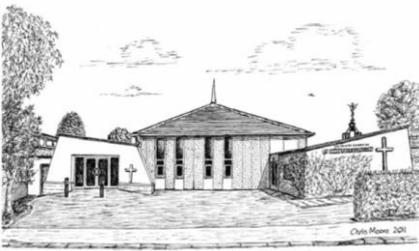


Parish of St John the Evangelist, Mickleover

"No perfect people here: God's love transforming lives"

- Participating in the Churches Together in Mickleover Covenant -
- Partners with All Saints Church as Mickleover Anglicans -



2019 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council St John the Evangelist, Mickleover

Vicar

Revd Canon Peter Walley

Associate Priests

Revd Alun Rowlands, Revd Paul Pritchard

Revd Ian Godlington

Readers

Dawn Perry, Helen Walley

Church Wardens

Brian Seager, Michael Vick

Church website

www.stjohnsmickleover.org.uk

The **Parochial Church Council** (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. It has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar in promoting within the Parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

A list of PCC Members, Officers and Coordinators appears on page 14 of this report.

The **Standing Committee** consists of the Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Vice-Chair, together with those Coordinators who are also PCC members.

Coordinators are appointed by the PCC to head up particular areas of mission on its behalf and meet together bimonthly. They may also convene working groups as appropriate.

Introduction

2019 was another busy year at St John's. We have enjoyed our usual variety of worship, with some challenging talks, and interesting contributions from the children. Towards the end of the year the PCC made the reluctant decision to reduce the number of 8.00am services due to a decreasing congregation and pressures on clergy. Our various church groups (of which there are reports elsewhere) continue to provide a valuable service to different sections of the community, and the defibrillator outside the hall has been collected at least twice as part of 999 calls. We have enjoyed a variety of meals together, and celebrated several "Big 0" birthdays and significant anniversaries. We are grateful to our talented flower arrangers who always give us something beautiful to look at, and we were inspired by the "Spiritual Moments" exhibition. It has been a joy to welcome several new members of God's family through baptism, and some new folk to the congregation. Sadly some of our older members are now too infirm to attend or have gone into residential care, and we had to bid a final farewell to others including Arthur Gibson, Sheila Tester and Di Embleton-Smith.

Planning - Mission Action Plan (MAP)

St Johns has for a number of decades been very active in the process of developing rolling three year plans for the church's outreach and worship. We actually possess a copy of the Annual plan from 1976. In recent years we have called it 'The MAP' standing for 'Mission Action Plan'. Some of you may have wondered what it's all about and how effective it's been. The last plan which we closed at the end of 2018 was reviewed in early 2019 by the PCC; to many people's surprise, we discovered that of the 36 objectives identified 32 were achieved. This ranges from the appointment of a Youth Worker (Jonathan) to increasing the Home Groups from 2 to 6, starting 'New Links' and 'Talking Point' to improving the Sound System and the use of Social Media. So it's not insignificant, as long as it is done with prayer and with the clear purpose of extending God's Kingdom in Mickleover.

In early 2019 we developed a new MAP, which will run for the next three years. It was approved by the PCC following an excellent meeting where the majority of the time was taken in detailed discussion of each area. Each objective was considered in terms of resource implications, priority and ensuring it was in line with Christ's teaching for His church and our mission and vision.

It's strap line remains

'Welcome, no perfect people here, God's love transforming lives'.

There are four sections under the headings:

Discovering the heart of God;

Growing Disciples;

Reaching new generations

Transforming communities.

The objectives range from developing our Sunday services of Morning Praise, Informal Communion and Tea time on Sunday to considering an 'introduction to the Christian church life' for School classes, understanding more about the recipients of our charitable giving and gaining insights on current social issues. Then critically there is the plan for an 'Away Time' for both All Saints and St John's to explore where God is leading us in the future. (This will be held in mid March 2020 at The Hayes, Swanwick.) Another item is to expand a responsible approach to using Social Media to reach the younger people in our community.

Copies of the new MAP were made available for all members of the congregation during July 2019 and it is discussed at each PCC meeting.

We are trusting that through the use of this ongoing planning and review process, covered by prayer, God will continue to show us His will for us and His intentions for this area of His Kingdom here in Mickleover.

