



**AGENDA, REPORTS and  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
for the  
MEETING OF PARISHIONERS  
and the  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
at 10.30am**

*The front cover shows a photograph taken from St Peter's website. It shows the illumination of the church during celebration of the Festival of Light in November 2019.*



The Parish Church of  
**St Peter Great Berkhamsted**

*Registered Charity No. 113010*

*From the Rector, Fr Stuart Owen*

Dear Members of the Electoral Roll,

I have pleasure in introducing these Agendas, Reports and Financial Report in readiness for our Annual Meetings which take place this year at **10:30am** on Sunday 25th October 2020 at St Peter's Church and via Zoom

Do please make every effort to be present at these Meetings when they happen. They are a significant occasion in our communal parish life.

Yours sincerely,

*Fr Stuart Owen*

## **PARISH OF GREAT BERKHAMSTED ST PETER**

Annual Meeting of Parishioners  
for the election of Churchwardens  
held in the Lady Chapel, St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted,  
and chaired by The Rector, Fr Timothy Pilkington,  
on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 11am.

### **MINUTES**

1. Prayers

2. Apologies for Absence:

Rowena Pike, Jane Bartholomew, Pru Murray, Stephen and Kathie Lally, Bill Stead, Alan Conway, Barbara Mckenna, Christopher Hunt, David and Margaret Burbidge

3. To Receive the Minutes of the previous Meeting of Parishioners Received.

4. Election of Churchwardens for 2019-2020

Mark and Tim standing – unanimous vote.

Fr Tim gave his thanks for the work of the Churchwardens, particularly noting their support with recent negotiations with the Bishop and Mark's involvement with the Cowper Society. TP also drew attention to the pressure on the Churchwardens during the interregnum and the crucial role they will play in the interview process and encouraged parishioners to support the wardens throughout this.

TP also thanked Julian Dawson for his work as PCC secretary.

5. Closure of Meeting



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## PARISH OF GREAT BERKHAMSTED

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
held in the Lady Chapel, St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted,  
and chaired by The Rector, Fr Timothy Pilkington,  
on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 11.05am.**

### MINUTES

1. To receive the Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018).

Minutes received.

2. To receive a Report on the Electoral Roll.

New electoral roll this year: 178. HA has noticed members of the congregation who are not on the roll but there is still time to get forms in.

### ***Elections***

3. Affirmation of ONE All Saints representative to the Parochial Church Council for 2019-20: Richard Hackworth.

4. Election of two new members of PCC

Neither currently on the electoral roll, but when they are: Jon Lee and Chris Beauchamp

5. Appointment of Sidesmen of the Parish for 2019-20:

6. Names documented separately.

### ***Other Business***

7. To receive the Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council for 2018, including the General Fund Summary Budget for 2018.

No questions from the Parish. £268 was received from Easy Fundraising in 2018. Richard Hackworth proposed the report, Tim Hennessey seconded. All in favour. Sincere thanks to the Parish office, particularly during the renovations to the Court House.

8. To re-appoint Hillier Hopkins LLP, Chartered Accountants, or another qualified firm if advantageous to the PCC, as the auditor or independent examiner, dependent on the requirements of charity law. Richard Hackworth proposed, Miles Nicholas seconded: All in favour.

9. To receive a report from the Churchwardens on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments of the Churches.

Received.



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10. To receive the other written reports of Parish Activities as circulated herewith. Received.

11. Rector's report.

TP will be staying on longer than intended, due to a number of factors and shall finish his post at Candlemas (Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2020). Bishop Michael will visit St Peter's on Epiphany and will also visit in October to meet with the PCC. TP explained the reason for giving advance warning of his leaving date – short interregnum.

PCC and Team Council have agreed title of 'Team Rector' will move to Fr John Russell.

12. Questions and discussions on any matters of Parochial or general Church interest – including Safeguarding.

No safeguarding issues/questions raised. Hilary Elliot thanked the parish for their patience and understanding.

13. To note the following date:

**PCC Meeting** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019

The Churchwardens thanked Fr Tim for his work and ministry over the last 6 years and we will continue to offer support during the last months of his time in Berkhamsted.

