<b>General</b>					
Bank charges	60	60		120	
Music/Copyright licence	375	-		366	
Transport	651	-		681	
Postage & stationery	1,218	-		-	
Other	203	84	2,651	421	1,588
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>			98,469		62,866
<b>Other expenditure</b>					
Mission payments	1,711			1,257	
Training & ministry	308	-		-	
Young people fund	343			-	
Outreach	-	-		107	
			2,362		1,364
<b>Total expenditure</b>	57,997	42,834	100,831		64,230
<b>Total income</b>	62,718	31,409	94,127		69,340
<b>(Deficit) / Surplus for the year</b>	4,721	(11,425)	-6,704		5,110
<b>Summary of reserves</b>					
Surplus b/fwd 1 January 2019	12,152	13,031	25,183		25,183
Transfer between reserves			-		-
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	4,721	(11,425)	(6,704)		5,110
Purrier fund income	-	416	416		565
Surplus c/fwd 31 December 2019	16,873	2,022	18,895		30,858

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	<u>General fund</u>	<u>2019 Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2018 Total</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>Investment assets</b>				
CBF Purrier units	-	8,267		15,729
	-	8,267	8,267	15,729
<b>Monetary assets</b>				
Cash	-	-		-
Current accounts	6,045	12,538		10,172
CBF Purrier deposit	-	137		7,503
	6,045	12,675	18,720	17,675
<b>Total assets</b>	6,045	20,942	26,987	33,404
<b>Represented by:-</b>				
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2019	14,523	18,881	33,404	27,928
Change in value of investments		-129	-129	-199
(Deficit) on restricted funds	-	-11,009	-11,009	3,303
Transfer between reserves			-	-
Surplus on general funds	4,721	-	4,721	2,372
<b>Balance c/fwd 31 December 2019</b>	19,244	7,743	26,987	33,404

**Notes**

As in previous years the various funds, including the minor trusts for Wilkes, Ricketts, Toovey, Granger, Morgan and Toop, have all been included in these accounts as part of the General Fund.

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
SUMMARY OF RESTRICTED FUNDS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**Restricted Funds**

	<u>St Mary's</u>				<u>Purrier</u>	<u>Purrier</u>	
	<u>Building</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Bells</u>	<u>@11</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2019	-9,531	696	3,777	707	7,503	15,729	18,881
Monies received	7,391	0	17,285	0			24,676
Dividends & interest received	-	-	-	-	416	-	416
Donations		-	4,065	-		-	4,065
Transfer to current account for bells			17,782		-7,782	-10,000	
Change in value of investments			-			2,538	2,538
Payments made	-8,005	0	-34,828	0			-42,833
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2019	<u>-10,145</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>8,081</u>	<u>707</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>8,267</u>	<u>7,743</u>

These Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on .....

Rev. S. Partridge  
Chairman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PCC  
OF ST. MARY'S, LYTCHETT MATRAVERS

**Kenneth Butcher F.C.A.**  
Kennedy Legg  
10 Prince of Wales Road  
DORCHESTER  
Dorset  
DT1 1PW

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING 2018

## 1. Opening Worship and Prayer

We sang *Before the Throne of God Above* together and Stephen opened the meeting in prayer.

## 2. Apologies

See above

## 3. Minutes of the APCM held on 20 March 2018

These had been circulated beforehand. Liz Southgate proposed that we accept them, Mat Riddell seconded; all in favour and the minutes were duly signed by Stephen.

## 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

## 5. Reports:

### 5.1 Fabric Committee Report

The main achievement of this year has been the repair of the two windows in the chancel. This included replacing sections of stonework, checking and cleaning the glass and lead latticework and repainting and treating the metal work. Whilst this is a major item, a number of other things have been done including the following:

- With the pews gone there was a need to store the kneelers away from the outside walls of the building. We now have a rack on the back of the hymn book stand. There was also a need to create something to hold the wardens' wands and processional cross.
- The Notice Board which is put up by the side of the road, had become waterlogged and extremely heavy so that was replaced.
- A convex mirror to assist drivers leaving the church and turning onto the road was installed.
- Carpet underlay was put down under the carpet in tower both for warmth and also because the tiles were starting to show through.
- While the furniture in the chancel was moved to allow access to the East window during repairs, the table and wooden flooring was treated for possible woodworm.
- In preparation for the Celtic Cross being re-erected, the low boughs of the horse chestnut tree were trimmed back.
- A small band of volunteers started clearing the undergrowth along the sides of church walk.