Revd Paul Pritchard

Ministry and Worship

Over the last few years, we have focussed in this section of the Annual Report mainly on what happens on Sundays at St John's. We know that prayer, ministry, teaching and sung worship happen all through the week and so this year's report tries to capture a more complete picture of what goes on.

During the **10.00 Sunday Services** we endeavour to vary the liturgy to make it meaningful and thought provoking; this is especially true for the more informal service on the third Sunday of each month. The introduction of the new hymn book 'The Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New' has helped continue our intentions of embracing a wider range of hymns and worship songs. The most popular of the latter are very well accompanied on either the piano or pre-

recorded media. We are very grateful to Wendy and Ray Lee and the choir for their support and ministry, and to Janet Fisher for her piano playing and Stephen Johns for his occasional organ playing.

Owing to long term illness in the Ministry team, the frequency of the **8am said Holy Communion Service** has had to be reduced to twice a month (normally 1st and 3rd Sundays). Since this change, numbers attending have increased which is encouraging. Chairs are placed in a semi-circle in the sanctuary which helps with the feeling of fellowship.

Our **Morning Praise** on the first Sunday of each month has covered several varied themes. We try to match to topics of the period rather than just following the Lectionary and this allows us flexibility in using resources and input from different sources. Themes covered have included: travelling with Jesus and other Christians for Epiphany season; light and devotion at Candlemas; the national prayer initiative 'Thy Kingdom Come' from Ascension to Pentecost; and 'Spiritual moments and places' to support our exhibition on the same topic.

Gently into Easter / Christmas – At Peter's suggestion, Bob and Liz Suckling added a 'Gently into Easter' service during Holy Week which was well received. The 'Gently into Christmas' event was equally well attended and enjoyed and is now a pretty permanent fixture in the church calendar. Many thanks to those who planned and took part in both these events.

Praise and Prayer is now offered six times a year on the second Sunday in February/March, May/June and September/October. Helen Walley usually leads this with support from Peter. Themes have included: 'Wonder' led by Peter and Brian Stanton (in February); 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – reflections on John 6 and 7' (March) led by Helen; 'Songs of Praise – your choice of hymns and readings' in May led by Paul Pritchard; 'Pentecost' (June) led by Helen; Reflections on festivals attended: New Wine and Greenbelt (September). In October the Worship was led by Matt Stanton and his band from North Birmingham, and Deidre Cheetham and Brian Stanton shared reflections of their learning from New Wine about the centrality of the cross and growth in the church. It's been great to have the support of other worship leaders and we aim to continue this where we can to give variety. We start by offering refreshments at 4.00pm, with the worship starting at 4.30pm. Do join us.

Tea Time on Sunday – is now on the third Sunday of the month. The change (introduced in the Summer of 2018) has been welcomed as it means there are fewer clashes with school holidays and festivals. There have been steady numbers attending. A feature is good quality food being served. Our thanks go to all those who cater for this: highlights during the year have included Steve Dewis making tasty home-made soups and sour dough rolls. We are aiming to offer food that has less sugar where possible.

A quiet **Reflective Holy Communion Service** is usually held on the first Sunday of the month at 4.30pm led by Revd Michael Huggett. This gives us an opportunity to reflect together on what the Word of God and the Sacrament of Holy Communion mean to each one of us. To help us do this we sit in a semi-circle in front of the altar. We have times of silence, we sing Taizé chants and quiet hymns, and we reflect together on what the readings say to us. Our Intercessions are a time of free prayer, ending with prayer for the sick and our own needs, and we have the Laying on of Hands for those who desire it. Communicating one another by name gives us a real sense of the Lord's presence among us, and afterwards we retire to the Link for tea and biscuits and a good chat.

Work with local schools continues with Alun being Vice Chair of Governors at **Ravensdale** Infant School and the Infants and Juniors using the church for occasional services such as Harvest and Christmas. Judi Witcomb maintains

excellent contact with them also through things such as Open the Book and arranging competitions for them decorating a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival and even helping out with Christingles. (Jonathan Fowler takes assemblies at Ravensdale and has written separately on his work in local schools etc).

Alun visits the **New Lodge Nursing Home** usually monthly and at other times for special events. The monthly Service of the Word involves hymns, which are sung to our Digital Music box, and prayers. We have settled on using the same bespoke service every time to build on memory for the many dementia afflicted residents. Alun has also been invited in to lead a service to place stars on a Christmas Tree for residents lost during the year and even a Christingle service. He also has the opportunity to go to the rooms of residents who are bedbound, but who the staff know have a Christian background, to say a prayer and give a blessing.