Fr Tim thanked SV for his work, help, support and friendship.

11:20 – meeting closed.



**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS  
FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS**

10.30am Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October, St Peters, Berkhamsted

**AGENDA**

1. Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. To Receive the Minutes of the previous Meeting of Parishioners  
(14th April 2019)
4. Election of Churchwardens for 2020-2021
5. Closure of Meeting



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## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

10.35am Sunday 25th October 2020 in St Peter's, Berkhamsted

### **AGENDA**

1. To receive the Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting (14th April 2019)
2. To receive a Report on the Electoral Roll.

#### ***Elections***

3. Affirmation of ONE All Saints representative to the Parochial Church Council for 2020-21
4. Election of new members of PCC
5. Deanery Synod Elections

#### ***Other Business***

6. To receive the Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council for 2019.
7. To re-appoint Hillier Hopkins LLP, Chartered Accountants, or another qualified firm if advantageous to the PCC, as the auditor or independent examiner, dependent on the requirements of charity law.
8. To receive a report from the Churchwardens on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments of the Churches.
9. To receive the other written reports of Parish Activities as circulated herewith.
10. Curate's report.
11. Questions and discussions on any matters of Parochial or general Church interest – including Safeguarding.
12. To note the following date:

**PCC Meeting** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020



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## REPORTS FROM THE PARISH

The following groups (here in alphabetical order) have met, worked and contributed regularly or in part (Cowper Society) throughout the year within the parish community, and the reports of those who particularly wished to write them will be found in the body of this Annual Report.

<b>All Saints Church</b>	<i>Tracy Robinson</i>
<b>The Bellringers</b>	<i>David Burbidge, Mike Below</i>
<b>The Buildings Committee</b>	<i>Christopher Green</i>
<b>Castle Church of England Federation: The Thomas Coram Church of England School and Victoria Church of England Infant School and Nursery</b>	<i>Rob Halls, Executive Head Teacher</i>
<b>Cowper Society</b>	<i>Christopher Green</i>
<b>Julian Meetings</b>	<i>Ruth Treves Brown</i>
<b>Little Fishes Toddlers Group</b>	<i>Tracy Robinson</i>
<b>The Mothers' Union</b>	<i>Margaret Burbidge</i>
<b>The Music Department</b>	<i>Adrian Davis, Jean Wild</i>
<b>The Organ</b>	<i>Jonathan Lee</i>
<b>Pastoral Care Group</b>	<i>Philippa Seldon</i>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<i>Olivia Davies</i>
<b>Sundays Together Lunches</b>	<i>Carolynne Charman</i>
<b>St Peter's Ladies' Club)</b>	<i>Barbara McKenna</i>
<b>Your Berkhamsted</b>	<i>Jacqueline Hicks</i>
<b>Youth Work</b>	<i>Fr Simon and Olivia Davies</i>



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- 1) **Treasurer's Report for the Parish** *Richard Hackworth*
- 2) **St Peter's Churchwardens' Report:** *Mark Grego / Tim Hennessey*
- 3) **The Curate's Report** *Fr Simon Vivian*
- 4) **The Buildings Committee** *Christopher Green*
- 5) **Pastoral Care** *Philippa Seldon*
- 6) **The Deanery Synod** *Richard Hackworth*
- 7) **St Peter's Ladies' Club:** *Barbara McKenna*
- 8) **The Mothers' Union:** *Margaret Burbidge*
- 9) **Youth Work** *Olivia Davies*
- 10) **Castle Church of England Federation: Victoria and Thomas Coram Schools:**  
*Rob Halls, Executive Headteacher*



## 1. THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The full 2019 Trustee Report and Accounts for the Parish of Great Berkhamsted is available on the St Peter's website. The report sets out details of the Parish finances for 2019 with the usual supporting commentary. If anyone has any questions, please contact me.

There are two important headlines for 2019.

