

# **Annual Reports for the year ended 31 December 2019**

Presented to the APCM  
on 18 October 2020

Part 2 of 2

Parish Church of  
St Peter and St Paul  
Olney





**Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

Church Street  
Olney  
Bucks  
MK46 4AD

**Rector (from 9 September 2018)**

The Revd Andrew Pritchard-Keens  
The Rectory  
9 Orchard Rise  
Olney  
MK46 5HB

**Treasurer**

Lisa Geary  
c/o Church Office  
Church Street  
Olney  
Bucks  
MK46 4AD

**Principal Bankers**

Barclays Bank plc  
Leicester  
LE87 2BB

**Independent Examiner**

DNG Dove Naish LLP  
Eagle House  
28 Billing Road  
Northampton  
Northamptonshire  
NN1 5AJ

Find the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul on the internet at:

*<http://olney.church>*

Registered with the Charity Commission – Registration No. 1134039.

In friendship together we resolve to worship God,  
serve the community, and share our faith in Jesus Christ.

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## **Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

For the year ended 31 December 2019.

### **Administrative Information**

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul is situated in Church Street, Olney, and is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

*The Church Office, St Peter and St Paul's Church, Church Street, Olney, MK46 4AD.*

Under the terms of Section 3 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate. The PCC received formal confirmation that it was registered with the Charity Commission on 3rd February 2010.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2019 until the date this report was approved:

Rector	The Revd Andrew Pritchard-Keens	(from September 2018)
LLM	Mr Andrew Geary	
Churchwardens	Mr David Phillipson Mrs Susan Bailey	
Assistant Wardens	Mr Malcolm Jones Mr Roger Hull Mr Tim Haskell Mr Haydn Langley Mr Kevin Wiseman	
PCC Secretary	Mrs Pat Pankhurst	
Treasurer	Mrs Lisa Geary	
Representatives on Deanery Synod	Mr Malcolm Jones Mr David Phillipson Mr Richard Colson	(from APCM 2017) (from APCM 2017) (from APCM 2017)
Elected Members	Mrs Coral Bex Mrs Laraine Coney Mr Tim Daily Mrs Sally Gallimore Mrs Judy Gay Mr Tim Haskell Mrs Susan Heron Mrs Victoria Kermeen Mrs Elizabeth Knight Mrs Alison Langley Mr Haydn Langley Mr Brian Lintern Mrs Sarah Page Mr Rod Parker Ms Teresa Riley Mrs Elizabeth Sheaf Mr Kevin Wiseman	(from APCM 2018 to March 2019) (from APCM 2017 to March 2019) (from APCM 2018 to March 2019) (from APCM 2017) (from APCM 2015 to APCM 2019) (from APCM 2019) (from APCM 2018) (from APCM 2015 to APCM 2019) (from APCM 2018) (from APCM 2019) (from APCM 2019) (from APCM 2015) (from APCM 2017) (from APCM 2019) (from APCM 2017 to March 2019) (from APCM 2019) (from APCM 2018)

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Ordained deacons or priests who move on retirement are not eligible to register or stand for election.

Members of the PCC are aware of potential risks both financial and otherwise that might occur either in the Church or in the Church Hall. They have taken appropriate action to control and minimise these risks.

The only committee established by statute is the Standing Committee consisting of the Rector, Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer.

## **Objectives and Activities**

St Peter and St Paul's PCC are representatives of the Church membership who have the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent and the Churchwardens in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. They also have responsibility for the management of the Church Hall.

## **Church Attendance**

Average attendance - this is calculated from the registers of the Church, and includes Church Mice and Harvest services.

<b>Service Attendance</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children*</b>	<b>Total</b>
Average weekly (including Sunday)	62	35	<b>97</b>
Total attendance October 2018	695	394	<b>1089</b>

\*It should be noted there were school services included in this figure.

## **Review of the Year 2019**

The PCC met six times during 2019. This review provides an overview of the most significant activities overseen by the PCC.

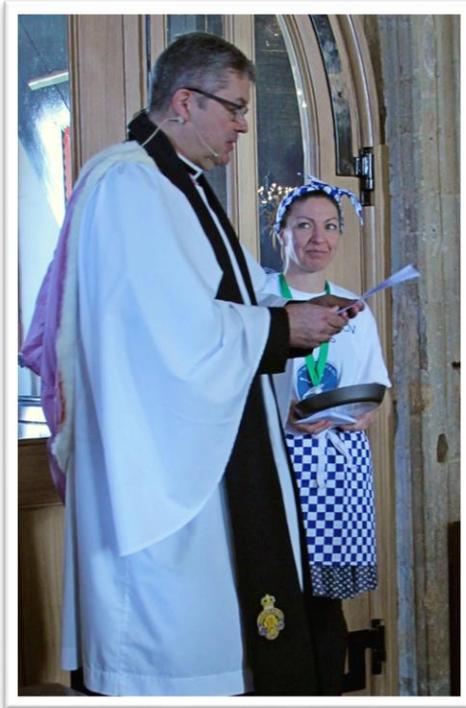
## **Rector's Report**

Dear Family,

In 2019 we reintroduced Mix at Six and it has been a blessing to those that attend and lead. Moment on Monday was deemed to have run its course and so we decided to let it rest for the time being. Church Mice has thrived as has SOULTIME Café where the atmosphere is friendly and welcoming. We have introduced a prayer time at 3.30 before the café opens and that has gone well. The Ministry team now meets after S T Breakfast every 3 months giving us time together to talk and pray for each other.

In January we happily baptized J S Pritchard-Keens, but in Milton Keynes we very sadly lost Dan - a much liked and valued Policeman driving home from Christmas Day / Boxing Day morning duties ....

In February we baptised George, Ezra, Jared and Matthew in an afternoon service and Nathan Rushton and Elizabeth Daley on Sunday 10th March. Sadly in February we had the funeral of Norton Brock RIP - a much loved and respected member of our town. This was clearly visible by the number that came to show their respects and by the colours and ORFC blazers in the Church.



Pancake Tuesday was a great event and a wonderful fundraiser. Our thanks go to the Pancake Committee for all their hard work. We are also grateful for the Baptist and URC support and involvement in the service and hope to include representation from the RC Church next year. The Rector issued two challenges to the Church for Lent. Firstly, to daily pray the Lord's Prayer and ask that God would provide us with all that we need to keep on glorifying Him and to consider giving to charity for each pound in weight the Rector lost. Our prayers went up and the Rector's weight did indeed go down!

Our congratulations go to Ashley and Pat for receiving the highly prestigious Silver Acorn award for their outstanding service to Scouting.

We celebrated 25 years of women priesthood at Easter and it was wonderful to have Thelma preside and Janet preach at our morning service. Well done and thank you ladies!

Sally (Nightingale) Milne's funeral was a very well attended service reflecting the high regard in which Sally was and is held by all and the strength and care of the Olney Community. The Funeral of John Wallace was also a time to remember a learned man who gave much to the Church and the Town. May they both rest in peace and rise in glory. In May we baptized Harriet Alvis, Ace Courtis and Noah Carter and Kyle and Alison Wright were married.

Tess and Lee were married on the 8th June and it was lovely to have the choir present and singing at the wedding. God blessed us with good weather for the set-up, the Cherry Fair and the breakdown of all that is needed for the day. Thanks go to all involved! Armed Forces Day was celebrated by the Mayor of Olney and his guests at the Carlton House Club. The Rector represented the Church and the RBL at the event. In June we also saw Christian and Carla have their marriage blessed in Church and we celebrated our Patronal Day with (amongst other events) a cream tea courtesy of Susan Heron and her team. The weather was good for the Riverfest, as were the refreshments and rides. Thanks to all who gave of their time and bar-skills on the day. The Holiday Bible Club was a great success and appreciated by all.



Very sadly over the summer we lost Ryan Ansell in a road accident; we continue to hold David Phillipson and the rest of Ryan's family in our prayers. Kyle Snow was baptized on a sunny day with a godparent in New Zealand taking part (virtually) in the middle of the night. We also had the funeral for Clifford Campion RIP and the Memorial Service for Christopher Marler RIP.

