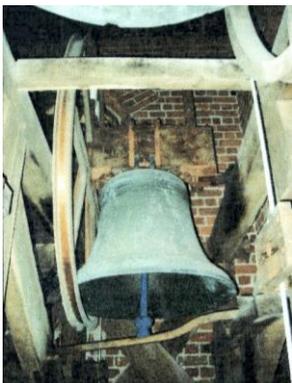


## Other reports

### Bellringing

#### **St Margaret's bellringers - Richard Bisgrove, Tower Captain**



St Margaret's bellringers meet every Thursday, 7:30-9pm, to practise with help from experienced ringers from other towers. We ring for Sunday and other services and for special occasions including weddings. On the social side we call in at a pub after practices, have an annual dinner and share outings to other towers with the ringers at St Peter, Caversham.

We can usually muster seven or eight ringers (four of whom also ring at St. Peter) for our six bells on Sundays but if any two are away we have to resort to ringing on five or even four bells so any new ringers would be very welcome.

#### **St Peter's bellringers - Doug Beaumont, Tower Captain**

The usual programme of ringing has taken place, for the 9.30am service on Sundays and practice on Tuesdays.

Other services we have rung for have been Ascension Day on 5 May, the St Peter's Day service on 3 July, and a half-muffled quarter peal was rung for the service on Good Friday, 25 March. We also rang for the usual services at Christmas, and rang the New Year in.

A quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung on St George's Day, Sat. 23 April, in memory of Julie Champion.

We rang before the Caversham Churches Fete on 9 July.

There were 3 visits to the belfry by young people during the year: by the St Peter's Beavers on 11 May, by St Andrew's Cubs on 16 May and by St Peter's Cubs on 26 November. All very lively and interested audiences.

The band enjoyed an outing to West London on 13 August, which Monica Trow (a former ringer in Reading) kindly organised. Towers visited were Chiswick, Mortlake, Fulham, Putney and Barnes

During the year, we have been joined by Simone Pharoah-Metcalf, and Ythamar her daughter as a learner. Later in the year, Matthew Anderton and his daughter Saffron joined us to learn to ring.

### Children's Work

#### **St Margaret's Junior Church – Anne Taylor**

St Margaret's Junior Church is held once a month, outside in the churchyard when possible but in our small Bell Tower when the weather is too cold or wet. For the past year we've dropped slightly in numbers and have an average of two children. Despite the small numbers we have a fun time, starting with praying for anything requested by those present, then a short bible story followed by games and craft activities which they are always proud to present to the rest of the congregation at the end of the service.

#### **St Peter's Sunday Club – Judy King**

St Peter's Sunday Club runs three Sundays out of four throughout the year (except during choir holidays). Activities usually relate to the Gospel or events in the church calendar; often there will be two different types of activities to cater for different age groups. Activities are usually craft-based, but the children also enjoyed cooking and drama sessions this year

For the second year running, the Sunday Club performed a nativity play this Advent. The children really enjoyed this and would like to do more performances in the future. Also over the Christmas period, the Sunday Club prepared the Christingles for the two services (with a little help) and ran two stalls in the Christmas fair

The Sunday Club also were involved in running the Kids stall at the summer fair

The number of children attending Sunday Club this year has expanded greatly, with often around 20 children attending each week, aged between 18 months and 12 years old. The expansion is largely due to the growth in the number of children in the junior choir but there are other children who regularly attend who are not connected to the choir. The growth in numbers has meant that it was no longer possible to hold the club in the clergy vestry and in recent weeks, we have been experimenting with using both the clergy vestry and the Vanderstegen Chapel for the Sunday Club activities. Screens to reduce the noise-level have been installed in the Vanderstegen Chapel; we are still assessing whether these are making a difference.

In the coming year, the focus will be on continuing to investigate options for housing the Sunday Club and expanding the volunteers involved in children's activities (in whatever capacity)

### **St John's Sunday Club – Georgina Laverick**

Children's work at St John's has struggled in the last year or so. Having said that we have a really great core of volunteers who are working on a vision for how we develop our work within and beyond St John's. We have recently improved the children's area within church, to make it look more modern and appealing and the Sunday club facilities have also improved over the year. Therefore, the foundations are being put in place to take our work forward.