**The rest of the year** has been spent obtaining the necessary permissions to do the following:

- Install fixed ladders in the tower.
- Repair the tomb at the back of the North Aisle, along with several chest tombs and the Celtic Cross in the churchyard.
- Remove, refurbish and reinstate the bells.
- Lay fibre optic cable across the churchyard to enable Broadband to be installed in the church.

**Looking forward to** the year ahead we hope to do the following:

- Replace a section of fence by base of the Horse Chestnut tree, expected February.
- Fix a permanent steel ladder in the tower, expected middle of March.
- Take possession of the choir frontals, expected middle of May.
- Install a Wi Fi Router in the church with phone capabilities.
- Remove, refurbish and rehang the bells, by Christmas we hope.
- A number of minor masonry and lead flashing repairs.
- Install a new audio-visual system and new lighting.

### ***Inventory***

Elizabeth reported as follows:

**The terrier, which lists the land belonging to the church, remains unchanged.**

### **Items added and taken away from the Inventory this year:**

The fabric of the church has been well looked after during the year lead by Bill Carter and Andy Dawson. We are very grateful for all the work they do. Details of the work done are in the Fabric Report.

*The inventory of the church belongings has been done and the following have been added:*

- HP Colour Laser Jet Pro, kept at the Rectory, thanks to the Lion Hall Trust.
- Coffee Quest Coffee Maker and 5 thermos flasks
- A second kettle
- Silver Crest Electric Hot Plate
- Hostess Trolley

*Removed from the Inventory:*

- Loop System
- Piano from Rectory
- Keith Monk sound system no longer now in use.
- 1 dehumidifier which broke in 2016.

## **5.2 Finance Report 2018**

Whilst this has been a challenging year due to the needs of the church and local community, parishioners, local businesses and the community have enabled us to continue to move forward in providing support to the community and maintaining

St Mary's. This being achieved through regular giving, one off donations and superb enthusiastic fundraising. Special thanks to the Lion Hall Trust who continue to pay for our church printer toner which helps to produce resources for the advertising and enabling of our children and adult teaching work.

#### General Fund

These funds and expenses are utilised for the provision of meeting the running cost of St Mary's with this funded by regular donations, the claiming of Gift Aid (for those who pay tax, with this enabling the church to reclaim an additional 25% on top of any donation) and through various fantastic fundraising events. We were very fortunate to receive a substantial donation during the year which due to this enabled us to achieve a small surplus for the year. Total income came to £53,884 against which expenses of £51,512 were incurred allowing £2,372 to go towards costs in 2019. As always there will be the challenge of continuing to find the necessary funds to maintain the church and the work undertaken in the community.

#### Mission

It is good to be able to report that 2018 enabled a substantial increase in the level of support that St Mary's was able to give to various local, national and international organisations supporting people through sometimes difficult times. As such £1,364 was given to enable this support to be provided.

#### Restricted Fund

These funds are given by individuals, trusts and foundations and businesses and are designated for specific purposes. The last few years have seen these funds used to install the heating system allowing the church to be open all year round, the purchase of 100 chairs providing the ability to have a very flexible option of seating at different events. Currently, fundraising is being undertaken for new choir frontals for which a further £1,400 is still to be found and for a new ladder to access the bell tower safely £500 to be found and to repair and maintain the bells £5,000 to be found.

As a Grade 1 listed building all works having to comply with exacting standards as would be expected, although this does tend to increase the cost of any works due to their special nature. Repairs to one of the windows alone came to some £12,158 this year and we are so grateful for the support of both the Erskine Muton Trust and Dorset Historic Churches that enabled this to happen. Current estimates for current repairs and maintenance are estimated at around £15,000 with this excluding any proposed improvements.

#### Reserves Policy

The PCC would like to have reserves for the general fund and also reserves for the fabric of the church, but currently this is not possible although will continue to be the aim.

