



**St. Margaret's Church
Yatton Keynell**

Parochial Church Council

Annual Report

For the year ending 31st December 2019

**Priest in Charge (Rector Designate): Revd. Marc Terry
Team Vicar: Position vacant**

**Churchwardens
Pamela Rawlins & Wanda Hall**

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Composition of the PCC 2019

Revd. Marc Terry – Chairman
Wanda Hall - Churchwarden
Pam Rawlins - Churchwarden & Chair of Fabric Sub Committee
Hannah Minty – Secretary
Alan Foreman - Treasurer
Claire Campbell
Alison Eagles – Safeguarding Rep
Mike King – Lay Chair

Anita Parsons (Appointed Auditor)

By Brook Ministry Team

Associate Curate – Revd. Gillian Parkin
Associate Curate – Revd. Mary Gubbins
Licensed Lay Ministers - Anton Campbell, Alison Flint, Mike King, Mary Pope, Diane Ross-Smith, Pam Tayler, Tim Woodward

St Margaret's Goals

St Margaret's support the Bybrook Benefice vision and mission stated below but our growth plans have specifically focussed on

- To be a welcoming church
- To partner in the local community through outreach
- To encourage children's work through Sunday School, Edward Bear and The Ark and our local Bybrook School.

We held an exploratory session following our **Big Church Survey** where we felt that a lot of what we were doing was still valid, but we needed to 'link and leverage' our activities more. We also agreed to continue to focus on the needs of our older and younger congregations. How to accommodate children into services as well as meet the needs of our more traditional worshippers is one of our key challenges. To this end Marc, Pam and Claire attended a course on intergenerational worship at the Bristol Diocese. We also felt that we should focus on some of the long-standing issues on our quinquennial before embarking on a more extensive re-ordering programme.

Bybrook Benefice Values and Mission

The Team Council Vision below, to help us to understand our calling as Christians, based on Matthew 28:16-20 still stands but in November the Team Council began to explore 'being' as a core principle ahead of 'doing'. The focus in 2020 will be to build discipleship. Pam attends the team council meetings throughout the year.

"Worshipping, Growing, Sharing."

Because of this understanding, as a group of churches, our desire is:

- To love, serve and worship God
- To love and serve one another, our local community, and the wider world
- To live and share with others the good news of Jesus Christ, because we know that we are loved by God.

In our mission, we aim:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Churchwardens' report - Pam Rawlins & Wanda Hall

Worship, Church Life and Outreach

Wanda Hall and Pam Rawlins completed their second year as Church Wardens together. Their split of duties Wanda focussing on the day to day church activities whilst Pam deals with the administration and organising of rota's continues to work well. Mike King helps with daily church locking, managing the heating, fabric and refuse collection for which we are most grateful.

Our pattern of services **Holy Communion** on the 1st Sunday of the month, led by Revd. Marc Terry, **Morning Praise** on the 2nd Sunday, led by Mike King LLM and **All Age worship**, on the third Sunday, led by Anton Campbell LLM seem to be serving us well and meet the needs of different worshiping families. **Morning Prayer** led by Mary Pope continues on Thursday morning. Marc and Claire led a **Youth Alpha** course which started on 4th Sundays. Our Chalice Assistants at Holy Communion services; are Mary Pope, Pam Rawlins, Kathryn Bundle and Anton Campbell. We continue to build our list of readers and coffee makers which help each service run smoothly. This year Alison Eagles took on the duties of Sacristan and Len Scott stepped down.

Team services are held around the Benefice on fourth Sundays 'celebrating the difference' in our churches' and in 2019 we hosted it at St. Margaret's in March. The fifth Sundays were moved to Cluster services and we held a Compassion Service for the Eastern Cluster (along with Biddestone and Kington St. Michael) on 29th Sept in the Village Hall. All collections on that day were given to the Charity Compassion – Releasing Children from Poverty as part of our giving.

Our two regular organists are Eric Gough and Graham Seeman and the music group Anton Campbell, Owen Upton, Phil Hall and Barry Pullen play at the All Age Service. Thanks to Laurie Upton for his help in working the AV system.

This year we had no **Weddings** and two **Baptisms** in July and October. There were

four **funerals** Monica Barnes and Heather Green in March. Bernard Gillingham in May and Philip Smith in July (husband of Dorothy Smith previously member of the PCC).

We had visits by the Bybrook **school** at Leavers Service in July, Harvest in September and Carol Service and an Experience Church Day organised by Anton Campbell. We want to thank School Governors Beth Borthwick, Anton Campbell, and the Open the book team for being great links with the school in their respective duties and encouraging families to join us from the school.