Home communion is regularly taken to a few folk who are unable to attend St John's, either for a short time due to illness or longer periods due to mobility restrictions. If you know of someone who would appreciate this then please do contact Peter, Alun or Paul.

Monday night Home group meets fortnightly in the vestry. This year we have been studying the nature and place of Angels in God's heaven and his world and bravely embarked on a study of the Book of Revelation!

Thursday Home Groups – one is held during the afternoon and another in the evening fortnightly at Cromford Drive. During 2019 we have studied such varied areas as John Ortberg's 'Eternity is now in session', the eight week Bible Society's 'The Bible course' and latterly the first 6 chapters of Paul's letter to the Romans, guided by Revd John Stott's study guide. Each session begins with a time of worship and prayer.

Other Home Groups also meet during the week: at the Vicarage hosted by Helen and Peter (fortnightly on Wednesday evenings), at Dawn and Wayne Perry's home in Wendover Close (on Tuesday evenings) and at Michael and Margaret Huggett's home (day time) throughout the year (*see below*). Both the Vicarage and the Perry's home groups have used the Bible Society's Bible Course during the autumn, which is very good indeed at giving the overview of the whole of Scripture.

Praying with the Bible. This is a way of praying that uses the Bible to become the Word of God to each one of us. We meet fortnightly on Monday mornings. We begin by reading one of the set passages for the day and we share our first thoughts. After that each person studies a related passage and shares that with the group, so that we can discuss what the writer was saying to the people of his time and to us today. After a coffee break we meditate on the Reading, and then share with a partner what it has meant to us, and we end with a brief act of worship which brings everything together. We leave enlivened by our time with the Lord and with one another.

Peter, Alun, Paul and Michael

Youth and Family Work

2019 saw encouraging developments in our work with children and young people. I want to start by thanking everyone who is involved in any way with the work we do whether that be praying, leading, working behind the scenes etc. This only happens because people selflessly give their time to it.

Tea Time on Sunday at St John's continued to grow and flourish, with lots of great craft activities as well as a variety of stories including 'The Good Samaritan' and Jesus healing the Roman centurion's servant. In October, we were able to think about Jesus being the Light of the world and we had a pumpkin carving activity to

help us think about how Jesus scoops out all the things that get in the way of us and Him and puts His light inside of us.

All Saints Messy Church continued to grow in its second year with good attendance, and I continued to go into Mickleover Primary School monthly to do assemblies for both the infants and juniors.

Pathfinders (for 10-13s, school years 5-8 meeting at Mickleover Methodist Church) continued to get stronger as it had been at the end of 2018 which was a real answer to prayer. One member invited a friend of his who has stayed with the group. As with any youth group I lead, Pathfinders continued to be a place where youngsters could have fun together as well as have time to step into the stories of the Bible and think about what they mean to us. We looked at the Prodigal Son, Jesus and Bartimaeus as well as how the church started in Acts and how God can use us all in his amazing story. Towards the end of the year, we did a series on Jacob and how God stayed with him all the time even when he made mistakes. One of the leaders also got the youngsters to write a song about Jesus one week that they engaged really well with.

The Hangout (for 14-18s, school years 9-13) continued to meet at All Saints Centre on alternate Saturdays to Pathfinders. We also looked at Jesus' love for everyone through the Prodigal Son, and how he forgave Peter as well as the early church in Acts. Towards the end of the year the members asked to do a series on Abraham. This gave a great opportunity to again look at how God is faithful always and how he gives us dreams to trust him with.

To finish, I would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers whilst I was signed off work in July and August. It was a huge blessing to know I had the support of all the churches I work for and it was such an answer to prayer to be able to return in September. Thank you again to everyone who supports this work in any way. Please continue to pray over all of this.

Jonathan Fowler (All Saints and St Johns Youth and Family Worker)

Community

Where did 2019 go? There was certainly plenty happening in our Hall, Church and Link which continue to be used by a variety of Community and Church Groups for parties, training, regular get-togethers/meetings and fund-raising events.

At the end of 2019, we said "Goodbye" to Mickleover East Towns Women's Guild who have met monthly in our Hall for 37 years! Many enjoyable evenings have been shared together, but things change and inevitably, from time to time, we must say farewell to old friends. However, we have had several enquiries from other organisations who would love to use our facilities so we shall see what the future holds for us all.