## **APCM Report covering 2019 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

In the autumn we hosted the celebration of 240 years of the Olney Hymns, the Olney Last Night of the Proms was a great success, the Harvest Lunch was a very enjoyable time, Fun@Four got off to a good start but sadly in Thames Valley we lost another police officer, PC Andrew Harper RIP. Others who we remember are Brian Clemson RIP and Brian Minney RIP. Joe and Rachel Osborne were married, the All Souls service was moving and meaningful as it always is, Church Parade with our youth and the Act of Remembrance in the Market Place were very well attended. As usual we have had many overseas 'pilgrims' come to visit our Church as well as the local schools and beavers.

The Christingle service was well attended as were the school Christmas events. Dickens of a Christmas, our Nativity and Carols by Candlelight were all well attended and greatly appreciated. Our new Christmas Tree Festival was a huge success and all of our other services were much appreciated. We said goodbye to Lee Dunleavy who was our Musical Director for 6 years and we wished him and his family well for the future. Tim and Jenny felt it was time for them to move on and Ron decided that his time in the choir should also come to an end. We are grateful for all that they have contributed to our life together. We have welcomed Richard Heyes as our interim Musical Director until we can advertise for and appoint a new full-time director, and I am thrilled that two new members have since joined the choir.



Towards the end of 2019 we grieved with the families of Betty Barwick RIP, Oliver Bowler RIP, John Sharp RIP and Ken Mynard RIP.

I am so grateful to all who have contributed to our common life and especially to the Standing Committee and PCC who do so much that is seen and even more that is unseen.

Thank you all! Andrew+



*Everyone Together with Janet*

Church Gallery:



## Financial Review

Please see separate report.

## Church and Parish Group Reports

### Planned Giving Report 2019

Ken Noon - Planned Giving Officer

#### Summary of Giving

##### GIFT AID

Weekly Envelopes	(17)	4,422	
Bankers Orders	(61)	<u>26,113</u>	30,535

##### OTHER GIVING

Weekly Envelopes	(1)	11	
Bankers Orders	(6)	1,656	
Direct from Salary	(1)	<u>200</u>	1,867

32,402

##### TAX RECOVERABLE

7,634

40,036

##### ADDITIONAL GIFT AID DONATIONS

Cash Collections		8,000	(Allowable)
Visitor Envelopes	(94)	1,151	
Christmas Cards	(3)	<u>45</u>	9,196

##### TAX RECOVERABLE

2,299

**11,495**

#### We can claim tax of £9,933 for the year

In addition, we commenced the Parish Giving Scheme during the year using the Direct Debit method for donations.

Gift Aid Donations	(33)	14,198	
Other Donations	(3)	630	14,828
Tax Received			<u>3,550</u>
			<b><u>18,378</u></b>

The total tax recoverable will therefore be £13,483 for the year, a valuable help to our church.

### Churchwardens' Report for 2019

As churchwardens for 2019 the two of us work as a team but take responsibilities in different areas as our duties are wide-ranging and often complex. We aim to support our Rector Andrew and the ministry team, as well as ensuring that the Church family with its many congregations, the Church local mission, legal obligations and financial aspects are addressed. We are also wardens of the fabric of the church and church hall; which we aim to keep in good order. As such, it is our privilege to serve and to act in this role here at St Peter and St Paul in Olney.

***Services***

We are grateful, throughout the year, for the support we receive week in week out from our volunteers; thank you to all of you. Although we are required to ensure everything runs smoothly and you can see us checking before main services, to see all is in place, it is the behind the scenes work that pulls everything together for both regular and special services throughout the year. Our office manned by Pat for many years and since 1st July 2019 in Katie's capable hands, is well supported by



Gill and Ruth to ensure the framework of the services is in place. Gill also does our rotas and ensures that our readings, intercessions, sides people to welcome the congregation, sound desk operators, chalice assistants and acolytes are all in place. We welcome new volunteers so please come forward and speak to us if you would like to help.

***Friends***

As a Church, we are aware that a more formal Friends of St Peter and St Paul Church would be a real bonus in the longer term to guide and oversee selected external and fundraising activities. We continue to keep this on our agenda.

***Fabric***

One key aspect of our duties is as custodians of the fabric of the church and church buildings. In addressing this, separate committees exist headed by ourselves, which ensure that we have taken steps to care, maintain, preserve, and insure said fabric. Reports from those committees i.e. Fabric and Church Hall Maintenance, appear separately in this annual report. Other aspects of the fabric are dealt with in accordance with the Quinquennial report, dealing with repair and maintenance in line with the suggested urgent, short term and long-term recommendations. Repairs, alterations, and additions are logged in a logbook. There is also a terrier which contains lists and photographs of all church property, which is smart water marked. Sadly, we have suffered some petty theft from church during 2019 and as a result have had to replace a number of items. Therefore, our major undertaking for 2020, will be to upgrade security. The churchyard itself falls under the care of Milton Keynes

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## **APCM Report covering 2019 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

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Council, who despite our best endeavours, have failed to maintain the churchyard walls to a safe and aesthetically pleasing level.

### ***Budgeted Maintenance Plan***

To ensure that everything from fire extinguisher testing to organ tuning; pest control to boiler maintenance are carried out regularly, we work with and keep under review a number of contractors. This ensures the correct level of care at the right cost.

### ***Buildings and contents insurance***

We continue to work closely with Ecclesiastical Insurance to maintain adequate cover on both the Church and the Church Hall buildings and contents and to rectify any issues highlighted by them during their routine inspection and risk assessment. The Wardens wish to extend their thanks to Rod Parker for his diligence in working with Ecclesiastical on all matters of insurance and Health and Safety.

### ***Church Hall***

The Church Hall continues to be frequently used, both by the Church, as part of our mission, and by the wider community, with the Church Office continuing to receive new expressions of interest from individuals and groups wishing to hire the hall. Olney Nursery is still our main hirer of the hall. This year the various group from SoulTime café, breakfast and memory club, have been enhanced with a Fun at 4 – Messy Church on a Sunday Afternoon.

This year's report would not be complete without mentioning the tireless work carried out by all members of the Warden team, including our Assistant Wardens.

Your Churchwardens:

*David Phillipson and Susan Bailey*

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### **Deanery Synod Report**

*David Phillipson*

The groups of churches across North Bucks belong to Newport Deanery and their respective PCCs appoint members to the Synod. We meet three times per year in different churches with a Lay Chair taking the meetings. There is always time to meet and chat to the others first over teas and coffees. We then have a focus item, for example, the work of soup kitchens or how to raise funds with 100 Clubs. We then move onto talk about issues affecting the whole Deanery such as Parish Share, clergy vacancies and finally ending with prayer and the grace together.

On the Oxford Diocesan Synod David Phillipson continued to represent the Deanery in the House of Laity and was re-elected in October for a further three years.

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### **Health and Safety**

*Rod Parker*  
*Health and Safety Chairman*

This is a brief summary of the work undertaken by the H&S team in conjunction with the Fabric Committee to keep the Church and Church Hall safe and compliant with H&S legal requirements. The tie in with the FC has proved very sensible and efficient making full use of our limited resources. Many thanks to all involved for their commitment and team work. However work is ongoing and further H&S needs have been identified and will be addressed.

*Church*

## **APCM Report covering 2019 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

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The blue movable notice/exhibition boards in the “Welcome Area” identified as unstable, presenting a high risk of injury to users of that area, have been removed reducing risk to zero whilst opening up the space.

The exposed sharp metal clips fixed to the end of the choir stalls next to the Priest’s door have also been removed. The West Door is a main fire exit and has been kept clear of any access restricting items as identified in 2018 survey.

Having said this there is still work to be done in 2020 including addressing the storage issues present and visible, in church, which increase the risk of fire and injury. Consideration also needs to be given to fitting a secure safety door to the foot of the stairs to the office.

### *Church Hall*

The hard wired fire emergency point has now been fitted to the mezzanine floor.

The children’s play group no longer store toys in the kitchen area or use it for cooking purposes.

All fire exits are kept clear of toys and all encumbrances. This also includes the outdoor play area.