### **Church House - Nigel Smith, Chairman, Church House Leadership Team**



In 2016 we were at last in a position to go to tender for the major plan to build a 2-storey extension at the back of the building. This will provide more amenities and improved toilet facilities. Towards the end of the year a contractor was selected and funding for the project was agreed by PCC. (All funds will come from Church House itself, but it was necessary to gain PCC approval to use them for this purpose.) The project now has a definite start date of May 2017.

With a full complement of tenants, Church House remains in a very sound position financially. Hall bookings also remain healthy.

2016 saw the regular release of Church House funds in welcome grants to Parish projects, such as REInspired, Fresh Expressions and the St Peter's choir.

I am grateful to the Committee – Matthew Coome, Michael Crosbie, Sylvia Harris, Mary Tucker – and to Alex and Caroline in the parish office, all of whom contribute to ensure the smooth operation of Church House.

### **Church House Grants – Richard Purkis, Chairman, Church House Grants Committee**

“The children were focused and really enjoyed working in small groups, which were well led by the REInspired crew”: continuing support for this religious education project in our schools, £5,000.

“Behold, I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it”, Is 43:19: cost of recruiting our Transition Minister, £2,100.

“With the deprivation levels on the estate, the parish, with our Methodist partners, is one of the few organisations to invest in this area”: continuing the work with 20+ young people in the Amersham Road Cooking Club, and with the Gosbrook Garden Growers, for Clergy Training and Retreats, £5,898.

“The children are happy and lively. They welcome new members warmly and work very well as a group”: for St Peters junior choir and youth work, £1,200.

“The new vestments are in regular use. Their colour and design have brightened up the church and enhanced our worship”: toward the cost of new vestments for St Peters, £697.

“The church has felt noticeably warmer than in the past. This has been welcomed and seen as a great success by the congregation”: for St Margarets new pew heating, £11,136.

In all the grants made in 2016 amounted to £22,330, which exhausted the allocated fund.

You can find out how to apply for Church House grants in 2017 on the parish website from where you can download the application form.

### **Fresh Expressions – Sue Jenkins**

Rev Jenny Dowding, Caversham Heights Methodist Minister, currently chairs the Fresh Expressions team, which consists of Anglicans, Methodists and members of Riverside Church. The FXC core team meets monthly to pray and plan, and additional volunteers help run, the monthly Amersham Road Cooking Club (ARCC) sessions which are attended on average by 15 children. ARCC continues to attract new children and families. The club has new equipment and aprons with the ARCC logo funded by CTC.

The Sunday afternoon sessions are themed cooking and craft activities, followed by sharing food together and a “God slot” sharing aspects of the Christian faith and praying together. Drama is also used, for example, to act out the Easter story.

The ARCC team have forged closer links with ARENA and with Sandra Gough of Food4Families and have helped run Social Saturdays providing children’s activities.

### **Health & Safety - Richard Havelock, Health & Safety Coordinator**

The current parish Health & Safety policy, passed by the PCC in December 2014, is a single document which covers all three churches, with references to particular buildings as required. It is on public display in each of the three churches, and it is important that all members of the congregation and other visitors are familiar with its contents, so as to be able to discharge their particular responsibilities.

Also on display in all three churches are posters giving information about (a) first aid, and (b) the precautions necessary for working at height using ladders and other devices.

An annual fire risk assessment is required for each church, and will be undertaken again during 2017.

Two matters of concern have come to my attention this year.

- The first is the use of mineral water (for communion purposes) from partly-emptied bottles opened previously. Water remaining in such a bottle can become contaminated, and so any not used at the time of opening should be discarded.
- The second relates to the use of hot milk in coffee served after church services. Since significant hazards are incurred either in conveying hot milk from the kitchen to the serving area, or maintaining or raising the temperature of such milk at the serving area, it has been decided that only cold milk will now be available.

It is important that any adverse incident with implications for health or safety that does occur is reported in the prescribed way, so that action can be taken to prevent recurrence.

It is recommended that, as a precaution, church stewards are trained regularly in the use of the firefighting equipment provided in each church, evacuation procedures and first aid.

### **Kidmore End School - Joanna Moriarty, Chair of Governors**

Kidmore End School is in process of becoming an academy within the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST).