Our **attendance** this year compared to last year overall is down. This is likely to be attributed to no weddings. However, when we look at our regular services, Holy Communion, & All Age Worship the figures are up as was Christmas attendance. Our Morning Praise, Remembrance and Harvest were lower than the year before. Our split between adults and children is about the same as last year, children make up one third of our population.

We continue with our **Creating Connections** outreach activities beginning with Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, Afternoon Tea on 7th April, a new Feast Day for St. Margaret on 20th July, Cream Teas at the Market Cross in August, Harvest BBQ & Light Party on 31st October. Thanks to Lynne Lawton who organised another great Safari Supper.

This year we launched our **Eco church** activities with the Lent Plastic challenge and followed up with a home-made Christmas Tree. Which we also included in the Castle Combe Christmas Tree Festival. We appreciate Hannah and Alison taking the lead in these activities. Hannah is working on our application to be accredited under A Rocha's Eco Church Award Scheme.

Our **Christmas Calendar** was very busy with the usual Carol Service, Carols Round the Market Cross, Instant Nativity, Midnight Holy Communion and on Christmas Day, there was the usual lively Service with Bubbles and Croissants led by Revd. Marc Terry. We also hosted a Cluster Communion Service on 22nd December. We decided to move our Christingle to January 2020.

Cleaning – This year Hannah took on the role of church cleaner from Simply Dazzle and has done a great job along with the occasional extra help from on our cleaning rota. Wanda and Hannah steam cleaned our chairs.

Our **Children's work** has continued, and we want to thank Cilla Palfreyman & Alison Eagles for encouraging young people into our church. We also want to thank the leaders at **Café Church** and **Tea and Toast** for their continued outreach efforts. See reports later.

Hannah has continued to meet with the **Can Craft ladies** but have moved to the pub in the winter months due to cold weather.

And finally, we want to thank Margaret Dyke and Gillian Parkin for their continual fund raising via the **cake sales and Christmas Market**. See report later.

We continued to support the Diocese by hosting **Safeguarding training** at St Margaret's – they said they enjoy coming to us, we are well situated and a very helpful, welcoming and friendly church. All the PCC have undergone their safeguarding training (see report below) and we are up to date with our fire, health and safety matters.

We successfully passed our **Triennial** inspection and the Diocese were very complimentary on how the church was managed and ran. We had a few things to action but nothing major to worry about thankfully.

Safeguarding Report – Mary Inder Rieden and Alison Eagles

The importance of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults within our Parish is recognised and acted upon by the PCC. The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

The PCC approved a revised safeguarding policy earlier this year as well as a safeguarding action plan for the Parish.

The Church of England's "Promoting a Safer Church" policy is publicised and promoted within the church and all church officers, and parishioners, have access to a copy of it through the Bybrook Benefice website.

Mary In der Rieden is the current Benefice Safeguarding Officer. She has been safely recruited in line with the relevant Church of England guidelines and has completed all necessary safeguarding training.

All current members of the PCC have also completed the required level of safeguarding.

Safeguarding information and relevant contact details are displayed in the Church, as well as on the Bybrook Benefice website, and safeguarding is a standing agenda item at all PCC meetings.

There are numerous activities in the Parish which are aimed primarily at children. Volunteers who help run those groups are safely recruited in line with Church policies or, in a minority of cases, are in the process of completing the safer recruitment process. Up to date risk assessments are in place for these activities. All volunteers who require one have an up to date DBS check. In accordance with Church of England guidelines, volunteers with children's activities are also required to undertake safeguarding training and this process is on-going.

In addition, the Parish oversees the work of the Pastoral Care Team within the Bybrook Benefice who visit parishioners from time to time. Such a parishioner may, on occasion, be a vulnerable adult or an adult at risk of harm. As a result, all those who volunteer on the team are recruited in line with the safer recruitment guidelines, have a DBS check and are required to undertake relevant safeguarding training.

There are no non-Church activities for children or vulnerable adults which take place on Church premises.

Fabric Report – Pam Rawlins

Many thanks to the Fabric committee Pam Rawlins, Alan Foreman and especially Phil Hall and Mike King who put in many hours doing small maintenance jobs around the church.

We met with the Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC) in the summer to discuss ownership and the maintenance of the churchyard, church external walls, trees and kitchen ventilation. They provided a recommendation which the PCC are now acting upon along with items on the Quinquennial report. These will require a faculty which we are in the process of applying for.

Jim Bruce-Scott continues to manage the church yard. Pam continues to maintain the **Contemplation Garden**.

Flowers in Church – Judy Dix

My big thanks once again this year on all the volunteers who gave time, energy and ideas to create some wonderful displays to make our church a bright and welcoming place. This year we have taken up the challenge to make the church a plastic free environment and have abandoned the use of plastic foam instead coming up with ideas for more natural displays. The use this year of jugs, vases and urns has taken over from the traditional trays and plastic foam together with the use of seasonal native flowers and foliage.