Fire extinguishers are also easily seen and accessible.

The loose roof tiles in all areas, but especially the Church Hall porch have been secured and all garden waste is regularly removed.

Going forward, keeping all storage areas in the Church Hall tidy and secure, as with the Church, is an essential requirement, as is the replacement of the emergency door handle on the Emergency Exit Door, out to the garden area. This is difficult to use and could prove a major panic hazard in the event of an emergency.

Finally, it is important that we all keep alert for any problem that we might feel endangers others and bring them to the notice of the Committee. This is especially so when recording any incidents that have caused injury, however slight, or any other incidents. This is not allocating blame but setting out the facts.

### **Fabric Committee**

*Susan Bailey*

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Our Fabric Committee is chaired by myself with members David Phillipson, Brian Lintern, Rod Parker, Tony Evans, Sally Gallimore and André Bandeira, who joined us earlier in the year. In 2019, as we began to focus on upgrading the Welcome and Children’s area of the church, Susan Heron joined us and now adds to the expertise and vision of our committee, as well as offering practical help and advice. The Fabric Committee has met four times in 2019.

During 2019 we have worked on different aspects of the Quinquennial reports (2016-2021) for the Church and Church Hall and these have often linked in with the Health and Safety reports, we have compiled, addressed and reassessed during the year. A couple of major undertakings that addressed both of these aspects were the Welcome area floor and the Church Hall porch roofs. The Welcome area has had spongy wood replaced and gratings installed around the edge, to aid circulation and prevent further rot. We hope that the snails have now moved on to pastures new! The Church Hall Porch Roof, which initially looked as though a few loose tiles needed replacing, turned out to need new rafters, flashing and re-tiling. With some of the woodwork feeling (the roofer said..) as “soft as a pear”. Also at the hall, a corner of the back wall had to be repointed and a new stone inserted; at the

## APCM Report covering 2019 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

same time wire screens were installed across the back loft windows, to prevent birds and rodents entering the roof space and recently new panes of glass put in the front windows. The Church Hall party wall continues to be of concern.

The churchyard walls, which are the responsibility of MKC, have also caused us a problem this year. Despite three attempts to repoint the stonework and numerous emails to MKC, the wall along Church St is still unfinished and not very aesthetically pleasing. This is holding up work on the shed and triangle in the corner of the churchyard. Meanwhile the church guttering has been fixed and although the roof causes concern from time to time, we are for the most part warm and dry.



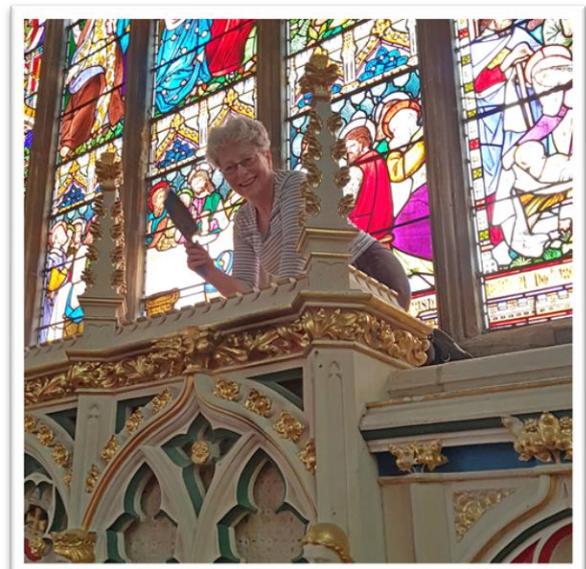
Both the Church and Church Hall have been “Spring” cleaned. The CH mezzanine floor is now less cluttered and more inviting for the YAGs, with easy access to craft materials for all ages. The CH garden is safer and much more user friendly and at church we have a hot water boiler in the vestry. On-going maintenance on both sites continues throughout the year.

With funding from the Co-op and elsewhere, we are now going to address the West end of the Church, so that we can offer a welcoming and comfortable place for all our visitors. Additionally, with the 250 anniversary of Amazing Grace (AMG250) in 2023 and the anticipated arrival of a donated Triptych, depicting John Newton’s life and struggles, we will also be looking to create a dedicated John Newton area. Also in church, The British Legion have requested flag holders for additional flags.

Whilst at the Church Hall, as part of an ongoing quest to highlight SoulTime events, we will be purchasing and displaying new banners and flags.

Finally, we will be upgrading our security in church. We continue to be plagued with petty theft and although we have had a new wall safe and key lock installed, both have been tampered with. Also the British Legion bugles have “disappeared”. The new cameras and alarms will be fitted both externally and internally, and we trust they will be more of a deterrent to would be thieves and keep us and our church safer. For further security and to prevent drafts, a door will also be installed on the stairs leading to the Cowley Room.

You remain our ears and eyes and should you spot something suspicious, or have a worry about health and safety, please let myself or one of the committee know. Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to provide a “warm, comfortable and safe environment to worship God”?



***Summary of work for 2019***

***Church Welcome Area:*** Floor repair and gratings installed. Noticeboards secured

***Church South Doors:*** Osmo treated

***Church Boilers:*** Serviced

***Church Clock:*** Serviced

***Church Security, Alarms and Cowley Room Door:*** Progressing

***Churchyard Noticeboard:*** Updated

***Church Guttering:*** Sections replaced or repaired

***Churchyard:*** Some repointing of Churchyard walls in Church Street by MKDC

***Church and Church Hall Windows:*** Urgent glass repairs carried out

***Spring Clean:*** Carried out for both Church and Church Hall

***Church Hall North and South Porch Roof:*** Refurbished

***Church Hall Rear Wall:*** Repaired and bird guards fitted

***Church Hall Mezzanine:*** Improved and a fire call point installed

***Church Hall Toilets:*** Baby changing unit added in disabled toilet

***Church Hall Kitchen:*** New fly zapper and microwave

***Quinquennial:*** Ongoing work continues (see above and Fabric report)

***Health and Safety:*** Issues from 2019 inspection addressed in both Church and Church Hall

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**Church Hall Management**

*Susan Bailey*

This committee consists of myself, Susan Bailey (Chair for 2019), David Phillipson, Tim Haskell, Gill Parker, Haydn Langley, Pat Pankhurst (now retired from comm), Susan Heron and Sarah Page. It met twice in 2019.

The main business of this committee is to ensure (via the Fabric Committee) that the hall is a safe, clean and well-maintained space for hirers and the church family. The committee also deals with contracts and bookings for the hall and its policies and licenses.

The current users are Church family – SoulTime Memory Club – 1st Friday of month; SoulTime cafe – Every Thursday pm in term time; SoulTime Breakfast – 1st Saturday of the month; YAGS – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in term time, Messy Church 1st Sunday of the month 4pm. Non-Church Hirers are Olney Nursery – Every morning in Term Time and Monday and Weds till 3pm. Zumba – Tuesday evenings. Licenses are Car Park Space and Electric Substation. The committee also ensures regular fire alarm, extinguisher, shutter and boiler checks are made and acted on as necessary. The finances are handled centrally by our treasurer Lisa Geary.

Presently we are, with the Fabric committee, working through the Quinquennial report (2016-2021) This report is the result of an inspection by our architect, who is approved by our Diocesan Advisory Committee, and gives guidance on what needs to be done in order to keep our building in good repair. See Fabric Report for details. We also carry out regular Health and Safety checks and ensure all major issues are dealt with promptly. In addition, we are currently working through a new contract with the nursery, before working our way through our other licenses.

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We would like to see the hall used more often, but at the moment we are unable to offer hirers any kitchen facilities (except hot water) or any equipment. We are going to advertise, more visually, our current activities and we do have a number of outside bookings in the year. This year will be working on ways to make the hall more attractive to hirers and to ensure the space is more widely marketed. If you have any ideas, please get in touch with myself or committee members.

### Music

*Richard Heyes with contributions from  
Laraine Coney, Anne Ball and Haydn Langley*

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#### Choir

The choir was saddened by the resignation of Lee Dunleavy as our Director of Music, his final service being at the end of 2019. Initially coming on a 3-month appointment, he remained for over 5 years and took the choir from strength to strength. He was truly inspirational and a joy to work with. We all learnt so much and developed both musically and in growing confidence. He will be greatly missed by us all.

