

## **Annual Reports for St Peter's AGM, 11 October 2020, postponed from 29 March 2020**

### **Vicars Remarks**

2019 was a momentous year for St Peters, with the replacement of the 55 year old St Peters Hall with a new Community Centre. God provided all the £930,000 needed for the building works, and it was completed in good time and looking fantastic. The response of the community and the church to the new building has been very positive, and it will be a massive asset to the mission and ministry of St Peters for the next 50 years.

St Peters congregation continues to grow, and we are blessed by so many who play a part in church life, on Sunday mornings, behind the scenes, helping to put on Community Coffee and other outreach, balancing the books, and serving on the church committee. It is so good to have an enthusiastic, committed and positive group of people to work with, with such a heart to see Westfield blessed and changed by the love of Jesus. It is also encouraging to see that, even with a much larger congregation, there is still such a strong sense of belonging and pastoral care, with a genuine attempt to welcome new people and befriend them.

St Peters began to explore the '7 Sacred Spaces', an idea from church researcher George Lings based on patterns of monastic life. The 7 Spaces – chapel, cell, refectory, library, chapter house, cloister and garden – reflect 7 values and activities at the core of Christian discipleship: worship, prayer, hospitality, study, community, availability and work as service. It also provides a helpful way of looking at the ministry of the combined Church and Community Centre, which already has aspects of most of these. The monasteries held together a fragmented Europe for centuries, preserving worship, learning, kindness and community through the Dark Ages, and this inspires us to see the role St Peters could play within Westfield.

Underneath all of this is a rhythm of prayer – God does nothing but in answer to fervent, persistent prayer, and Prayers for Westfield, and the prayers of St Peters congregations over the years, are the seed and the foundation of all the blessings we are seeing now.

It is a joy to be the vicar of St Peters. To quote Mrs Bennett from *Pride and Prejudice* 'God has been very good to us'. Thank you to everyone in this wonderful church, let's keep praying, and let's pray for God to enlarge our hearts more and more for this neighbourhood, where so many need Him.

David Keen, 1 st October 2020.

### **Churchwarden's Report**

In 2019 the Church shut for several weeks while work was done on the church ceiling and the congregation worshipped in people's homes. The Congregation moved back into the church on Pentecost Sunday.

Eight members of the congregation joined with St James for the Parish Weekend Away at Brunel Manor in early July. This was a very restful and joyous occasion facilitated by Matt Merriam. It was a wonderful opportunity for the two congregations to get to know each other better.

The Community Centre was to be handed over to the Management Committee in the week beginning 9 September, and there was a very successful Grand Opening on October 5<sup>th</sup> which must have been attended by around 500 people. The Monday Community Coffee moved into the Centre.

Sunday attendance at St Peters continues to grow slowly averaging at around 35 adults at the moment, and in addition to the Sunday Services we have had a Newcomers Tea and a Pet Service in September and October 2019 respectively, both of which seemed to be appreciated.

St Peter's also had its first Crib Service. On Christmas Day there were informal Carols and readings in the church followed by a Christmas Lunch in the Centre. Folk at church and in the community avidly knitted angel decorations and around 300 were delivered as a gift to bless the houses around St Peters.

The Praise & Worship evening on the first Saturday of the month has restarted thanks to Coelette Parkes. There are roughly 10-15 people who get together and worship through modern worship songs as well as old hymns

Messy Church continued to meet on the Second Saturday of the month. New family's come each time which is very encouraging and total numbers at the moment are between 50 & 60 (including helpers.) Bingo met monthly under Tracey Taylor's guidance monthly with increasing popularity. Tea & Toast also continued to meet weekly in term time.

Unfortunately during Storm Ciara some tiles came off the roof of the church. These have now been replaced securely and hopefully we should have no further problems there.

Coronavirus loomed just as these reports were being prepared and St Peter's had to close its doors along with all other churches in the land, and worship moved online. A new experience of church to be reported on in the next annual report!