Members of our team volunteer to provide arrangements on a monthly basis and we have a team effort for special times such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas when we pull out the stops. The amazing display for Remembrance Day, provided by Pam Rawlins and Hannah Minty, deserved the feature in the Honeycomb.

The team consisted of: Linda Baldwin, Wendy Dash, Judy Dix, Elisabeth Ford, Helen Pepler, Pam Rawlins, Kathy Salkeld, Sylvia Venn and we were joined by Tracey Mosley who has provided home grown flowers, foliage and some of the new display ideas.

We would like to invite anyone who feels they might have a little time to spare to join us. Just come along and have a go!

Children's work – Cilla Palfreyman

Treasure Seekers, a Sunday School aimed at the younger age bracket, has had yet another really encouraging year. We have a core group of little ones coming along regularly, and we also welcome others who attend now and again.

We used to meet twice a month but for a variety of reasons we have recently reduced to just once. We vary the venue, sometimes in church or over to the barn or outside in the churchyard; but earlier this year we were extremely grateful to George and Weenie Powell, newcomers to the village, for opening their home in Church Farmhouse, to give the much needed quiet and spacious surroundings. The aim is for the children to listen to bible stories and learn more about Jesus, in a fun and relaxed atmosphere and come along with their questions too. We include singing, a short prayer time and learning a memory verse, and we vary the craft activities to fit in with and reinforce the story. We have shared precious times around the kitchen table, particularly at Christmas with a bumper number of twelve children.

It is very rewarding to see the children having such fun together at the end of the church service, and to see so many young families being welcomed into church.

We are also highly encouraged by the **Edward Bear** group which is for babies and toddlers up to School age, and which meets once a month in church. We have welcomed several new families this year and found that parents and children who first attend Edward Bear then feel more confident to come along to The Ark and even church services. Many friendships have been forged and relationships strengthened as a direct result of this valuable group. Again, the main aim is to share the stories of Jesus.

Café Church - Alison Eagles

Café Church runs on Tuesdays each week (with the exception of the last 3 Tuesdays in December) from 10am to 1pm. Hot drinks and cake are available and there are three or four main course choices along with two puddings.

Wanda Hall has been running Café Church since it was started over ten years ago. However, since September 2019 she has cut down her commitment and now regularly helps once a month and on an ad hoc basis. We have expanded our team of helpers with Delia and Felicity joining Margaret and Barbara (from Kington St Michael) and Mary (from Yatton Keynell).

Some weeks there may be as few as 9 people coming to Café Church and on other weeks we have fed as many as 19! We have fed people who have noticed our OPEN sign whilst visiting Yatton Keynell and ventured into the church. People are tending to stay longer to chat following the meal.

Christmas lunch was attended by 25 people and it was great that Anne and Lynne returned to help us again. Fewer people attend and costs have risen so the amount being raised each week is falling.

Fundraising for St Margaret's – Margaret Dyke & Gillian Parkin

Margaret Dyke and Gillian Parkin are still holding their monthly cake stall outside the Post Office in Yatton Keynell from February to November, and for this financial year raised £1,504.12 and grateful thanks go to Mark Hayward in allowing the stall to be held outside his busy shop. Perhaps the PCC would like to formally thank Mark because as from 2020 the Post Office will be under new ownership.

Once again Margaret and Gillian were extremely busy over the festive season baking, decorating and wrapping Christmas Cakes, pudding, jams, marmalades and pickles over the months leading up to their sales at Castle Combe Christmas Tree Festival organised by Ann Chapman and Jane Halliday, Nettleton & Burton church's Christmas Fair and the wonderful Yatton Keynell Christmas Fair organised by Zoe McGinn and friends and held in the village hall. We raised a total of £1,303.65.

Extra special thanks are due to Fiona Ernest and Ann Turner in their help with icing a few last-minute cakes, and Lesley Hull with some of the decorating, due to the fact that Margaret broke her ankle on the 29th November and was in plaster and in a wheelchair.

On the 9th March Gillian and Margaret hosted a very well attended Coffee Morning at St Margaret's to raise funds for the work of the international charity, Mercy Ships, and one of their volunteers, Lynne Melly, came along with information about the charity and answered the many questions raised.

There was also a film shown explaining the work of Mercy Ships and the incredible work they carry out on their floating hospital off the coast of Africa. The before and after shots were amazing, all who have been helped have been given their lives back.

The event raised an amazing £435.25 forwards the wonderful works of Mercy Ships and a booking was made for Lynne to speak at Biddestone WI in 2020.