At the end of 2019, 11 sopranos, 5 altos, 4 tenors and 6 basses sang with the choir, many as regulars and several who no longer live locally but whom we welcome back to sing with us when they return to Olney. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7 until 8:30, with additional rehearsals immediately before services on the 4th Sunday of each month when there is a Choral Evensong at which the choir is able to make a greater musical contribution. New members are always welcome, so please speak to any of the choir members or me if you are interested in coming along to a rehearsal to find out more. It seems only 15 singers of the 26 listed above remain as regular choristers, but I am pleased to report that we have recently welcomed a new alto and a new occasional bass to our ranks.

In addition to two other regular organists and myself, our Organ Scholar continues to play for services and help with leading choir rehearsals as part of his regular training, whilst continuing to sing as a valued member of the tenor section and occasionally directing the choir during services.

Concerts during 2019 included our "Last Night of the Olney Proms" which took place on Saturday 5th October. It was hugely enjoyed by churchgoers and townsfolk alike and raised a significant sum for church funds. The Schubert Mass in G, which was performed in the first part of the concert, was dedicated to the memory of Ian and Linda Joyce who had so generously supported the church and the choir over many years. This was our second successful "Proms Concert" and some people including many choir members hope it may become an annual event, though Lee could prove to be a difficult act to follow after his impressive rendition of much of the orchestral accompaniment on the organ!

A BBC production team spent the morning of 4th November recording the choir singing 'Amazing Grace'. One of our Churchwardens, our Musical Director (Lee) and several members of the choir were interviewed by gospel singer/presenter Mica for the programme which is to be broadcast on BBC4 in Spring 2020 and in which Lenny Henry looks at the "History of Gospel Music".

The choir was delighted to be part of the Christmas Tree Festival, a new venture which took place on 7th and 8th December, and led the singing of familiar Christmas carols from around the piano in an informal celebration on the Saturday evening. We also entered the festival with a splendid purple tree to match our robes, with members making angels from musical manuscript!



#### *Church Band*

The Church Band continues to play at services on the 2nd and 5th Sundays of each month. At full strength we are made up of 1 flute, 2 clarinets, 4 violins, 2 'cellos, 3 trumpets, 1 E flat bass, 2 guitars and 2 keyboards/piano, although this was only achieved at Christmas! We are always on the lookout for new players to supplement our more usual core band, heavily dependent on the Ball family.

#### *Mix at Six*

Music for the Mix at Six now comes via professional musicians! Since we no longer have a Mix band, all music used is by recorded artists. The service is based on contemporary music and appeals to a wide age-range. We play music by artists such as Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman and Rend Collective, with lyrics projected onto a screen. This creates a vibrant and fun atmosphere, and is enjoyed by a varied (though small) congregation. Please come along to the Mix and try something a little different, a little lighter in tone, but still spiritually fulfilling.

#### **Pancake Day Report for 2019**

*David Phillipson*

*Chairman Pancake Race Committee 2019*

Shrove Tuesday (5th March) started bright and clear. This followed the transformation of the Market Place on the Monday, with the erection of the Teflon® sponsored marquee and setting up for the breakfast and other events.

Tuesday's celebrations started at 8am with the Pancake Breakfast cooked by Leslie Waters, ably assisted by David Lugg and a chef from the Cherry Tree. People enjoyed the carefully planned menu together with a glass of Prosecco. From 9am invited guests started to arrive at the offices of the day's main sponsor, Francis Jackson Homes Ltd, for a warm cup of coffee and a briefing on the day's itinerary. At this event the committee presented an award to Rachel W from Olney Middle School who

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had won the Pancake Day Poster Competition organised by FOLIO (the winning picture is used to promote the event through posters and forms the cover of the day's programme.)

By 10am a crowd was gathering, with the chatter of dozens of excited children getting ready for the Children's Races along the north side of the Market Place. Pre-School and Nursery little ones were first to race, finding the whole experience quite daunting. They were followed by Olney Infant Academy in their distinctive aprons and head scarves, and finally Olney Middle School and Ousedale provided very competitive races. The invited guests took turns to start these races with the famous Pancake Bell. The committee extends thanks to these guests, as well as to the teachers and parents for their help in organising this very popular part of the day.

By now the Market Place was buzzing with activity, with the smell of cooking pancakes wafting around. The Great Gappo and Magic Man David Pibworth entertained the crowd. The Church Hall, serving pancakes, teas and cakes, was particularly busy.

Inside the marquee it was also extremely busy. The chefs with Lesley Waters were doing a cooking demonstration, raffle tickets were being sold, programmes distributed, souvenirs, teas and coffees were on sale, and tombola prizes were being won. From 11am the 22 runners for the main race started to assemble.



As the clock neared to 11.45am it was action stations for the closing of the High Street in readiness for our 22 ladies to have photoshoots and for the timing vehicle to get into position. With the course declared clear and safe, the clock reached 11.55am, and the 2019 Pancake Race was ready to start. Church Warden David Phillipson asked the ladies to toss their pancakes, he rang the Pancake Bell in the time-honoured fashion, indicating the time for the ladies to dash to the Church to be in time for the Shricing Service.



The 2019 winner, Amy Butler, was greeted by a large crowd and awarded a kiss from the verges. All the runners were cheered on their way by crowds lining the route. After photo shoots, interviews and a Teflon® presentation by Lesley Waters, all the runners, invited guests and many spectators filed into the Parish Church for the traditional Shricing Service. The service was taken by Andrew, our Rector, who also gave the Shricing Address. A number of the Olney Hymns were sung. At the end of the service the winner was presented with the traditional Olney Hymn Book and the silver platter from Liberal, Kansas. All of the runners were presented with their prizes and goody bags.

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The Liberal video link in the Church Hall at 7.00pm. After all the introductions and pleasantries, it came down to the results of the two races. Amy Butler ran the Olney race in 70 seconds while Maggie Lapinski ran the Liberal race in 5 seconds less. So Liberal were the winners of the International Race for 2019. Following the celebrations, the raffle was drawn and the names of the 17 winners were announced.



It is with the help of so many people, far too many to mention individually, we keep this famous tradition alive. We are indebted to all our sponsors and to all the volunteers on the day, and especially the Pancake Race Committee members who plan the day's events and work tirelessly to make it another great Olney occasion.

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### Dickens of a Christmas

*Pat Pankhurst*

Despite the lack of volunteers to help set up, manning the stalls and clearing away we still managed to raise over £3,000 for the church. Whilst the weather was kind, it was very cold and the brave souls who do the BBQ and Mulled Wine were thankful of a visit inside the hall to get warm.

This year saw a bigger Church Stall selling candles, nativity scene figures, cards, paper, cushions and lots more; its thanks to my father-in-law for all of this that made the stall possible. We as a church need to put our thinking caps on as to what we do for the stall for 2020.

Knitty Stitchers once again had a wonderful display of handmade goods for sale; it's always a chance when setting up to see what is on offer and remember to bring money with you the next day. They bring added income to the pot every year.

Tombola had a decrease in prizes on offer and soon sold out as this is a very popular stall.

Gift stall was well supported and Susan Heron, even though busy with the Christmas Tree Festival, still managed to get volunteers to run the stall.

The cake stall was again well supported by people either wanting to buy cakes or have something with their drink. It is thanks to the members of the church who support this by donating cakes, biscuits etc.

Refreshments were very busy with more requests than ever for 'the full works' when ordering hot chocolate.

Thank you to friends of one of our regular church members who volunteered to man stalls as it would not have been possible to run these without you. To all our regular volunteers who did come forward, thank you once again for supporting this event.

## **Cherry Fair**

*Haydn Langley*

The Cherry Fair Committee, as a sub-committee of the PCC, oversees the organisation and running of this significant fundraising event in the Church's calendar. Under the guidance of Pat Pankhurst, who stepped in to carry the Committee forward in 2014 and to whom we owe a huge vote of thanks for her dedication and management, Cherry Fair 2019 combined great weather with a huge amount of hard work to create an enjoyable, fun day for the people of Olney and the surrounding villages and a successful fundraising result to support the church and the work that we do in the local community. The Cherry Fair Committee gratefully acknowledges the hard work and dedication of its small team of volunteers and is actively encouraging helpers from the wider Olney Community to make Cherry Fair 2020 an even greater success.