1. *General day to day income and expenses are in balance.* Day to day expenses, like salaries and fees, supplies, insurance, energy and so on, costs us just under £219,000, and our general income was just under £218,000. This income includes practically all donations, Gift Aid refunds from HMRC, and rental income from the Court House Cottage.
2. *We spent a net £30,000 on buildings in 2019.* The PCC holds funds designated specifically for buildings work which are kept quite separate from day to day requirements. It's important to keep in mind that the larger part of this was spent on the Court House for which we were given a very generous grant of £82,000 in 2018. So although it looks like we overspent by £30,000 last year, in fact we were spending money given to us for this purpose the previous year.

As always my sincere and special thanks are due to Hilary and Kate in the Parish Office for their support during 2019, to Miles Nicholas who until very recently has managed our Stewardship procedures, to Judy Clegg and her team who care for and count Sunday plate collections (and the big special collections around Christmas and other times), and to Jane Bartholomew who manages our important relationships with HMRC and the Charity Commission.

### A few figures relating to 2019

- 81 members of St Peter's donate regularly by bankers Standing Order, of whom approximately 70 Gift Aid their donations.
- 58 members donate regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme, 36 of whom index their monthly donations to inflation (RPI) and all of whom Gift Aid their donations.
- In addition, each week approximately 20 - 30 regular donation envelopes are placed in the collection plate.
- We received £300 through Easyfundraising, and £130 through the contactless card donations terminal (note this was only installed in October 2019).



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### A brief update on 2020

Because of the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic the parish financial position is now rather different from when I wrote the brief notes above. Here are the key points relating to our General Fund, that supports all day-to-day income and expenditure, at the end of August 2020.

- Despite the difficulties donated income has increased slightly compared with the same time last year. In part this reflects additional donations received at special services early in 2020, but this is great news and on behalf of everyone at St Peter's I want to thank all who support our church.
- Because of the pandemic income from letting out the Court House and the church are 80% down compared with the same time last year. The Court House is now being let for a limited number of regular events but letting income will be significantly reduced this year.
- We have received a total of about £7,000 from the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to support salaries.
- Also, for reasons unconnected with the pandemic, we have missed rental income from the Court House Cottage during the first half of 2020.
- Overall costs (including some special items incurred because of the pandemic) are unchanged from the same time last year.
- The overall effect is that our General Fund has a deficit of about **£11,000** at the end of August 2020 compared with a surplus of about £13,000 a year ago.

It is too early yet to hazard an estimate of the likely position at the end of the year. The parish has adequate reserves to cover 2020.

It's important to add that I know from conversations with Diocese and some other parish Treasurers that we are significantly better off than many. If you have any specific questions about the finances of our parish please don't hesitate to contact me.

With all best wishes

*Richard Hackworth  
Hon Treasurer  
17<sup>th</sup> September 2020*



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## 2. ST PETER'S CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

We started last year's report with the sad news of Fr Tim's retirement. So it is with a great sense of relief that we start this year's report with the news that we have run a very successful advertising and interview process which has resulted in the appointment of Fr Stuart Owen as our new Rector. We await the announcement of the date for his licensing, but are hopeful that the vacancy will be relatively short.

On Candlemas Fr Tim took his final mass to a packed Church including several from his previous parish. We gave thanks for his ministry which has enriched us over the last five years. We pray that he and Alys will have a wonderful new life in Cornwall.

The loss of Fr Tim serves to highlight how fortunate we are in having a fantastic Curate, supported by Frs Anthony, David and Chris and our own Readers Richard and Penny. Not forgetting our Intern, Olivia who we are very pleased to report has elected to stay with us for a further year. Together they will help us through the vacancy.

Financial challenges are ever present, and we are very fortunate to have Richard Hackworth as our Treasurer. As he explains in the Financial Report, three quarters of our income comes from donations, but this is not sufficient and we have spent £30,000 more than we have received. This cannot continue. We have reserves, but these should be spent on much needed improvements, not on day to day costs and routine maintenance. If we judge St Peter's to be important in our lives, then we need to examine our own resources and make an honest judgement on how much extra we can give.