The Hall is in regular use by Bramblebrook Playgroup who offer childcare (including a breakfast club) for up to 30 children daily in term time which is much appreciated by working families. The numbers attending the 3rd Mickleover Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are healthy and their programme now includes a Ranger Unit too.

Our weekly Zumba sessions certainly get the walls reverberating to the beat and help a number of folk keep fit. Our quieter monthly groups now include a "slow yoga" session which has proved popular.

Our Community Link continues to be a warm and friendly regular meeting place for the Internet Café, Café Link and the Friendship Group as well as for those who come for support from Talking Points. We also use it for a variety of committee meetings, discussions at the Book Club, occasional displays and delicious "Lunches in the Link".

St John's Fund-raising events (not only for us but also Charities we support) in 2019 included a variety of concerts by Mickleover Singers, New Derby Opera Company and Derwent Harps. Our two Craft and Table Top Sales, annual Plant Sale and the Advent Fair remain popular with the community and we squeezed in a Charity Auction and FKC fashion sale too!

We are all encouraged to support the work of the Padley Centre and Churches Night Shelter through donations of appropriate food and clothing, and continue to promote both recycling and upcycling of "disposable" items such as non-magnetic metal, pop bottles and, new for 2019, crisp packets and biscuit wrappers.

Sharing the love of God with our community remains high on St John's priority list. Please pray for all who reach out to the community either by running groups who use our facilities, assisting with events that encourage the public to visit or providing practical support to Groups and individuals. We hope it will continue and grow in 2020.

Joy Templer

Environment

Probably the highlight of the year environmentally-speaking was our second Eco Church award. This time, we improved from Bronze to Silver. Well done and thanks to all who helped to get us to this level.

For our Lent activity in 2019 we asked the congregation to suggest ways to either reduce our use of single use plastic, or re-use it in some way. We had a number of suggestions, which appeared in a subsequent edition of *Contact*. For the first time we invited suggestions via posts on the St John's Facebook page.

We also started collecting crisp and biscuit packets for the Umbrella charity, which provides activities for children and young adults up to the age of 30 who have any form of special need. Kim Cooper is taking the collected items to Umbrella, who send them for recycling and get funds for doing so. Kim is also taking used disposable ballpoint pens to Rymans for recycling (not part of the Umbrella initiative). The collection bin is in the porch. It has long been the Eco-Group's aim to have collection points for recycling items not normally taken in the kerbside collections. Thanks to Kim for her help in setting this up.

Alun and I supported an event organised by Stella Collishaw, the Diocesan Community Action Officer, at St Wystan's in Repton for churches in South Derbyshire who were interested in applying for an Eco-Church award. There was a good deal of interest in Eco-Church at the event.

Environmental issues still feature widely in the worship life at St John's. Articles also appear in *Contact*.

Finally, many thanks to the Eco Group and the members of the wider congregation who have supported our environmental journey in many ways in 2019.

Adrian Shore

The PCC

The PCC met six times in 2019. In addition to regular updates on the Church's finances and consideration of all aspects of our day-to-day activities, the following significant matters were dealt with:

- Acceptance of the 2020 Budgets for the Church and Hall;
- Agreement on charitable giving donations, continuing support for Friends of Kenya's Children sustainability project and continuing support for Austin with a commitment to fund him to the end of his college course;
- Regular reports from the Youth and Family Worker;
- Regular reports regarding Safeguarding and Data Protection;

- Agreement to contract the local council to drop the kerbs along the front of the church
- Agreement to submit additional names for approval for Lay Distribution of Holy Communion
- Agreement that the hall floor should be completely resurfaced ahead of schedule following damage by a hirer
- Agreement to offer the 8.00am said communion service on the first and third Sundays only due to reducing numbers in the congregation and pressure on clergy team.
- Agreement to reimburse All Saints for work done by Rebekah for Peter in relation to St John's
- Agreement to purchase new hymn books "Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New" with fewer copies than previously.
- Agreement to purchase new curtains and blinds for the hall

Safeguarding

The people of St John's have a responsibility to safeguard and protect all children, young people and vulnerable adults from any type of abuse.

During 2019 we had no known safeguarding issues. St John's continues to ask members to attend Diocesan training sessions and to obtain a DBS. The intention is to be able to show that members of the congregation take their responsibilities towards safeguarding seriously. We are the face of Christ when somebody enters His Church and a person who is met by us is met by a person they can trust.