Looking forward, Cherry Fair 2020 will take place in the Glebe Field on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June and we are looking for additional helpers to assist with setting up, running and taking down the event. Please speak to Pat Pankhurst, Tim Haskell or Haydn Langley to see how you can get involved.

## **Communications**

*Haydn Langley*

Communications for 2019 has continued along a similar vein to previous years, in the format of printed circulars and sheets, posters, service sheets and social media.

Teresa Riley is gratefully thanked for taking over the editing and compiling of the monthly sheet. Although it is a small production, it still takes a good amount of time pulling together all the information needed, alongside finding suitable inspirational words and images.

Thanks must also go to all the office staff, permanent and helpers, who weekly face the challenge of putting together the weekly sheet, sometimes having to resort to ingenious means to get everything to fit into a small space. We are looking at perhaps changing the format of the sheet back to the old "Pews News" to allow more space. Of course, this may provide another challenge of trying to fill the space if it is a quiet week...

The communication team also looks after the production of posters for events, and many of the flyers that are in the church. In addition, service sheets are checked and printed as and when needed.

Social media is becoming a more important tool for communication to the wider congregation as well as the town. The church website contains generally static information about the church, including services, history, and contact details. The church Facebook page is much more dynamic and reaches a wider audience very quickly. Facebook is therefore a great medium for announcements on church service changes, or reminders on upcoming events. There is a growing number of people linked to the church through Facebook.



A heartfelt thank you to all the unnamed people who help keep the church alive through both printed and online media. It is with your assistance that we can help spread the word of God.

**Schools**

*Revd Andrew Pritchard-Keens*

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I had a good meeting with the Head of Ousedale at the beginning of the year and it is wonderful to have good relationships with all three of the schools in Olney. It was great fun to see all the children lining up for their races on Pancake Day and it is always lovely to be greeted by the children with a hearty "Hello Reverend Andrew". The Infant Academy Easter Bonnet Parade was great fun; there was an impressive display of colour and creativity. 'Easter assemblies' in the Infant Academy and Middle School were well received and it was lovely to welcome some children from our schools to our Easter Services in Church. I thoroughly enjoyed my day when I visited the Life Path event in Elstow and look forward to Life Path coming to Olney. The Infant Academy Assembly in June focussed on the story and meaning of Pentecost. It was an animated affair that involved the youngsters making sounds and doing actions to bring home the message of who the Holy Spirit is. Great fun! More fun came with the schools' sports days; the Rector gave of his very best but only to come a resolute last in his 'Daddies' race'.

*Holidays*

The Holiday Bible Club was a 'well-oiled machine' full of energy, excitement, learning and love. Lots of children from our schools came together with leaders from our local churches to enjoy an impressive 'Christ-centred' week.

*Back to School*

Very quickly it was Harvest and the Academy and Middle School celebrated in good fashion and with great flare. I assisted at the Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) event for local sixth-formers and it was good to see and talk with Ousedale students there. In December a group from the Middle School visited the Church as part of their studies and then it was Christmas; Christingle, assemblies, plays, Nativities and Carol Services. We ended the year with Jesus, exactly as we planned to start 2020.

**Baptisms**

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Baptism enquiries have remained steady and Gill Parker, as Baptism Co-ordinator, has been a blessing, supporting the families who come forward whilst dealing with the various aspects of administration.

The baptism team are a group who have also made a huge difference. They welcome and support the families as they meet for baptism preparation and attend their service, a role in which each of us has a part. Today in our society it is not easy to bring up children with faith, and the families and new Christians really do need our support. Please pray for them, support them, attend the Baptism services, and welcome the families and share in the joy of Christ's growing family.

Thank you to the baptism preparation and administration team. If you feel that you are able to be part of the baptism team, and can help support and nurture our new members and their families, then please contact Gill Parker.

**Weddings**

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The combined numbers of weddings, renewal of vows and marriage blessings have remained fairly static. Yet it is uplifting to see that for many it is the blessing of God which is important, and sharing it with friends in Church. The wedding preparation classes continue to be very popular and a large

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number of our wedding couples have chosen to remain part of the Church family, attending services and events.

Katie, as our Wedding Co-ordinator, continues to be crucial to the smooth running and planning of the weddings. Alongside her is the wonderful wedding preparation team of vergers and organists who work with the ministry team, and as a Church family we are deeply indebted to them. Thanks to all concerned. If you would like to be part of the wedding team, then please contact the office.

### **Funerals**

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Once more we have seen many funerals, several of which were for long-standing members of our Church family. These occasions are always a time of emotion and sadness, yet they provide us a tremendous opportunity to walk with the families and friends who are mourning and to share the gospel of Christ with love and faith. Thank you to the ministry team and our vergers and organists who work so hard to ensure that the families and friends of those who die are cared for and know the love of Christ.

On several occasions we have held small services of thanksgiving for those who have been unable to travel to the services of their friends and families.

### **Charities**

*Lisa Geary*

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The Charity Committee is a PCC supported committee that meets each year to review applications for funding received from members of the church family for charities that they support. Unfortunately during the year the Charity Committee were unable to meet so the Standing Committee reviewed all of the nominated charities in 2020 on behalf of the PCC.

There were six nominated charities, The Olney Newton Link, Church Mission Society, Leprosy Mission, Christian Aid, Advantage Africa and The Children's Society. The nominated charities were assessed, and funding agreed for each of them in accordance with previous PCC practice. For some of the charities the sums of money given by the church here are a very small part of their incomes but for others the money represents a much larger percentage of income and consequently they do appreciate the local support to their work.

There were three proposals put to the PCC by the Standing Committee as to how this funding should be apportioned:

- that the tithing is apportioned based on similar percentage amounts as in previous years
- that those who work primarily in the UK receive a great distribution that those overseas
- that the tithing is apportioned equally regardless as to whether they were based

The PCC voted on each of the proposals and were in majority agreement that the tithing would be distributed to those who work primarily in the UK receiving the greater distribution than those who were based overseas.

It was also agreed that the Standing Committee would undertake this committee's work until this committee is reformed in future years.

**The Bell Ringers**

*Judy Gay*

Along with our usual pattern of ringing on every Sunday morning for the 10 am service and ringing for weddings, we took part in some extra events during the year. The first occasion was when we joined with bell ringers across the world on 18th April to ring for 7 minutes at 7 pm to express our sympathy and solidarity following the devastating fire at Notre Dame in Paris.

The next event was on the May Day bank holiday, 6th May, when our church, as a member of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers, made our bells available for visiting ringers from across the diocese and beyond. This was a fund-raising day for the Diocesan Bell Fund, with ringers paying for the privilege to come and use our bells, and in the space of one hour almost eighty ringers arrived to take part.

Another special occasion was on September 15th when a pilgrimage took place from Central Milton Keynes to Olney to celebrate the 240th anniversary of the publication of Olney Hymns which of course includes Amazing Grace. Some of our ringers went out to the various churches along the way to ring their bells and encourage the walkers on their way, and of course the Olney bells were ringing to welcome the pilgrims when they arrived for their service at 3.30 pm

We were delighted to take part in the inaugural Christmas Tree Festival in December and decorated our tree with numerous little bells – we couldn't possibly have chosen anything more appropriate!

**Knitty Stitches**

*Gill Noon*

Knitty Stitches are the craft group of St Peter and St Paul Church in Olney. Meetings are in the Church on the first and third Thursday each month between 1.00pm and 3.00pm.

The group are very productive and have craft stalls in the Church Hall at Dickens of a Christmas and on Pancake Day, and these have proved very popular. All money raised is given to help the general upkeep of the Church.