The comments in the visitors' book always remark on what a lovely building St Peter's is. However, maintaining, and hopefully improving, the Church and Court House is a large task. This requires the effort of a number of people. We are indebted to the Buildings Committee and associated working parties who beaver away unseen, keep us dry, lit and generally warm. Dr Christopher Green has stood down as Buildings Committee Chairman after twenty years, and thirty years as a committee member. We are immensely grateful for his hard work and quiet dedication to serving our community. As we have not found a way to download his knowledge of St Peter's onto a sufficiently large database, we hope Christopher will continue to act as our historical adviser. Changes are underway to make arrangements more resilient and spread the burden more widely.



As Christians we are expected not just to look after ourselves, but to help others. Our Outward Giving is one measure of how we are achieving this commitment – the graph at Note 8 to the Financial Report is an uncomfortable sight!

Nevertheless, we have had a great year full of wonderful worship. We are indeed lucky to have such a beautiful church, talented music team, and faithful congregation. As ever we offer a huge thank you to the many people who make this happen; servers, sidesmen, cleaners, flower arrangers and bell ringers, all co-ordinated and underpinned by Hilary and Kate in the office. The Parish Profile showed what a fantastic Anglican community we have.

In the next few months we will bid a sad farewell to Fr Simon, Charlotte, Alice and Samuel; we wish them every success in Sawbridgeworth. In the meantime we pray that the vacancy goes well and look forward in great anticipation to Fr Stuart Owen arriving in the Summer.

*Mark Grego & Tim Hennessey  
Churchwardens*



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### 3. THE CURATE'S REPORT

Whilst it's not a legal necessity for me, as your curate, to produce a report during a vacancy (that honour falls upon the shoulders of the church wardens), I've been asked to write a few words to cover the church's pastoral aspects over the past year and, as I look back over the past four or so years as your curate and look to my future in a new parish in the east of the diocese, to take this opportunity to reflect upon this recent past chapter in all our lives.

Of course, the past year has been dominated by two things. Firstly, the preparations for, and the actual moment of, Fr Tim's retirement. Never could I have dreamed of having such a positive relationship with a training incumbent as I have had with Fr Tim. Having turned down several curacy opportunities, it was a delight to meet him back in late 2015, and hear about the possibilities at St Peter's and in Berkhamsted. It was an invitation which Charlotte, Alice, Samuel and I keenly took up.

Not only did Fr Tim and I find an immediate great common sense of purpose and spirituality when we began working together in July 2016, but we, as a family, were also so warmly welcomed into the St Peter's community and into the Victoria School family. I've learned so much from the gracious wisdom and pastoral love Fr Tim displayed not only to me but to all of us; have gained so much from the warmth and generosity of spirit you've all shown to us as a family; and have appreciated the care and inspiration Little Fishes and Victoria School have shown to Alice and Samuel. I can surely say that there's never been a dull moment nor a day of doubt about our decision to move to your lovely part of the world, and strongly believe that, in the harmony and stability he's brought to the community over the past five years, Fr Tim has laid the foundations for a bright and exciting future for St Peter's under the guidance of your new rector, Fr Stuart.

During the past four years, our church wardens - Tim Hennessey and Mark Grego - along with Fr John Russell have all been great sounding boards for me. Their experience, patience, insight and, indeed, friendship, have been a great comfort, and it was a real delight to witness Fr John worthily installed this month by the Bishop of Hertford as your new Team Rector. He will not only be a great ambassador for the Berkhamsted Team Ministry, supported by Fr Joe and, in due course, Fr Stuart, but a great pastoral support for you all in the months and years to come.





It's been a real joy to share the altar with our hugely talented but incredibly gracious retired clergy. As a parish, we are truly blessed to have Frs Anthony, David and Chris amongst our number, ever willing to continue their pastoral and spiritual ministry - a resource which is the envy of many other churches. It's also been lovely to see Penny Fray developing her reader ministry - particularly in the pulpit - whilst Richard Hackworth continues to be an incredible cornerstone of our community; not only through his reader ministry, but through his role as treasurer and as a wise and gentle counsellor.