GDPR – General Data Protection Regulations

A copy of 'Data Privacy Notice – General Data Protection Regulations', which governs how St John's will use any data that it holds on members, can be obtained from the Electoral Roll Officer. If you have not already done so, we will ask that you fill in one of our GDPR forms. This gives St John's permission to hold and use your personal data, name, address, phone number and email, within St John's only.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll was renewed in 2019 and stood at 88 – 61 female and 27 male, a reduction of 11 from the previous year. In 2020 the Electoral Roll will be revised.

Mickleover Anglicans (MA)

In 2019, the MA Council met on 2 May, 1 July, and 7 October. (The January 2019 meeting was cancelled). Minutes of the meetings were circulated to both PCCs. The MA Council exists to review activities and developments within our benefice and to pray, discuss and suggest opportunities for growing together in Christ, working together in outreach to the community and encouraging the two churches to regularly share worship and fellowship



MA Council Members 2019

The MA Council consists of three congregational members from each of the two churches together with the Vicar. Members of the MA Council are appointed by their churches as representatives and affirmed at the APCM, but there is no formal election process.

Clergy: Canon Peter Walley (Vicar)

All Saints Representatives

Brenda Rigby

Celia Cullen

Dawn Perry

St John's Representatives

June Owen

Judi Witcomb

Joy Templer

Brenda and Celia, June and Judi as Lay Members of this Council have served for a number of years and have indicated that they would like to step down after their respective Annual Meetings. If you would like to take their place and represent your church on this forum, please let Peter know.

MA Events in 2019

In 2019, the two churches came together as follows:

January 18/25 - Services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Praise and Prayer services at St John's (Feb/Mar, May/June, Sept/Oct)

Monthly prayer walks during the summer

April 14 - Palm Sunday Praise @ All Saints

April 15/19 - Services for Holy Week in association with Churches Together

April 28 - Holy Communion @ All Saints

May 30 to June 9 - 'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayers @ 8am at All Saints and Prayer Stations at St John's

June 30 - BBQ lunch on Vicarage lawn (on one of the hottest days of the year!)

August 25 - Holy Communion joint service @ St Johns

November 3 - Holy Communion joint service @ All Saints (for All Saints Day)

December 29 - Holy Communion joint service @ St Johns (for St John the Evangelist)



Churches Together in Mickleover

The Churches Together in Mickleover Committee met four times during the year. At each meeting the Committee received a financial report and a summary of what was ahead for each of the four churches.

The Committee planned for a number of joint activities including:

- preparing advertising for the centre spread of the Mickleover Directory for Easter and Christmas Services;
- supporting Open the Book Teams holding assemblies at Brookfield School and Mickleover Primary School as well as Ravensdale Schools;
- advertising the Women's World Day of Prayer held at St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral on 1 March;
- holding services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Holy Week including the joint walk of witness on Good Friday;
- hosting the York Course entitled 'Daring to see God now' which was held (during the day and the evening in each church in turn) during Lent;
- participating in the Our Mickleover Bunny Hunt, Scarecrow Festival and Christmas Festival where we provided a choir with the support of Newmount Brass Band;

- purchasing and handing out the booklet 'Its your move' to Year 6 leavers at each of the primary schools;
- representing each church by laying wreaths at the Remembrance Parade on Sunday November 10;
- holding the Alternative Christmas Gift Market which was hosted at OLOL on 16 November and raised money for local charities;

Geraldine Galloway stood down from her role as Secretary at the January Meeting. She was given flowers and thanks. Mike Shooter from the Methodist Church is now taking the minutes.

Mickleover Methodist Church welcomed the Revd Gill Sharp as their new Minister. Representatives from each church were invited to take part in her service of welcome on 31 August 2019

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met four times in 2019, the first meeting in January at St Edmunds being an open meeting with Bishop Jan in attendance. She had been invited to return a year after her first meeting with Deanery Synod in 2018 to review how things had developed over the year.

The following are some of the points she highlighted.