During the summer months there is usually a charitable project and this year it is making small teddies for the Cancer Unit at Milton Keynes Hospital. The teddies have proved so popular that the Hospital has requested a copy of the pattern and have now put out an appeal to any Milton Keynes residents who knit to join the production line. The money raised will be used to pay for additional items for patients' comfort in the new Cancer Centre which is being built at the moment.

Some members are also knitting for the Deep-Sea Fishermen making thick scarves and hats to protect them.

Previous years charities have been:

- Trauma Teddies which the Police-Fire-Ambulance crews give to children for comfort during an emergency.
- Twiddle Muffs for people suffering with dementia in M.K. Hospital.
- Emily's Star Boxes of knitted clothes for premature babies.
- Sands Blankets and clothing for stillborn babies.

Anyone is welcome for a chat and cup of tea. You don't have to knit; you can just enjoy the fellowship and friendship.

Yags meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month during term time, 7-9pm in the Church Hall. This group is for Secondary School aged young people. It is a chance to for the youth to meet together to share stories and reflect on Christ and Christianity in the modern world. We discuss topics that are relevant to the youth and often go off on a tangent as they ask questions that sometimes leads to a debate between themselves. We love to play games and eat snacks each week as well.

During the Summer of 2019, it was the last Soul Survivor Camp to be run. Some of us went off to Peterborough for the day. We had great fun in the big worship sessions which happened in the morning and evening. We are very sad that this has now finished and are looking into potential youth camps for the future. Soul Survivor themselves are recommending a few so we may go for a day visit to a couple of them during the summer of 2020.



In September 2019 we started the Youth Alpha course.

This has given us lots of opportunities to discuss the many different topics surrounding Christianity and has been a relaxing way for the youth to be able to speak their minds freely and ask questions without feeling judged or worried. We are in prayer and discussion about the potential of sharing this opportunity into the youth across our community in Olney.



We also love to go out and enjoy time together socially as a group. Each term we have a social event. This year we have been bowling and been out for a yummy Christmas meal at Spice Garden.

We have a great team that work together to lead Yags who share a passion for sharing the love of Christ with the young people. We would welcome new leaders to the team, if you are interested please contact Rebecca Rushton or Will Trevitt.

**Church Mice**

*Susan Heron*

**Where and When:** Thursdays at 10.30am – 11.30am in the Church for children under 5 and their parents or carers.

Church Mice continues to thrive; on average 30 children and 36 adults each week in term time. We also meet in half term week which allows school age ex-mice to come back for the day! This is followed by a vegan/vegetarian soup lunch which is very popular and funded by weekly donations.

We have a great team of helpers to set up, man the door and craft stations, serve drinks, set up, pack away and vacuum afterwards! The session runs from 10.30 to 11.30, followed by a soup lunch.

**Sunday Club**

*Susan Heron*

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**Where and When:** Sundays during the 10.00am service, except 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (family service).

On average we have 6 to 8 young people from 3 to 11 years of age, each week. This is quite a wide age range but with a variety of activities this works very well, and it is lovely to see the older ones helping the younger. We go up to the Cowley Room at the end of the first hymn, come down for the peace and rejoin the rest of the congregation for communion.

Both groups follow a program based on the church lectionary; take part in Church social events and help with Cherry Fair, Holiday Bible Club, Dickens of a Christmas and The Christmas Tree Festival. Some of the older children and parents have been particularly helpful with our new Fun@4 service.

**Tea and Talk**

*Susan Heron*

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**Where and When:** Clifton Court Lounge on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm.

We meet for fellowship, prayer and refreshments. We are a group of about twenty, aged 40 years and over! We have interesting speakers and a monthly raffle, a Christmas party and a Harvest Lunch.

Last year we enjoyed, amongst other things, a talk on the work of Community First Responders, sampled the traditional food from Eastern European countries and heard a little of their history and had a wonderful demonstration on cake decorating.

New members are always welcome!

**Listening Ear**

*Revd Thelma Shacklady*

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The 'Listening Ear' has been in operation for a number of years. Each week, after the 10.00am Service, one of the team, trained in listening skills, is seated in the chancel, near the altar rail, available for anyone who wishes to share a problem, something which is causing pain or making them feel isolated and helpless. Sometimes it is a request for prayer which brings a member of the church family to seek a friendly, encouraging face, someone prepared, not to give advice or to criticize, but simply to listen, enabling the offloading which can so often bring release.

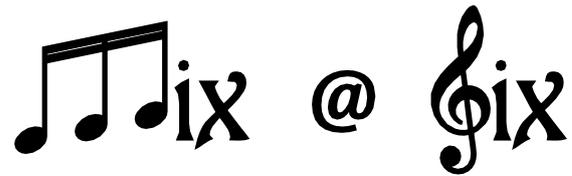
This is a valuable tool in the church's arsenal, and probably needs more publicity, so that new members of the church are made aware of what is available. We all have problems from time to time, and sometimes it helps to share with a sympathetic person who is not part of the problem and who can be objective.

'A problem shared is a problem halved'.

**Preaching Group**

*Haydn Langley*

The Authorised Preachers continue to contribute towards the ministry of the Church, most notably at the Mix at Six services.



Through 2019 several of the Authorised Preachers have continued their contribution to the ministry team by preaching at the Sunday 8.30am and 10am services, as well as some of the festival services.

The 5-year licence to preach expires early in 2020 and the group will be looking to having their authorisations reviewed and renewed. The Preaching Group (as the Authorised Preachers call themselves) are a valuable addition to the Ministry Team, and are gratefully acknowledged for their support.

**The Olney Flower Arrangers**

*Ann Minney*

The Olney Church Flower Arrangers are a group of ladies who love flowers, and decorating our beautiful Church gives us great pleasure. Unfortunately we are all ladies, but men would be most welcome. We are all ages and range from highly skilled to beginners.

The highlights of last year were preparing flowers for the Easter Cross and arranging flowers for brides at their weddings. We are looking forward to Easter, Weddings and Christmas.

If anyone would like to join our happy band, please contact Ann Minney on 240907. You will be most welcome.



**Christian Aid**

*Sally and Malcolm Jones*

Christian Aid was the first charity to establish a house-to-house collection, and this takes place during Christian Aid Week, the second week of May. Most of our fundraising in Olney takes place during this week and our records of collections go back more than 25 continuous years.



Although house-to-house envelope collecting has declined nationally over the last five years, it is still a significant activity for Christian Aid in Olney and in 2019 raised £1,715.48, only £30 less than the previous year and still a substantial fundraising effort. We are grateful to all our collectors who rise to the challenge and bear witness in this way.

At the 10.00 service at the beginning of Christian Aid Week, Kate Danks spoke on the theme 'we believe in life before birth', focusing on childbirth in Sierra Leone and the support Christian Aid provides. Phil Evans, our regional coordinator, led Mix at Six at the end of the week, following a 'Tea

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and Cakes from around the World' fundraiser which raised £114.50. A further £101 was raised in a church collection during the week. All in all, our activities during Christian Aid Week raised £1,930.98.

The Church Harvest Lunch this Autumn raised another £120 for Christian Aid. Christian Aid is also supported by the Church Tithing and this year £750.00 was donated, giving a fundraising total for the year 2019 of £2,800.98. Thank you to everybody who so generously supported us through collecting, fundraising or donating.

This year's Christian Aid Week runs from 10th to 16th May with the focus on the effects of the climate crisis on water supplies in Kenya. If you would like to find out more you can go to <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week> or contact Sally or Malcolm, who would be pleased to talk about how you can support Christian Aid in Olney.

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### **Children's Society**

*Nicole Colson*

Children's Society is a national charity run by the Church of England. The charity's mission is to support vulnerable children who are dealing with issues of hardship, abuse and neglect. Olney PCC made the generous donation to The Children's Society of £613.78 in 2019.

The Christingle service for 2019, in support of the charity, took place on the 24th November. The service was well supported, with many new families to Olney parish church attending, and £131.25 was raised. I am very grateful to all those who took the time to help prepare and participate in the service. It is proposed a similar format takes place for a Christingle service in 2020.

Money for The Children's Society is also raised by those who kindly hold charity boxes. In 2019, £267.34 was raised through their generosity, an increase from 2018.