### **5.3 St Mary's Electoral Roll Report 2018**

A new roll was compiled on 17 March 2019

There were **21** new names added.

The roll now stands at **90** of whom **7** live outside the parish.

## 5.4 Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod representatives are Bill and Elizabeth Carter and they have been to three Meetings this year with Rev. Stephen Partridge.

### 10<sup>th</sup> May at St Peters Church Parkstone

430 parishes in the Diocese have paid their share in full which has left a shortfall of £143,000 for the diocese. 72% of their income comes from the Parish share. 87% of their income is spent on Ministry and Mission which includes clergy salaries and only 4% goes to running Church House. 1/3 of clergy will retire in the next 10 years and so they need to recruit more into training, and this has a cost implication. The national average for Parish Giving is £12.01 per week but in Salisbury Diocese it is £9.02 per week.

### 18th October 2018

Lucy Holt began with a biblical overview of mission. How we do mission is integral to who we are, we will do it best when using our natural personality. Mission is also contextual, so we need to go where they are. For example, Paul went to where the Athenians were.

### *Michael Antram, Head of St Edwards*

He wants his pupils to take away the message "To live life to the full".

We have to equip them for life beyond work and school.

As a church school we see the pupils as spiritual beings with an eternal life.

They have converted a classroom into a chapel in January.

### *Paul Bradbury - Poole Missional Church*

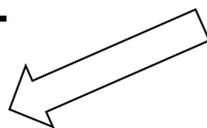
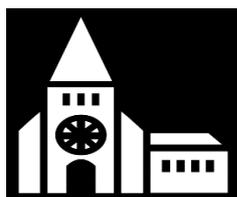
Two goals:

- Mission to the 95 % who don't go to church
- Use learning from this to share with other churches.

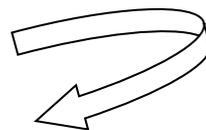
We are enabling them to take steps toward Christ not inviting them to church.

We must now also be emergent. Allowing "church" to look different out in the community.

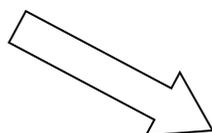
## Church Today



People drawn to the Church for life events



Church goes out and finds what people want with the aim of bringing them into church.



Church goes out to meet people where they are and journey with them there. Worship and relationships with Christ coming out of this.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 at St Clements in Parkstone

The focus of the meeting was stewardship led by Ian Bromilow:

It can be helpful to give out the cost of keeping the church open per person per day to help folk see how their giving fits into this. Link this in with a Step it UP campaign which helps people see the value of increasing if they give even a small amount.

Creekmoor gave away tea bags and on another occasion light bulbs to everyone in the community, to show the church wasn't all about "getting your money".  
Muscles grow when stretched. Giving is a way to strengthen our faith. Our giving is to God not about the cause.

We will be hosting the Deanery Synod at St Mary's on 21 May.

## **5.5 Other Reports**

### **5.5.1 Fundraising Team**

The fundraising team has continued, this year, to hold events both in the church and within the community. Monies raised can be seen within the treasurer's report. The events have encouraged not only visitors to church but have helped develop a sense of fellowship too.

Without our generous congregation and friends, we would not have been able to have raised the monies we have, and without this support, totals would have been much smaller. It is everyone's effort that has contributed, in whatever capacity, the successful outcome of our events.

If you feel you would like to join the fundraising group or have any ideas for future events, then please notify one of those on the team.

All monies raised contribute towards the repair and upkeep of the church.

### **5.5.2 Pastoral Care**

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Our Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) team along with Reverend Stephen Partridge and Reverend Stewart Timbrell has visited all church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or at Castle Farm Nursing Home. Alongside the LPAs we recognise how many of our church community pay pastoral visits to their neighbours and those around the village.

Our current LPAs are Anne Brown, Jayne Catley, Claire Coakes, Mary d'Orton-Gibson, Charles Hodson and Liz Southgate.

### **5.5.3 Messy Church**

Messy Church has become a really close group of families who are really seeking God. They join together once a month in the church to explore God's word through new and exciting crafts, activities and challenges. Since September, when we looked at creation, we have made everything from edible butterflies to show how God can transform us completely, to 'Guess the taste' a Seder plate challenge. The bigger celebrations at popular festivals and holidays such as Christmas, Mother's Day, Easter, Halloween still give us the increase in foot fall and engage further in the community.