Tea and Toast – Margaret Dyke

Mondays when the weather is warm enough, St Margaret's plays host to Tea & Toast which is still well attended and enjoyed by all. A very big "THANK YOU" to Judy Dix,

Ann Turner and Charlotte Bruce taking up the reigns whilst I have been out of action.

Sometimes we have as few as 7 adults and no children and the most we have had was when the African Choir visited us, and we had 24 adults and one child. We were serenaded at the end of our session and I am not quite sure what they thought of our strange breakfast!

During the financial year we received £380.71 in donations and £200 has been paid to St Margaret's.

As you will know Margaret Dyke and Ann Turner are organising an Open Gardens event in 18th & 19th July in 2020 and the proceeds will be split between St Margaret's, the Village Hall and Dorothy House.

Finance Report – Alan Foreman

I am pleased to give you a brief financial statement for St Margaret's Church Yatton Keynell for 2019.

As in previous years, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Phil Hall for his invaluable help and his continued commitment in dealing with the weekly collections and banking for St Margaret's, and he continues to help and provide much valued advice to the Fabric Subcommittee.

Within the General Fund voluntary income as a result of giving has shown a small increase which is a very much needed although there has been no additional regular giving added for 2019. At the end of 2018 we became a member of the Parish Giving Scheme which has added only one new regular giver. Whilst it is pleasing to note that there has been an increase in regular monthly giving overall, there continues to be a shortfall in the General Account and twice a year a transfer is made from the Appeal Account to the General Account. This covers the costs of some of the activities that take place within St Margaret's that produce income for the Appeal Account. This is reviewed on a regular basis.

As we go into 2020 we have seen an increase in our Diocesan pledge and Benefice share, which is largely based on the size and use of the Church, and the Diocesan pledge is our largest outgoing and over 50% of income.

It is vital that the income from giving continues to increase (and particularly planned giving) in order to maintain a healthy and vibrant Church community.

Our energy bills have remained level, and water usage continues to be monitored as in previous years. The electricity has been changed to a green tariff as part of our

current and ongoing commitment to green credentials and helping to protect the environment.

Following the Quinquennial report 2015, the Fabric Sub Committee continue to monitor and provide recommendations to improve the Church and surrounding fabric under the guidance of Pam Rawlins, with all works prioritised and many now completed and funded through our Appeal Fund. These are continually monitored to maintain the fabric of the Church, and improvements are reviewed and planned for the future, particularly as we approach a new Quinquennial report.

The discussions regarding the condition and ownership of the boundary walling and the status of the graveyard, together with our conclusions on how these will be dealt with and the work planned in the future have largely been finalised in 2019.

I have no hesitation in repeating myself from all the previous financial reports that I have given. A very special mention must be made to all those who give their time and energy to help keep St Margaret's a vibrant and active part of Yatton Keynell and wider community. A special mention as always goes to Café Church, which continues under the guidance of Alison Eagles, and all of the many helpers that give much time and effort. To Margaret Dyke and Gillian Parkin for their continued outstanding contribution in sale of cakes pickles and jams, in all weather, and this year the fantastic rewards that came over the Christmas period from them once again. Tea and toast, a fantastic Summer Fete and The Safari Supper organised by Lynn Lawton. Many new activities have taken place this year such as the first film night. To anyone that I have not mentioned, St Margaret's Church thanks you all for your continued support and contribution.

Whilst I envisaged that 2019 would be my last year as Treasure, I have continued to maintain the accounts as a new Treasurer was not forthcoming during the year. At the latest I will be retiring from the role at the end of this year, and it is important that a new face comes forward to take over the reins as soon as possible.

Bell Ringing – Claire Campbell

The first half of the year saw some good progress with our ringers and seven of them became members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association. In April we joined ringers across the UK ringing in solidarity with Notre Dame. Sadly, in July we said goodbye to George who moved away with work. We are thankful to him for all of his help and support during his time here. Roger has continued with his support which we are again thankful for and a few of us have even been able to experience ringing on a simulator at Colerne church where Roger is tower captain, which was a fun experience.

In September we enjoyed an outing with the Chippenham branch, where we visited and rang at a number of different towers and in October, we had the pleasure of ringing as a group at Nettleton Church and our thanks to Mike and Bob for arranging

this for us. We were very excited in December to be awarded a **trophy** for the progress that we had made during 2019.

We have managed to ring for a few Sundays and also the Midnight communion, but unfortunately with work and family commitments we have not been able to make ringing for services a regular occurrence. The later part of the year has, for similar reasons, seen a decline in attendance and at the end of the year we took the decision to reduce practices back to twice a month, although we hope to increase this again in the future.

We are keen to keep the bells ringing at St Margaret's and we would encourage anyone who is already a ringer or interested in becoming one, to come along and join us.

17 Feb 2020

Pam Rawlins & Wanda Hall