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### **SoulTime Programme – Community Mission**

The SoulTime Mission programme continues to be at the heart of our community, in which we serve as Disciples of Christ, joining with others from different churches and agencies to make a positive difference in our community.

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### **SoulTime Café**

*Sue Griffiths*

**Where and When:** Thursdays during school term time, 3.30pm-6.00pm in the Church Hall.

We are into our 7th year and have a committed team of 26 young people working with us, several of whom volunteer as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. We have 6 on our waiting list of new recruits which reflects the need for the opportunity the cafe gives in terms of teamwork and employment related skills.

Their support at the Cherry Fair is particularly appreciated. They enjoyed creating our Christmas tree, for this year's festival, complete with our wooden numbered spoons!

We held our annual award night in July, with parents present, and recognised their individual assets and contributions to this community cafe.

Andrew, Fenella and the children are valued cafe regulars, starting in prayer with the team.

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The cafe has proved a good venue for meetings, for example planning for Fun at 4 or 24 doors at Christmas.

Rebecca Rushton is the face of YAGS at the cafe, which is a great link with Church youth work.

Many adults are involved in the running of the café - around 8 each week, setting up, supervising the students and clearing away. Behind the scenes we are further supported with apron mending and washing, banking the money, deep cleaning, advertising on our Facebook page, etc.

Funding for new equipment has been much appreciated - the blender is a dream for making milkshakes and the new till works well.

We are always pleased to see new or returning customers on Thursdays, in term time, 3.30pm-6.00pm. Please advertise the cafe to your friends and neighbours.

Please let us know if you would like to be involved in the cafe in any way - we would love to welcome you to the team.

As adult volunteers we have enjoyed a couple of lunches at Jane's home which have been a real treat.

Most importantly we have the privilege of facilitating a SoulTime initiative working with secondary aged students.

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### **SoulTime Memory Club**

*Tory Kermeen*

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**Where and When:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, 1.30pm-3.00pm in the Church Hall.

Memory club meets once a month on the first Friday of the month in the Church Hall. The club is open to anyone that would benefit from help with mild to more significant memory loss.

The session lasts for 1½ hours from 1.30-3pm. We initially have tea, coffee and biscuits and a catch up. We often do an activity or activities based around a theme that will help with discussing past events, interests, time in history, or significant events. Alternatively, we may do activities that exercise our memories such as the tray games – where in groups we try and remember everything that was on a tray that we have seen (before being taken away).

We have also held Beetle Drives and Bingo sessions. We try and do most activities in teams or groups as this is a lot more fun!

We had our first speaker at the February session of memory club, with Janet Lawrence giving some really informative advice from Age UK regarding keeping safe, having the right information on us if we have an accident so that our family or friends can be contacted, and ideas regarding Wills etc. We are always open to other speakers who feel that they have something our group would enjoy hearing about.

Alongside these activities we are making memory books, so that participants can add to this information such as who is in their family, their likes and dislikes etc.

We finish the session with chair exercises (i.e. exercises that you can do seated). This gives a good stretch throughout the body. I know at least one participant who has taken to doing these every day at home! We also had a visit from a local ballet teacher who had us all doing some seated ballet at one session (including the men).

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We then round off with a few songs that we sing along to, as singing is so good for the brain. At our December session we were visited by the 24 Days of Advent Choir. We also make sure the group area aware of any new activities, lunches or groups happening, and what may be happening in Olney as well.

We are in the planning stage of trying to do a trip to the Museum gardens with tea as our July session, as we thought this could be a nice change of scene for the group.

Numbers for the group are constantly changing as participants may go into full time care. Some months we have bigger groups than others. However, we do have a group of regulars as well. We have a stable group of helpers, both from this church and also from the catholic church. Sue Levitt, who was the specialist nurse from Cobbs Garden Surgery, has now retired. However, we are hoping that she will be able to volunteer at the group when she has time.

We always welcome new members of the group and anyone is encouraged to come and try it out for a session and see what they think. Also, if anyone would like to support the group, we always welcome anyone trying it out to see if this is something that they would like to be involved with.

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### **SoulTime Breakfast**

*Ruth Ayling*

**Where and When:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, 8.00am-10.00am in the Church Hall.

This venture is very well supported with regulars attending month after month. Despite being a non-profit event, we still manage to cover costs every month and make a little bit extra. Usually we serve about 30 people between the hours of 8:30 and 10:00, some months are better than others. Currently we have a rota of cooks and helpers which means each pair only has to be involved every 3rd month. Unfortunately, we have just lost a cook and so are looking for another person to jump on board. In fact, to get the extra cook and possibly a fourth pair of cooks would mean only helping every 4th month. It is a worthwhile venture and everyone who attends speaks highly of it, whether they are church goers or not. I would like to remind everyone that anyone can come, and the breakfast is free. We also cater for Gluten Free people and other allergies. We only ask for donations where people can manage.

A BIG thank you to those that are involved, you are stars.

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### **SoulTime Christmas Lunches**

*Pat Pankhurst, Naomi Brock*

In 2019 we had a change of venue and also organisers. Tanya Noble who started the Christmas Appeal five years ago had been seriously ill at the start of the year and had to re-think her future and her career. Being unable to work due to recovering, she moved out of Olney and moved to Cornwall.

Pat and Naomi from Olney is Kind now took over the reins and brought everything together. Clifton Court offered the use of their lounge/eating area as well as their kitchen for the Christmas Day lunch and it was agreed to move everything for 2019.

Christmas Eve saw people prepping the vegetables once again and we are so grateful for the volunteers who turn up to do this, some are regulars and have been coming for a number of years all are welcome.

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Presents were wrapped and we also delivered a food parcel and gifts for a family, one of the Parish Churches retired clergy accompanied the delivery driver. Many food parcels and presents had been delivered prior to Christmas Day to those in regular receipt of food parcels etc.

We had 42 people sit down for Christmas Day lunch in Clifton Court. Most of these attend the weekly lunches, but there were also others who lived in Olney including children so a mixture of all ages. The Rector of the Parish Church visited to talk to everyone on his way home from one of his many services over Christmas.

We are so grateful to those in our community who each year donate money which enables us to do this meal on Christmas Day. To the local suppliers who donate or provide the meat, vegetables, cheese, bread and also this year the trifle (who knew that she had other talents) it all went down very well. Thank you also to those who supplied the extras, Christmas cake, mince pies, Christmas puddings and the selection boxes and many other items. You all know who you are.

Finally, to our wonderful volunteers, without you this event would not be possible, some just stay for a couple of hours, but others stay for the duration, whatever you do we are so grateful.

Olney, a big thank you for supporting our sixth Christmas Day lunch without you this would not be possible.

If anyone wants to know more or get involved, please contact us.

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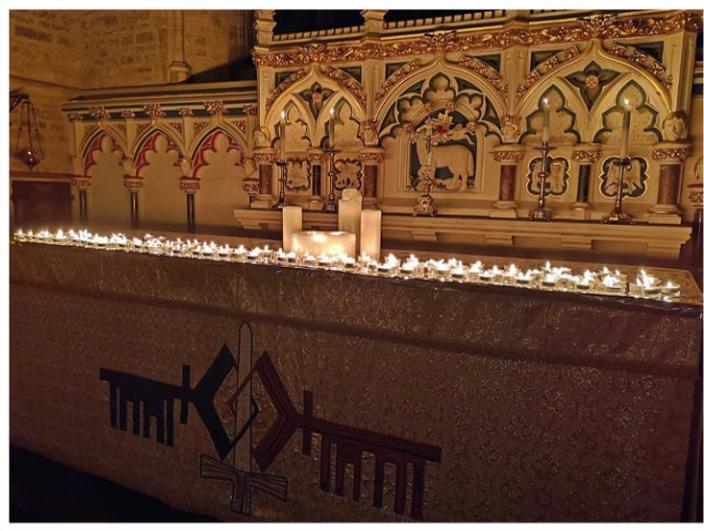
### **Safeguarding**

*Richard Colson*

Well another year has passed and the safeguarding procedures here at the church in Olney are working well. There was some increased activity in applying for new DBS certificates for all the PCC members in 2019. This was because of a change in guidance from Church House in Oxford around PCC trustees and the role they play in officially appointing voluntary and non-voluntary workers within the church. This was undertaken promptly by the PCC members without any delay. We will undergo the same process again in April 2020 with any new PCC members. We have a good working relationship with our approved DBS provider and if there are any queries about why we are requesting a particular DBS a quick 'phone call normally resolves matters to everyone's satisfaction.