The team has shown great dedication and support and has been blessed with some fantastic opportunities to grow those that come regularly through conversation. We are still looking to grow our team, with opportunities to lead messy crafts, or not so messy crafts, make some tea/coffee, help with cooking, or just chat with the children and adults as they move around.

This Autumn we said a fond farewell to Rich Wood who helped Stephen with the celebration section.

Despite this sad loss of a great team member, Stephen has continued doing a brilliant job heading things up at the front which has been embraced by everyone and engages all the age groups. It has been delightful to watch the children grow in confidence joining in with learning stories, songs and actions. Our messy children have taken their own initiative by adopting their own roles in the team from helping operate the laptop, to leading the actions during worship and helping run a craft for the younger children. Our food team have streamlined a fantastic system that fills our hungry congregation with tasty meals and cakes, making the most of the space and limited cooking facilities that we have at church.

We are very grateful for the support we receive from the Lion Hall Trust who have paid for the printing we need to do to advertise and then for the crafts, they have also covered the cost of resources that we use.

This year promises more wonderful crafts and opportunities with new resources having been purchased through a Parish Council grant. This will allow us to provide good quality keepsake crafts that can be used to remember the lessons God has for us and to treasure and grow the seeds He is planting in each person who comes.

### **5.5.4 Cheeky Monkeys**

In early 2018 we were approached, as a Church, to take on a supporting role with the Cheeky Monkeys parent and toddler group as SureStart

were pulling out. After due consideration the PCC unanimously backed supporting the group and this support started after Easter. Margaret Daly continues to be the organiser of the group having been a volunteer for SureStart. Suzannah MacKay, one of the mums who regularly attends the session, kindly offered to undertake the volunteer role of deputy.

There is a Cheeky Monkeys Facebook group which has 85 members (as at 18.3.19) with new members joining on a regular basis. This is used to share information and let people know if a session has to be cancelled. The group continues to be well-attended with enthusiastic support all-round.

The group runs every Monday morning during School Term time in the small room at the Village hall. As a Church we are providing an assistant to Margaret each week, and if Margaret is away we can add an extra volunteer to keep the group running. Thanks must go to Elaine, Karen and Ann who have been coordinating the volunteers efficiently and effectively. There can generally be between 10-15 parents, grandparents or carers along with 15 or so children.

The Christmas term ended with a 'party', attended by the regular members along with a number of the volunteers and Stephen also led us in a 'festive sing-a-long' to finish the term on a joyful note!

Thanks must also go to the Parish Council who responded to a bid for £428.60 which enabled the purchase of a First Aid kit, small tables and chairs and play equipment. Margaret Daly comments that 'I would, on behalf of the parents, like to say thank you to St Mary's for supporting Cheeky Monkeys both financially and practically. The grant which you applied for and got means we now have more toys and better equipment'. An appeal was also made through the St Mary's Church newsletter for items and thanks go to those who provided an array of books, puzzles, and role play toys. We are really pleased to have this supportive link with an important community group and hope to develop our relationship with the group and individuals in the future.

### **5.5.5 Mission and Evangelism**

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. We have been able to support a number of charities with our giving at special services and events such as the Churches Together Lunch. It is good that these efforts on behalf of others can be combined with opportunities for fellowship.

Our parish magazine is distributed monthly to all parishioners who subscribe and is available in the Church and the Library. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Stephen has been taking half-termly assemblies in the Primary school

and we hope and pray this will pave the way for more connections between the Church and the School.

#### **5.5.6 Churches Together**

The Churches Together group consists of two or three representatives from St Mary's Church, The Methodists and The Lighthouse Church. We are also called the Church Family in Lytchett Matravers and seek to represent the Christians in the village at various joint events through the year.