I've also been very blessed to have had Lex Bradley-Stow and Olivia Davies as colleagues. As our parish interns, it's been a joy working alongside them, particularly as we've gone about our ministry to the church schools, providing Victoria and Thomas Coram schools with hugely important weekly collective worships, along with our occasional ministry to Swing Gate and Ashlyns. And now Fr Joe, having arrived as Vicar of Potten End last September, has brought his skills to that table too. Olivia is going to be with you for another year, so, as you move through the vacancy, it will be good for you to have the continuity of her ministry around the church; not least the first communion sessions which she has recently been running with Fr Joe. As far as Lex is concerned, we'll no doubt be receiving an invitation to her ordination next year.

As we continue to reach out to the younger members of our community, our connection with the schools is vital. At such an influential time in their lives, it's paramount that the pupils have a positive experience of church; not least as the wider Church - along with other sectors of society - continues to make amends for the catastrophic abusive failures of trust some of its members have perpetrated on individuals over a number of decades. For many in Victoria and Thomas Coram, our collaboration through our collective worship ministry - which involves us going into the schools weekly as well as the pupils coming into St Peter's on a monthly basis - is the only experience many of those pupils have of a church community. It's therefore vital that we continue to get that relationship right. As a school governor these past four years, it's been a fascinating insight for me into the running of our schools, a wonderful opportunity to see and work with the excellent leadership team of Rob Halls (Executive Head, Castle Federation), Jackie Cutler (Head of Thomas Coram), and Caroline Crozier (Head of Victoria) - particularly during the formation of our Castle Federation - and a chance to encourage and affirm, wherever





possible, the deeply rooted Christian ethos within our schools. It's a baton I now pass on to Fr Joe.

In church, an important part of our ministry to younger people is through Sunday Club during our Sunday morning worship. I'm delighted with the development of the children's corner into a bright, colourful, carpeted and more welcoming space, largely due to the efforts of Liz Wright, Rachael Anderson and Cathy Imber. I'd also like to acknowledge the great and imaginative efforts of all those who lead the Bible story and craft sessions which happen in the Lady Chapel each Sunday morning. I know from Alice and Samuel's reaction alone that their endeavours are much appreciated.

As Christians, we're called to make disciples: new followers, new apprentices of Jesus. We have a number of relatively traditional but no less hugely important ways in which people can plug into our community. Tracy and Michael Robinson work tirelessly with other helpers to provide joy and stimulation at our toddler group Little Fishes - a great outreach project for many who don't attend other aspects of our life at St Peter's. Tracy also organises our midweek Tuesday masses at All Saints' which are always a beautiful haven of peace and tranquillity. Then there's the Sundays Together group, run by Carolynne Charman and Carole Dell along with a whole angelic band of culinary helpers, providing a delicious monthly lunch for older and more vulnerable members of our community. Barbara McKenna and Ros Laidler keep the Tuesday Club busy with interesting activities, whilst Kathie Lally and Margaret Burbidge inspire the Mothers' Union. All of these groups allow people, a good number of whom are on the periphery of our congregations, to catch a glimpse of what it means to be part of a Christian community.

Of course, one of the ways many of us catch a glimpse of heaven is through music. The choir and organ of St Peter's has therefore played a significant role in my personal devotion, and I know it's appreciated by many of you, not least at important times in the Christian calendar such as Christmas and Easter. The level of musicianship displayed by our choir is hardly surprising when one considers that they're led by such talent as Adrian Davis, Jon Lee and Jean Wild. It's been a joy collaborating with them.



Indeed, one of the great highlights for me of the past four or so years has been the 'Be a Chorister' recruitment event in January 2019 which garnered a number of new choristers for the choir. To see more young faces joining the choir's front row, and to see their parents joining our congregation, was an important reminder that the choir is not only the provider of beautiful music enhancing our worship, but an important tool in our broad and varied mission to draw in new members.