- Simplify – where possible
- Do a bit less – but do it well
- People are interested in God – but not in the church.
- Is Sunday morning the best time? What about other times or other days?
- There will not be a return to a Priest in every parish, it is unaffordable.
- We have to be realistic about what we can afford, both as a Deanery, and in our individual parishes.
- Every person in a pew needs to be asking "what is my role?"
- We need to turn around the selection process, asking what kind of clergy do we need.
- Remember we are bad at seeing the future – some years ago it was predicted that Remembrance Day would soon be a thing of the past.

At this meeting there was a brief review of the Deanery Festival of Life held in Mackworth in Sept 2018. There had been some good contacts made, and 38 new Christians as a result of events.

Our next meeting was at St Michael's Alvaston, in May. The main agenda item was looking at a "Vision and Strategy" document that came out of a workshop held in March. The document asked questions such as:-

- "Where do we want the church in Derby to be in ten years' time?"
- "What makes you cheer?"
- "What makes you wince?"
- "Is it good enough?"

There was an acknowledgement that we are getting older and of the need to engage young people. Also a 10 year vision may not be long enough. With a new Bishop, and Simon Taylor leaving as Area Dean, there would be a slight pause as the leadership team re-structures, although it was recognised that we cannot stand still, and progress should be made where possible. There was a lot of emphasis on collaboration across parishes. We each need to identify our own strengths and weaknesses and be able to share our strengths and accept help where we are weak.

Stella Collishaw, Community Action Officer, then gave a presentation "Context for the Common Good". It recognised that Derby is an area of great inequality and

Child poverty. How do we address this as individual churches and as a Synod? Many of the highest paid workers in Derby do not live in the city.

Our third meeting in October was at St Werburgh's school Spondon. There was little to add regarding the Vision and Strategy document while we are without an area Dean and Bishop Libby is still settling in.

The main item was a presentation by Revd Jason Kennedy, Diocesan Missioner, on Church planting. His premise was- "Your church can almost certainly plant a new congregation. All you need are: an authorised leader (not necessarily ordained), 2 or 3 people, a Bible, a communion set, font – and you can borrow some of these – you do not need a building!"

He went on to look at "Inherited church", "Fresh Expressions", "Pioneers", and "Traditional Church Plant".

You might ask Why? Why do we need church plants, etc, when we already have 316 churches in the diocese?

1. Jesus told us to – 'go and make disciples.....'
2. Church is called to do it – declaration of assent of the C of E says: 'which faith the church is called upon to proclaim afresh in every generation'.
3. To reach more people
4. New churches reach new people
5. To develop new leaders
6. For the discipleship of the church

With around 1million people in the diocese each current church would need to accommodate 300+ assuming only 10% attend. Current parish populations vary from as few as 39 to over 18,000 so basically churches are in the wrong place, or in other ways not reaching their people. In fact only 1.7% participate in "Church". YMCA Wilmorton Allotments group was given as an example of a recent church plant.

We heard from Sinfin Moor about a coffee morning with prayer, that was now engaging with previously unchurched people. Then from St Osmund's who had started a "Big Breakfast" once a month, which was regularly attracting 50 plus. Again people who had little contact with church otherwise.

Our final Meeting of 2019 was at St Augustines in November. The meeting was nearly cancelled due to the widespread flooding in Derbyshire. The main item was to have been how we can work with schools to further mission in Derby. It was curtailed owing to Alison Brown being stranded in floods. However we viewed a video about the role of Church schools and academies.

We then had a report from Revd James Durrant on Chaplaincy at the Cathedral school. Currently the school is in temporary premises and rather crowded, so finding a quiet space is challenging. However from September the school should be in its new premises, and the opposite problem of too much space initially may make keeping the sense of community more difficult. He hopes to be able to continue his chaplaincy role, but there could be an issue with funding.

Overall Deanery Synod official business is kept to a minimum, allowing time to explore the issues affecting parishes across the City of Derby, as indicated from the above notes of meetings during 2019. It is good to meet with members of congregations from around the city and share in fellowship together. This year is the start of a new Triennium, and under the new representation rules St John's can have up to 3 Deanery Synod Reps. It would be good to have full representation, so do pray and see if this is something you could do. Judi Witcomb will not be standing again as she has other commitments, and while I am

willing to be re-elected if that is the wish of the congregation, it would be good to have some other people involved. It is genuinely exciting to hear how God is working in different parts of the city, and I would commend this to people as a role.