Caroline Turner  
Churchwarden  
October 2020

### **Rota volunteers**

As we all know, volunteers are priceless! St Peter's depends on a large number of volunteers, filling a wide variety of roles- the prayer chain, the coffee people, people opening up the church, people taking Sunday services, welcoming, taking the collection, counting and banking the money, keeping on top of the administration, helping with transport, organising occasional flowers and playing the music, running children's groups, cell groups, prayer groups and Praise and Worship sessions, reading, leading intercessions and helping with the chalice, doing minor repairs, helping set up the laptop and projector for video clips, counting attendance, changing and washing altar linen and communion cloths, dealing with hymn numbers and the noticeboards, gardening, cleaning the brass, arranging prayer stations, taking donated food to the Gateway for the Lord's Larder, serving on committees and as LWA's and LPA's, giving regularly whether in time, money or goods etc etc - all are vital. So- we have rotas!

We would like to thank all the volunteers, the committee members, the church wardens and treasurer, the clergy, and everyone who helps with the smooth running of our church and its outreach, whether their service is visible or behind the scenes and invisible. We would also like to acknowledge and thank those who quietly and faithfully pray for our church and community, and

those who hosted Sunday morning services in their homes while the church building was closed last year for building work.

More volunteers are always needed, particularly at the moment for opening up the church, preparing for services and putting things away afterwards, and for the coffee rota. We would also be pleased if anyone would like to arrange flowers occasionally. If you think you could help please let me or the church wardens know. Thank you all.

Kristi Baker

### **St Peter's Community Centre**

Demolition of the old hall started on 21 st January. The keys to the new Community Centre were handed over 11th September. Despite the snow, winds and Rain, it was delivered on time and within budget. The builders Hammonds, architects Boon Brown and all the other specialists did a fantastic job. We now have the best, warmest, environmentally sound, Community Centre in the area; the toilets are a real joy; my kitchen is just superb. What else can I say?

Ian Croxford

### **Fabric Report - St Peter's Church and Community Centre**

What an exciting year we have had!

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Because of all the work carried out for the Community Centre, the Church Building has had to undergo some major work.

The windows on the west side have been bricked up for the new hall. The Vestry door has been bricked up and a new door to the Community Centre cut at the back. The lower glass panels on the South Wall have been fire protected. As the ceiling of the church was not fireproof, we had to have it taken down and replaced and smoke detectors and alarms installed because of the new build. It enabled the roof structure to be properly examined. It wasn't strong enough to support the weight of the Community Centre roof and had to be strengthened. It was also found that previous tie bars had been removed and as a result the church walls were bulging badly. So, we urgently had to put the new tie bars in place, and we decided to put proper insulation in the roof at the same time. The church roof is not as well insulated as the Community centre, but still better than most homes.

We also had the cavity walls on the East and North walls insulated at the same time, and the last bits of asbestos removed. We had hoped to have the Gas meter moved outside, but Wales and West utilities wanted too much money and couldn't do the work in time, so we have left it where it is. Unfortunately, in order to comply with the 2018 Gas regulations, the meter has to be housed in a new sealed cupboard which is vented to the outside, and the old gas pipes had to be replaced. This meant that the gas heater at the back had to be removed and we are now down to 1onegas heater. There is new piping to feed a new radiator-based system from the Community Centre boiler and this

will be installed in 2020 when we've raised the money. The last remaining 30-year-old heater will be retired after a long and faithful service.

The church has also had a full paint of the walls and ceiling. All the main church lights are energy efficient LEDs and the switches have been rationalised.

Ian Croxford

### **Monday Community Coffee**

Coffee morning is going from strength to strength and we managed to keep going through all the demolition and building work with coffee morning in the church, and when that was closed Kristi and Steven Baker very kindly held coffee morning in their home, for which we all very grateful as we could all meet up as our Sunday services were held in various people's homes. Since moving into the new community centre we have had a big increase in numbers and everyone seems to come week after week. We make sure to give everyone a warm welcome and Kristi is doing a wonderful job of opening up the church if someone wants a quiet moment or say a prayer. She also provides mindful colouring books and coloured pens for anyone who would like to this, it is especially appreciated by the five ways people who also come every week. It is obviously a much needed resource for the community and long may it continue. Thank you to all the volunteers who help each week to make it work. I am so grateful for their help.

Jan Burt