One of the people at the heart of that successful project was Hilary Armstrong, who is also an incredibly important part of the team which makes our annual Festival of Light such an amazing success. To see 3000 and more people come through the doors of St Peter's in just three hours to experience the candlelit atmosphere of their beautiful building is not only uplifting but hugely moving. As that annual event builds in popularity and people from the town and further afield make a beeline not only to the town's switching on of the Christmas lights but to the church itself, we can take comfort from the fact that we're continuing to find new ways of reaching out and serving our wider community, and be inspired to do even more things in the future to make St Peter's a place for not just the Sunday few but the daily masses who, at this moment, may just pass on by.

Indeed, in all that they do in the parish office, Hilary, along with Kate Perera, are such a rich resource for our church, and have always been quick to help me in my ministry. And that has been never more apparent than at this very moment. That's because the second significant thing which has and is continuing to dominate this year is, of course, the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. As the nation's and the wider Church's response has quickly evolved over the first couple of weeks of March, the office has become the incredibly busy front line of our response - the hub of our operations. As I write, public worship in our churches has been suspended until further notice by the archbishops of Canterbury and York. The willing response of so many of you - the wider community of St Peter's - caring about each other, keen to ensure each one of us is safe and supported, is a great testament to the heart of our community, and a great support to the parish office. The Pastoral Care Network, coordinated by Philippa Seldon, has, among other things, traditionally taken home communion to those vulnerable members of our community who are unable to get to church.



With government and Church instructions in the light of the coronavirus understandably restricting socialising and gathering - particularly where vulnerable or older people are concerned - the role of the Pastoral Care Network has quickly changed so that they, along with others, are now part of our crucial church outreach during this pandemic, attempting to ensure that as many as possible of our immediate and wider community are cared for appropriately.

Indeed, it's at times like this that we see the best of people and society. Yes - one does notice some selfish behaviour in society, such as the 'me first' panic buying that we're currently witnessing in our supermarkets. But we also see the compassionate acts of kindness to others which remind me that we are each made in the image of God, called to mirror His love and creativity, His generosity and desire to heal. I definitely see that in the community of St Peter's. Long may it continue, grow and bear fruit, so that all in Berkhamsted may be drawn into a community keen to understand what it means to live in the light of Jesus, and to help build His kingdom up here on earth as it is in heaven.

May I, on behalf of Charlotte, Alice and Samuel, thank each and every one of you for all that you've given us as a family over the past four years - not least your hearts - and may I wish you God's blessing for your journey to come.

Yours in Christ

*Fr Simon*



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#### 4. THE BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The Committee met three times in 2019. Early in the year Frank Allum retired from the Committee. He has overseen the care of Rectory Lane Cemetery for many years up to the commencement of the Lottery funded work there.

During the summer members met to undertake maintenance work in and around the church and Court House, including repair of the gate to the Court House yard, repainting of the window sill in the Square Room and further clearance in the NW corner of the churchyard.

Work to the Court House in 2019 included the completion of the new roof over the Square Room, repairs to the porch roof following damage by vehicles manoeuvring in Church Lane, and the installation of 'snow' guards to reduce the risk of tiles falling from the roof. Plans for the refurbishment of the toilets have been moved forward by Peter McMunn who engaged Bob Thompson of Thompson Bradford to provide a preliminary sketch scheme for the project.

In the church a fall of plaster occurred in April from the ceiling of the south transept. Following loss of confidence in the church's Inspecting Surveyor, remedial work was put into the hands of Phil Ogley of Oxley Conservation. A survey of the ceiling revealed evidence of structural movement between the transept roof and the tower, leading to delay to the repair of the ceiling which was still awaited at the end of the year.

As noted in the annual report for 2018 renewed water penetration has occurred through the roof of the St John's Chantry. Remedial action has been delayed awaiting the appointment of a new Inspecting Architect. Masonry repairs identified in the 2015 Quinquennial Inspection Report have also been delayed for the same reason.

The re-ordering of the Catherine Chapel has been put on hold following redirection of funds towards urgent work of refurbishment in the Court House. However, discussions have continued on the possible place of St Peter's as a focal point for the Heritage Hub project.