Ray Lee

Plant and Equipment

The following works have been carried out during the year:

- The new heating controls installed at the beginning of the year have had one or two bugs but these are being corrected.
- The panels beneath the church windows on the Devonshire Drive side were replaced with Upvc boarding.
- LED lamps were fitted in the lights in the church.
- In the summer holiday the Hall floor was sanded and revarnished.
- The curtains on the large Hall windows were replaced.
- The 'dropped kerbs' were extended in front of the vestry, church and hall.
- The main door to the link was repaired after being damaged by the wind.
- An outside water tap was installed next to the boilerhouse door.
- A faulty extractor fan in the toilets was replaced.
- The hedges were cut and gardens maintained.
- The annual inspections of fire extinguishers, portable electric appliances, mains leads, heating boilers and cooker have been carried out.

Michael Vick

As ever all sorts of jobs are carried out behind the scenes and we are very grateful to the Plant and Equipment Team for all their hard work in looking after our premises.

Finance

The financial statements for 2019 have been prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis, and have been independently examined. The increased Common Fund contribution for the year was paid in full, and the PCC has approved the budget for 2020 which includes a further increase

It is pleasing to see that in 2019 our receipts exceeded payments, both for the Church General Fund and the Hall. However this excess is only achieved through our fundraising efforts and donations of various kinds – our planned and regular giving barely meets the costs of running the church. Whilst our fundraising activities are always enjoyable, and generally profitable, the burden of organising and running these events falls on the same few people every time, and this situation cannot continue.

We now receive about a third of our regular giving (and associated Gift Aid) through the Parish Giving Scheme, and I should be happy to offer advice to anyone wishing to transfer to this scheme. Our card reader has had limited use, most notably at the Plant Sale, and we have registered with DONATE to allow donations by text, although to date this has not produced any meaningful results.

We have continued our usual charitable giving (listed elsewhere in this report). We received some donations from concerts held in the church and hall, and we topped these up to £1,000 to support Austin through his second year of college. The PCC has committed up to a further £1,000 in 2020 to enable Austin to finish his course.

'Contact' magazine effectively broke even for the year, but the loss of a number of advertisers, and reluctance to increase the price, means that we can expect a deficit in 2020. Having agreed the value of the magazine the PCC is happy to continue to support it.

2020 is my tenth year as Treasurer. Whilst I have really enjoyed the role, and valued the support I have received, I feel it is time to hand over, and hope that a new volunteer will come forward.

My thanks as ever to the Vicar, Church-wardens, Carol Peach, and Barrie Witcomb for their support throughout the year. *Geraldine Galloway, Treasurer*

St John's Groups

Internet Café

The regular Monday morning Internet Café continues to provide a popular service to its users and has definitely developed a more 'social' aspect in recent times, but demand appears to be dwindling somewhat - nowadays we often have only two or three customers during a session. It is possible that times are changing (Internet Café is now in its eighth year) and today's demographics have reduced the need for the support and encouragement that was so clearly needed in 2012. This supposition is somewhat borne out by the lack of response to a couple of publicity efforts undertaken during 2019. However, the team continues to be enthusiastic about providing the service and it is good to be there when people need us, even if they do now seem to need us less often so, at least for 2020, assuming that the church wishes for us to continue, we see no reason not to keep going. *Paul Gribbin*

Link Café

Cafe Link continues to open on Monday and Friday afternoons each week. It is valued by a small number of people who come regularly, while other people drop in for a specific reason or, perhaps, looking for company. Together with our other daytime activities, it means that the church provides a welcoming presence on most days of the week. Our thanks to all our volunteers. *Ann Haxell*

Friendship Group

2019 has been another really happy and successful year for the Friendship Group.

We have had four new members, three of whom are men. They have integrated very well and this is particularly satisfying as they seem to appreciate the companionship and friendliness of the group. Sadly for us we no longer have Cynthia Farmer in the group, but happily for her she has settled well into a Residential Care Home.

We have had four enjoyable afternoons with the New Links Group. The latest of these was an excellent afternoon tea at the end of November, thoroughly enjoyed by all – china crockery, cream scones and waitresses in fancy aprons.

Our Christmas party was the last event of the year, complete with Christmas food, music, quizzes and bingo – a lovely ending to the year

Let's look forward to a successful and "friendly" 2020. *Dorothy Pickering*

New Links

The New Links team have been organising events for the elderly in our community since October 2016. Since then our mailing list has doubled, names coming from St John's and All Saints contacts, Friendship Group and neighbourhood requests, and we have over 30 people regularly attending events. There is a real sense of meeting up again with new friends, and a great deal of chat and laughter.