In 2018 we met once in January to review various Autumn and Christmas activities and were pleased with how they had gone, we also heard from Rich Wood about plans for a Holiday Club. This Holiday Club took place after Easter and involved 32 children as well as lot of adults from across the three churches. We had our AGM meeting in May when Mark Warner spoke to us about the Sailors Society who were celebrating their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it was a thoroughly engaging talk but sadly not very well attended. In September we met again to confirm plans for the Harvest Supper and to provisionally plan future events – the Remembrance Sunday service, the Community Christmas Carol Service and also the joint Christmas Card that is sent from the Churches Together.

Everything again went well thanks to the great work of those on the committee and others from the churches. We planned our next January meeting to be in the Chequers Inn which duly took place and again was a review of a successful Autumn of events. As a committee we are grateful to Jackie Cannings who takes the role of secretary, but we are looking for a treasurer to take over from Adrienne Allen – the role is not a difficult one. We are also looking for someone else from St Mary's to join the group as we plan further events for 2019 and beyond.

#### **5.5.7 Safeguarding**

Jo Sepkes-Jones is our Safeguarding officer. As she has been sick long term, Claire Coakes has agreed to act as her Deputy. Our Safeguarding Policy is available both on the Church website and on the noticeboard in the porch.

#### **5.5.8 Health and Safety**

Andy Dawson, who is a qualified Electrician, is our Health and Safety Officer.

### 5.5.9 Bellringing

#### Branch and Guild Involvement

We took part in the Bell Ringing Bonanza again this year with two novice bands and one band in the main competition for the first time. We also entered the cake and limerick competition. Everyone in the tower did something for firsts week which meant we totalled 31 FIRSTS.

Debbie was awarded joint Guild Bellringer of the Year having been nominated by Jack Pease.

Some of our band attended courses including Bob Doubles, Calling workshop, Plain Hunt, Belfry Maintenance and ART Training Courses. We helped Dorset County Association on their mini ring at Kingston Maurewood College in June to raise awareness and recruitment. Several ringers supported the SDGR Open Day by visiting towers and ticking off towers visited for their 50RT. Some of our ringers attended the Branch 12 bell practice in November. We had at least 7 different groups of visiting ringers and hosted 5 courses including an M2F ART course.

#### Band Events and Ringing

We took some of our learners to see the bells at Sturminster Marshall as it isn't easy to access our bell chamber; our thanks go to them for this. Jack Pease organised for the 2 Lytchett Bands to have a practice at Wimborne Minster which was great experience and our thanks go to Jack. Jack also organised a visit to the Spinnaker Tower and ringing at 3 towers in Hampshire. We had our annual visit to Brownsea Island for a tour, lunch and ring. Debbie started to hold theory sessions at her house before ringing so not to take up valuable ringing time. She held 5 sessions last year including Place Notation which gave more ticks for 50RT.

We rang for three funerals and three weddings and are now building up our own band so need less support from other towers. Cathy and Viv achieved their first Quarter Peal in October whilst Debbie rang her first Minor Quarter Peal and first inside Bob Doubles.

Debbie and Ann Manning represented the bell ringers at our Fanfare of Flowers Festival this year. Their decoration was a Deconstructed Bell and Frame. Having chosen a colour for our new band polo tops at our outing to Brownsea, we were thrilled when they arrived in July and we now proudly wear our red Guild Tops.

Viv organised a skittles evening in April and again in November; raising funds for our Bell Restoration project. We had a fundraising and awareness day in July raising £1037.30 for our bell restoration fund and recruited three more learners who started in September. They were given two half-day training sessions in October to get them going. Our thanks to Alan Bentley for silencing the bells and helping with these sessions. Two of these learners are now able to ring in rounds and rang

on Remembrance Day and during Christmas. We held a Handbell concert in November raising over £680 with 80 visitors. We started our Bob Doubles Challenge in November and thank all those experienced ringers who came to ring with us as well as ringers and towers who were kind enough to make donations to our fund. Our first 'Christmas' dinner was held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Emma and Debbie have started a Lytchett Matravers Bellingringing Facebook page.

#### Bell Restoration Project

We are due to have new ladders to the Bell Chamber hopefully in January 2019. We have raised enough for these through fundraising events along with a few successful grant applications. We are also in the process of applying for grants to have the bells completely restored by being taken out of the tower, taken to J Taylor & Co in Loughborough and returned which we hope will take place at the end of 2019.