The second year of Heritage Lottery funded work in the Rectory Lane Cemetery has centred on the creation of a new Garden of Remembrance, the reinstatement of the original paths and the introduction of new seating. The conservation of historic monuments has also continued.



At All Saints House problems with the Finlock gutters have persisted and their replacement is now awaited. The flat roof of the garage has also come to the end of its useful life and replacement is expected in the new year.

In October Christopher Green indicated his wish to retire as Chairman after 20 years in that role. No successor has come forward and the committee, guided by Mark Grego in his capacity as Churchwarden, has discussed the way forward. This seems likely to involve greater delegation of responsibilities within the committee for individual PCC properties and for individual projects.

Finally, thanks are due to all committee members for their dedication to the care of the PCC's properties.

Christopher Green

DRAFT



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## 5. THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral care team supports those in the Parish who are no longer able to come to Church independently or at all. We try to 'keep an eye' on the frail who might be needing support in the near future. We are grateful to all who let us know of any concerns, and with this network involving all members of the congregation, we hope that we reach those who need us.

We therefore organise lift rotas, lifts to hospital appointments etc. and visit on a regular basis. Four of us are licensed to take Home Communion to those who would like it, one of the Clergy fulfilling every third visit. Together with All Saints Church, we organise a monthly pub lunch for the bereaved. One of our members, supported by a team of volunteers, arranges 'Sundays Together' - a lunch in the Court House for anyone on their own, on the first Sunday of each month. And we provide Baptism sidesmen.

Those of us who are trained in bereavement visiting offer support to the recently bereaved. Each year we send invitations to the All Soul's Day Eucharist to anyone who has lost a near relative during the preceding two years. At the service the names of the departed are read out and members of the congregation have an opportunity to light a candle in memory of their loved one.

Our monthly meetings are held to network, exchange ideas and talk through any worries or concerns. Like much of the work which we do, these meetings are totally confidential.

We are sad to say goodbye to Fr Tim and would like to say thank you to both him and Fr Simon for attending our meetings and for their support.

Philippa Seldon



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## 6. BERKHAMSTED DEANERY SYNOD

Our Rural Dean is Revd. Jonathan Gordon and the Deanery Synod has met three times during 2019 – in April, May and October. The meeting in May had as an invited speaker Revd. Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James's Church Piccadilly, a regular broadcaster on Radio 4 and 3, and writer for the national press. She was ordained in 1995 and was the first lady cleric appointed at St. Paul's. She gave a presentation entitled "Good News or Fake News?", a Christian perspective on broadcasting. The annual Deanery lectures are always worthwhile events, and this was no exception.

The Synod held a Barn Dance in June.

*Richard Hackworth*

## 7. ST PETER'S LADIES' CLUB

The Ladies Club have enjoyed another year, although sadly we have lost a few more members. We have had several interesting speakers, one of whom was Olivia who spoke of her moving times on The Isle of Iona.

We have also had happy social occasions, one of which was our Christmas Dinner when we said our thanks and goodbyes to Father Tim and Alys and wished them well in their retirement.

We are now looking forward to more evenings together and would welcome visitors and new members. Please contact Barbara McKenna on 01442 871159, or Rosslyn Laidler on 01442 879992 if you would like to find out more

*Barbara McKenna*



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## 8. THE MOTHERS' UNION

This branch is part of the worldwide MU of over 4 million members in 84 countries. Members support MU work to build healthy relationships and make a difference to lives and communities. Among the activities this year has been raising awareness of challenging issues like modern day slavery and gender-based violence.

The summer brought the death of our oldest member, Audrey Faunce, just short of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is still missed at our meetings. We bade farewell to the Rector, a member, on his retirement. We also welcomed Dorothy Moore, who had moved to Northchurch from Ringwood.

Some members have attended diocesan and national events, reminding us that we are part of a worldwide family praying and worshipping together, caring for each other and following in the footsteps of our founder, Mary Sumner.

Margaret Burbidge



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## 9. YOUTH WORK

How do we encourage our children and young people to Worship at St Peter's? This was the question and challenge Margaret Pritchard Houston, St Alban's 'Diocesan Children's Mission Enabler', posed at the Deanery Synod lecture this year. Our activities, our conversations and our setting must all be to the purpose of enabling worship.