We held four social occasions during the year, sending out personal invitations to all on the mailing list. These events were -

- Two Keep Fit sessions, run by Dawn and Wayne Perry,
- A 2-day Holiday at Home experience,
- A "High-Tea" Party.

All were well attended and feed-back has been very positive.

Easter and Christmas cards were also sent out.

We look forward to organising more social occasions in 2020 and we hope to extend our friendship with the Learning Department at Sudbury Hall. They have asked if our group would help to compile "memories" packs to be used when the National Trust officers work off-site with other community groups.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with our events, particularly the team, for making the year so successful. Their enthusiasm, energy and "can do" attitude are inspirational.

Terry Thompson, New Links Co-ordinator

Link Book Club

The Book Club was started in April 2012, and to date members have read and discussed over 60 titles. There are currently 8 members, who meet every 6 weeks or so, on a Wednesday evening, in the Link. Although the chosen title is our starting point for each meeting, we always find ourselves straying into discussing different points of interest connected with the book. Meetings are lively, interesting and full of humour.

A variety of books have been chosen by the group this year: fiction and non-fiction, authors from other cultures, first novels by new authors and recommendations from members and literary circles. We also swap books between ourselves, giving us an opportunity for wider personal reading.

A recent book, "Educated" by Tara Westover, was fascinating and one of the most unusual books we have discussed. It is the memoir of a girl from a fundamentalist Mormon family, growing up in Idaho in the 1980s and 90s. Although the book is worth reading, parts of it are uncomfortable to read and difficult to accept as happening in our times.

Terry Thompson, Coordinator

Talking Point

Talking Point continues to be a success and is very varied, with few clients on some weeks and very busy sessions at other times. We have had a visit from Macmillan Cancer Care and are hoping this will be a regular item in the café area. We would welcome other helpers on the rota, which involves setting up at 8.45am and making teas and coffees throughout the morning. We close just after 12noon and then tidy up and put the tables and chairs away. Thank you to Ray who is my number two and all the other volunteers. This is a really good way of helping our community.

Judi Witcomb

Christian Movement Group

The group continues to go from strength to strength. We currently have 23 members and we meet weekly. We have raised over £2000 for St John's since we started and each session begins and ends with prayer. This is a joint venture with All Saints' and our members are a good mix. It looks set to continue into the future.

Dawn Perry

Traidcraft

Whilst Traidcraft "trading" ceased at the end of 2018 we are grateful to Wendy Lee for continuing to source fairtrade tea, coffee and biscuits for the Link Café, and also for the final donation of £650 to church funds.

2019 at St John's

A photographic record of the year, produced by Colin Haxell, is available at a cost of £5 per copy.

PCC membership for 2019/2020

Ex-officio

Revd Canon Peter Walley
Revd Alun Rowlands
Revd Paul Pritchard

Churchwardens

Brian Seager, Michael Vick

Deanery Synod Reps

Ray Lee, Judi Witcomb

Elected Members

to April 2020: Brian Seager*, Andrew Templer, Michael Vick*

to April 2021: Joy Templer, Dorothy Pickering, *vacancy*

to April 2022: Geraldine Galloway, June Owen, Terry Thompson

**Vacancy for a PCC member since Brian Seager and Michael Vick are Churchwardens*

Officers of the PCC

Chair: Revd Canon Peter Walley
Vice-Chair: Brian Seager
Secretary: Geraldine Galloway
Treasurer: Geraldine Galloway
Asst Treasurer: Carol Peach
Safeguarding: Andrew Templer
Electoral Roll: Andrew Templer

Coordinators for 2019/2020

Worship: ex officio Vicar
Hall users and Community contacts: Joy Templer
Mission, Welcome and Discipleship: Revd Alun Rowlands
Planning: Revd Paul Pritchard
Finance: ex officio the Treasurer
Plant and Equipment: Michael Vick

Sidesmen and Women

8.00 am	Joy Brandrick	Colin Hunt
	Joe Poyser	Joy Templer
10.00 am	Jim Collyer	Adrienne Godley
	Sheila Holliday	Janet Jarrett
	June Owen	Elaine Pritchard
	Pat Rhodes	Pat Seager
	Mavis Stevenson	Bob Suckling
	Eunice Upton	Michael Vick