The move to academy status is a major decision, and one which we have taken for pragmatic reasons, as Oxfordshire County Council has withdrawn most of its school support services. We are consulting with parents and staff to ensure everyone's questions are fully answered, and we expect the process to be complete by the end of the summer term.

ODST is a large Multi-Academy Trust created by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education. We are impressed with the executive team members we have met, and by the Trust's evident commitment to supporting school improvement, especially via local collaboration, by its strong structures and its emphasis on the well-being of all the children in its schools. We feel confident that the new structure will respect our autonomy, and allow our identity as a Church school to flourish, and we feel this is an important new chapter for our school.

We are also delighted to welcome Judith Ryder to the Governing Body, as a Diocesan Board of Education nominee.

### **Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) – Catherine Radcliffe**

In January we received the reading team report compiled from the listening team interviews. This was studied at length and formed the basis of a Saturday morning event in April entitled 'What's God up to here?' This was attended by about 50 people who listened to presentations compiled from the listening interviews and community data. Two questions were considered, firstly 'What might God be calling our church to be and to do in God's mission in our parish?' and secondly 'What's God up to here?' The discussions and ideas that developed were energising and uplifting and a good basis for the future.

In September the PCC, the church leadership and PMC steering teams chose a challenge. Briefly, God has shown us a need among the lonely or isolated people in our community and we aim to walk alongside them, building a community where everybody grows in love. We have formed a new team with the Caversham Methodists whose challenge is very similar to ours who are starting to discern the direction and focus of the challenge.

The steering team attended 3 training weekends through the year and are now discovering ways to promote aspects of Christian fellowship, the caring, sharing things that Jesus urged us to do both within our congregations and our communities. This year is also about giving and receiving hospitality and about noticing where God is at work again both in the church and in the community.

## **Properties - Stewart Bolton**

6 Gosbrook Road: The property is let under a full repairing and insuring commercial lease and is operated as a launderette.

25 Ilkley Road: The property is managed by Walmsley and was let to third party tenants throughout the year. During the year £1,048 was spent on general repairs and maintenance of the house and garden.

51 Galsworthy Drive: The property was let to third party tenants at the beginning of the year but was vacated to enable the Curate and her family to take occupation. £4,509 was spent during the year on repairs, replacements and improvements. Special thanks must be recorded to Nigel Smith who organised the necessary work and the team who helped him spruce up the property prior to its occupation by the Curate and her family.

### **Safeguarding – Christine Bradbury, Safeguarding Officer ([safeguarding@ctmparish.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ctmparish.org.uk))**

A new Safeguarding officer for the Parish was appointed in July 2016.

The Safeguarding policy was reviewed by the PCC and accepted without amendment and is now displayed on the Parish website. In addition, other safeguarding policies have been added, in line with Oxford Diocese advice, and are also displayed on the CTM website.

Each church has a Children's Advocate whose names and photographs are displayed on the noticeboards in each church. Children's Advocates are:

St Peter – Jane Havelock

St John – Sonia Higgs

St Margaret – Peter Stratton.

Caroline Smith is the recruiter and verifier in dealing with Disclosure and Barring Service. (DBS) A thorough audit of ensuring all those who are eligible for DBS checks has been completed with Caroline Smith, as verifier, carrying these out.

The Parish practises safer recruitment, including, but not confined to, DBS checks for all workers (paid and volunteer) with children and vulnerable adults. There is an ongoing development plan to improve compliance and raise awareness of safeguarding issues throughout the year.

Safeguarding is included as an item at each PCC meeting for an update report to be given. There has been no incident reported in relation to safeguarding during 2016.

### **Parish website ([www.ctmparish.org.uk](http://www.ctmparish.org.uk)) – Steve Jenkins**

The parish website has benefitted from further improvement over the year, thanks to the efforts of John Cooke and Chris Fitzsimmons. Information on giving and supporting the mission and ministry of the parish can now be found on a single Giving page alongside a response form to download and complete; the parish calendar, forthcoming events, latest news and who's who are regularly updated, linking our three churches together.

The website plays a central role in the Easter and Christmas publicity campaigns.

Web streaming of St Peter's services has been discontinued due to technical problems. Efforts will be made to create a more successful system.

The more we visit our website, the more it will be seen by others. Setting [www.ctmparish.org.uk](http://www.ctmparish.org.uk) as the home page for your internet browser will register a visit every time you go on the internet and keep you up to date