In St Peter's, our Children's Corner allows parents and children to be part of the service in an environment that is comfortable for them and activity sheets help children engage in the Gospel. Sunday Club continues to meet in the Lady Chapel during the homily, creed and prayers in the mass. Each session consists of a short, gospel-based explanation from the leader with questions and discussion, followed by a craft activity. We are really pleased that numbers at this continue to grow and are very grateful to the team of leaders who organise and lead these sessions. Thank you Sarah Elder, Vicky Harris, Helen Nichols, Sarah Hyde, Heather Jones and Charlotte Vivian.

During Lent, nine children from the congregation are preparing to receive Holy Communion on Easter Sunday for the first time. Fr Joe Roberts and Olivia have been leading weekly sessions in which the children have thought about the communities they belong to, discussed the history of St Peter's and the wider Church of England, and explored the significance of the Passover meal and the different Christian beliefs and understandings surrounding the Eucharist and its centrality to our worship. Other involvement in the service comes from our young servers' team who acolyte once a month and our junior bellringing team, who are learning to ring on a Friday evening and played in the Crib services on Christmas Eve.

Our ministry in our Church of England schools - Victoria and Thomas Coram - also continues to deepen and develop through weekly collective worship led by Fr Simon, Fr Joe and Olivia. This worship introduces children to Christian liturgy, with a focus on their school values, and once a month Victoria School pupils visit St Peter's for their worship. At Harvest, Christmas (weather dependent!) and Easter the two schools celebrate a shared service in St Peter's and frequently artwork from their religious studies lessons is displayed in the Church for the congregation and visitors to enjoy. It is with a heavy heart that on Easter Sunday we must say goodbye to Simon, Charlotte, Alice and Samuel. The whole family will be missed, not least for the invaluable work they have all contributed to encouraging children and families at St Peter's and the fantastic relationship they have established between St Peter's and the Castle Federation School. We wish them all the best for their new adventure and know that the Parish of Sawbridgeworth will be pleased to welcome Simon and his lovely family.

We hope that during the interregnum we, as a Church, can work together to continue to nurture the young people of our congregation.

*Olivia Davies*



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## 10. SCHOOLS



### **“Flourishing in learning and love, within a happy, Christian family”**

Last summer’s results showed that the Federation’s pupils continue to achieve high standards, with Victoria School’s results showing pupil attainment outcomes broadly in line with county and national averages in Early Years and above in Key Stage 1. Likewise, for Thomas Coram, the Key Stage 2 results are strong in reading and maths, being well above national averages, with improving outcomes seen in writing.

Aside from academic successes, Victoria and Thomas Coram’s pupils have engaged in a wide range of sporting, music and arts activities, events and trips, and each school has an active Parents’ Association running events and raising vital funds for our schools.

Thomas Coram received its SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) Inspection in November 2019 and was judged to be Excellent. The Excellent grade (which replaced the previous Outstanding grade) is ‘well beyond good’ and used for the innovative and exceptional practice that is not routinely seen in other good Church schools. Victoria’s SIAMS inspection is due very shortly.

The school communities would like to thank the parish (and especially Fr Simon, Olivia and Fr Joe) for their continued time, wisdom and support to our two schools in ensuring the parish’s contribution to the education of young people in Berkhamsted.

We wish to thank Fr Simon, as he shortly ends his tenure as our ex officio Foundation governor. This year, we’ve also made our gratitude known to Hilary Armstrong for her long-serving dedication as a Foundation governor of, firstly, Victoria CE Infant School and, latterly, Castle CE Federation. We’ll shortly be advertising for new Foundation governors – could this be you?

Further information can be viewed on our websites:

[www.castlefederation.org](http://www.castlefederation.org)

[www.victoria.herts.sch.uk](http://www.victoria.herts.sch.uk)

[www.thomascoram.erts.sch.uk](http://www.thomascoram.erts.sch.uk)

*Rob Halls,  
Executive Headteacher*



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