## **6. Elections and Appointments:**

### **6.1 Members of the PCC**

Claire Coakes and Sheila Newnham have completed their three-year term on the PCC. Riette Hodson had never officially been voted on as member of the PCC but was happy to stay on as Secretary in an Ex-Officio role. Arthur Henry and Ann Manning had agreed to stand and, as no further nominations had been received, the above were duly elected as members of the PCC for 2019/2020.

### **6.2 Sidespeople**

The following have volunteered to act as sidespeople for the various services, and were unanimously approved:

Judy Baker	Phil Baker
Andy Bennett	Jayne Catley
Gill Clayton	Sheila Goodall
Charles Hodson	Riette Hodson
Anne Jones	Alan King
Aubrey Lane	Liz Lane
Gill Levesconte	Annie Mitchener
Carolyn Newnham	Sheila Newnham
Brenda Puckett	Liz Southgate
Elaine Taylor	

### **6.3 Independent Examiner**

Ken Butcher has agreed to undertake this role again.

## 7. Vicar's Vision:

### Looking Back:

**Thank You** again for your support through 2018 and to date.

It was another exciting year, as we got used to the lovely smell of the chairs and the flexibility they have brought. It was wonderful to see people arrive to the Cream Teas and other events and remark on the openness and space that was created by rearranging the chairs....

### Looking to today:

Now we arrive at what seems a healthy place to be, a growing Electoral roll, and congregations, a pattern of sharing a monthly service with our Methodist friends and also a service sharing with those in the wider benefice too.

### Looking forward:

But we mustn't rest on our laurels, to stay still as church is to begin to slide backwards as time moves on. Not that that necessarily means being more busy - in fact I always remember hearing about a Pentecostal preacher who said - 'if the devil can't make you bad, he'll make you busy'.

A recent article in the Church Times highlighted the dangers of 'hurry' - quoting writer John Ortberg who says: "Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. Hurry can destroy our souls. Hurry can keep us from living well."

With our different teams I hope we can share the load of caring for and enabling worship in this place, and also connecting in with the wider community. Thank you to all those who engaged with the 'clean slate' process, it was illuminating just how many people fulfil so many different roles around the church. And encouraging how many wanted to keep on serving, the church community and the wider community.

But, as I was saying this morning, if we do it all win our own strength then we could begin to run dry, as individuals and as a church.

A verse really stood out for me when I was here praying recently:

John 7.37 - *Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this he meant the Spirit.*

We need to keep drawing from the one who promises life in all its fullness, God by his Holy Spirit leads us on.

The Holy Spirit is water to our thirsty soul,  
wind in our sails to energise our journey,  
and fire to stir us up into passion and action

It is the Holy Spirit who convicts us to make changes in our life and the Holy Spirit who taps people, people who are far from church, on the shoulder and says - 'look for me and you will find true freedom'

Now although the Holy Spirit doesn't need a church to hang around in, I hope we notice that this is a place where we are able to draw from his strength, his peace, his comfort, his joy, more easily. And so I have sensed a real desire **to get our doors open**, to enable more to step into this building, to find, in this wonderful ancient place, **a breathing space**, a place away from the bustle and hurry, where the Holy Spirit can minister in the quiet.

We've got heating, chairs and renovated windows, but our Church is still not open due to the effort needed to make it appropriate to leave it open. Of course it is open when people are here - for services, cream teas, and other events. And I know we have more planned.

It is also open every Monday and Wednesday morning for the quiet office of Morning Prayer 7.45-8.15. And I am hoping to open up and be present in the church to create a quiet space on an occasional Saturday through the Summer, just for a couple of hours, to allow passers by and those seeking comfort and peace, to enter this place and allow them to drink in the life giving waters of the Holy Spirit.

Summing up:

It is clear that we have momentum and movement, and with all of our continued investment of time, energy, money and prayer, I believe we can gradually realise the vision of a truly open church - helping many more people come to find:

a Blessing - a warm welcome to all who come,  
a sense of Belonging - as we share fellowship together  
a journey into Believing - as our different worship styles enable a closer walk with God.

**8. Closing in Prayer**

Stephen closed in prayer at 20:35, followed by everyone present saying the grace together.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_