Whilst there have been no concerns raised within the church here in Olney about Safeguarding it would be remiss not to mention the events that have taken place around the wider church. We do remain ever vigilant and take advice when necessary from Diocese, statutory and non-statutory bodies when necessary. Obviously, these can touch on very sensitive matters but please be assured that all information and actions are dealt with in a sensitive and discreet fashion in order to "protect all God's Children".

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## APPENDIX

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parishioners

On Sunday 28 April 2019 in Church at 11.00am.

1. **Opening Prayers** were led by Revd Andrew Pritchard-Keens.
2. **Welcome.** Revd Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting.
3. **Attendance and Apologies for Absence.** There were 52 members of the parish present.  
Apologies were received from:  
Sally Gallimore, Pat Pankhurst, Laraine Coney, Jo Lais, Tim & Jenny Daily and Peter Harrison.
4. **Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 29 April 2018.** The minutes, having been circulated before the meeting, were proposed by Haydn Langley and seconded by Basil Margrave. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed.
5. **Election of Churchwardens.** Nominations for the following people were carried: David Phillipson and Susan Bailey. Susan is staying for one more year which will make a total of 6 years and David will have served 4 years. Andrew thanked them for their hard work.
6. **Recognition of Assistant Wardens.** Tim Haskell, Haydn Langley, Kevin Wiseman, Malcolm Jones and Roger Hull. Andrew thanked them all for their contribution.
7. **Appointment of Tellers.** David Phillipson, Susan Bailey and Kevin Wiseman were appointed unanimously.

## Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 29 April 2019

1. **To approve the Minutes of the APCM Meeting held on 29 April 2018.** The minutes, having been circulated before the meeting, were proposed by Haydn Langley and seconded by Tim Haskell. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the EAPCM held on 21 October 2018.** The minutes, having been circulated before the meeting, were proposed by Tim Haskell and seconded by Andrew Geary. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising.** None.
4. **Electoral Roll Officers Verbal Report.** Ann Thomas reported that, following a complete revision of the Roll this year, there are now 131 members. Ann announced her resignation and hoped someone would come forward to take this on. Revd Andrew thanked her for her hard work over the years.
5. **Annual Report, Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements of The Parochial Church Council.** Lisa Geary, our new Treasurer, explained that she had taken over in September 2018 at a difficult time. She had to work hard to ensure we were compliant with all the statutory regulations, make all the necessary corrections from 2015 and appoint a new Auditor. DNG, were appointed and were chosen as they specialise in church and charity accounts. On reviewing and putting together the accounts for 2018, they noted that several items were incorrectly reported by us since 2015. These required corrections and this has produced a different and detailed set of accounts which cannot be simplified under the current regulations.

The church was left a large unrestricted legacy from a devoted church couple and once probate is completed must be invested wisely. The designated 'Rectors Discretionary Fund' could have tax implications and the new PCC should seek to re-name it. Its purpose is to meet any local needs. Any payments or goods purchased to be decided by a committee and anonymity given to those who benefit from the fund.

Brian Lintern questioned why there was a reduction in income for the Church Hall and highlighted the funding and maintenance costs. The committee to look into this. Susan Bailey stated that one regular customer had been lost and the Nursery contract is due to be renewed. We need to advertise availability of the Church Hall more widely to the community though catering facilities are very restricted. A considerable amount of voluntary work has been done to keep the costs down and Susan thanked all those volunteers. Susan is now chairperson of the Hall committee. Lisa Geary stated that it should also be acknowledged that we own the Hall and the church use it free of charge. Lisa then thanked all those who have assisted her through the year.

Andrew Geary said that with another legacy to come the PCC should have a legacy policy. He also stated that our deficit was caused by the Parish Share which we give priority to, but many other churches don't. Revd Andrew replied that he has spoken with the Archdeacon about Legacies. We will get advice from the Diocese and for a fee of between £3-400 will obtain a legal document regarding legacies. He also stated that our parish share, which is very high, goes towards clergy salaries and running costs of the Diocese.

Revd Andrew highlighted the benefit of the new giving scheme which reduces our bank charges.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Malcolm Jones and seconded by David Phillipson, agreed unanimously. Revd Andrew thanked Lisa for all her hard work.

**Annual Reports.** Haydn Langley said that the attendance figures quoted are incorrect as Church Mice should be included in the figure. Susan Bailey said it is a snapshot taken from the October figures, as Church Mice meet during the week, they are not put in the service register. This will be included in future.

Teresa Riley pointed out that four PCC members had resigned and therefore did not approve the report (see page 3). This will be suitably amended.

First page of the Annual Report incorrectly shows the previous Independent Examiner. This will be amended to DNG in line with the Accounts Report which is correct.

Subject to the above amendments the Annual Report was proposed by Rod Parker and seconded by Haydn Langley. There were two abstentions.

6. **Reports – Churchwardens, Deanery Synod, Church and Parish Groups.**

Music report. Teresa Riley thought it should be noted that the Olney Proms concert raised £916.00.

Church Hall. Thelma Shacklady pointed out that the SoulTime cafe achieved the 5-star hygiene rating, not the kitchen.

7. **Election of PCC Members.** There were 7 vacancies on the PCC and 6 nominations received. This last vacancy can be filled at a later date if anyone comes forward. David Phillipson said that Tori Kermeen and Judy Gay had stayed for an extra year and thanked them for their 4 years on the PCC.

The following had been proposed and seconded:

Haydn Langley, Rod Parker, Brian Lintern, Alison Langley, Tim Haskell and Liz Sheaf.

No elections required in accordance with Church Representation Rules. Unanimously approved. Revd Andrew thanked all past and present members and said a prayer for the new PCC.

8. **Deanery Synod representatives.** Elections not required as members were elected last year for 3 years.

9. **Appointment of Sidespeople.** A list of those persons prepared to serve was read out by Revd Andrew. Proposed by Lisa Geary and seconded by Susan Bailey. Carried unanimously.

10. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.** Lisa Geary proposed that DNG Dove Nash be re-appointed. Unanimously agreed.

11. **Rector's Report.** Revd Andrew said that as he had only been in post from September his report would be short and a personal one. He thanked everyone for their warm welcome, help and patience in settling him in. He has visited all the church groups and is usually available on a Thursday at SoulTime cafe to chat with people. He was very pleased to receive a kneeler from the Knitty Stitches. Ecumenical links with the other churches are good and he has met with the Elders of the Baptist church, URC and RC. He is also involved with the British Legion and his Police Chaplain duties are usually 3 hours a week visiting and talking with the Police Officers and staff. A very good relationship is developing with all the schools.

The Healing and Compline service has been well received and more are planned, he would welcome any comments on this. Timings of the other evening services are to be considered.

12. **Any Other Business and Date of the next APCM.** If anyone has been missed from the electoral roll Ann Thomas said they can join after 6 weeks. Forms are available. Also, thanks to her husband Stuart for his part in compiling the electoral roll. Teamwork is very important in our church and she also wanted to express thanks to Ken Noon for his hard work on the Planned Giving and to Gill, his wife, for her support.

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## **APCM Report covering 2019 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

Susan Bailey thanked David for dealing with all the legal issues and paperwork during the interregnum and to all for smooth running of the church. Revd Andrew thanked both wardens for their hard work and support.

Thelma Shacklady asked when the new Rectors name would be put on the boards. Susan confirmed this was on the list of jobs to be done.

Andrew Geary thanked all who had seen our church through the interregnum. He also said the tension going on in the background was not helpful. It is better to talk face to face, or in a small group, not about people but to people. Revd Andrew said he is always available to listen.

The date of the next APCM meeting will be 19th April 2020.

13. **Closing Prayers** were led by Revd Andrew Pritchard-Keens.

