

The Parish of Tidenham

with Beachley and Lancaut



"where the river flows everything will live"

Annual Report 2019

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TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Legal and Administrative Information

Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

Name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut.

Location: The Parish of Tidenham is located in Gloucestershire in the south part of the Forest of Dean District Council, between the Severn and Wye Rivers and adjacent to Chepstow. It is part of the Deanery of Forest South, within the Church of England Diocese of Gloucester. There are three church buildings:

- St Mary and St Peter, Tidenham Lane, Tidenham. NP16 7JQ
- St Luke's, Coleford Road, Tutshill. NP16 7PT
- St Michael and All Angels, Tidenham Chase. NP16 7JW

Registered charity number: 1158940

Principal address for correspondence: Revd David Treharne, Tidenham Vicarage, Gloucester Road
Tutshill, CHEPSTOW NP16 7DH

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

Ex officio members:

<i>Incumbent</i>	Revd David Treharne	Chair
<i>Curate</i>	Revd Janice Hamilton	
<i>Churchwarden</i>	Mr David Burr	Vice chair
<i>Churchwarden</i>	Miss Nicholette Flatman	Vice chair
<i>Reader</i>	Mrs Fiona Gardiner	
<i>Reader</i>	Mr James Parsons	(from licensing on 5 October 2019)

<i>Elected members:</i>	Mr Ewen Hamilton	Treasurer
	Mrs Nicki Bullivant	Deanery synod representative
	Mrs Margaret Coombs	Deanery synod representative
	Dr Emma Phillips	Deanery synod representative
	Prof Brian Duerden	
	Ms Marilyn Henderson	
	Mr Peter Jones	(from APCM 25 March 2019)
	Mr Colin Lee	
	Mr Roger Martin	
	Mr John Newell	(until APCM 25 March 2019)
	Mr Andrew Palmer	
	Mrs Tanya White	
	Mr Steven Shaw	

Co-opted Mr Iain Gardiner Secretary

Independent examiner: Douglas Elliott LLB, FCA

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, 7 Manor Way, Chepstow, Monmouthshire. NP16 5HZ

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 23rd October 2014. It previously had *excepted charity* status.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Tidenham Parochial Church Council (hereafter the PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England. All PCCs are governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation, called Measures: the Parochial Church Measure (1956) as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended) which were revised in 2011 and completely rewritten in 2019, and which came into effect on 1st January 2020.

Organisational structure

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In Tidenham Parish the membership of the PCC consists of the Vicar, two Churchwardens, two Readers and the Curate, all of whom are ex officio members. In addition, three members of the Deanery Synod and ten ordinary PCC members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) by those members of the congregation who are on the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish. The APCM must be well advertised and held by 30 April each year using a standard agenda. It was held in Tutshill Church on Monday 25 March 2019. Deanery Synod members were elected at the 2017 APCM for a three-year term. PCC members are also elected for a three-year term, with a third of members elected each year. The PCC may co-opt additional non-voting members as necessary.

All those who attend services in the Parish are encouraged to register on the Church Electoral Roll, which is reviewed each year by the PCC prior to the APCM. Every six years a brand new roll is created; and 2019 saw the creation of just such a roll. For more information see the Electoral Roll Review on page 8.

Church members are encouraged to stand for election to the PCC, if they have the appropriate gifts, skills and commitment to contribute to the spiritual life of the parish and the management of the church's affairs. PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met ten times during 2019 with an average attendance of 61%. *Safeguarding and Health & Safety* and *Data Protection* are mandatory topics for the agenda. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees / teams, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees/ teams, which include buildings, finance and charity giving, are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly, to enable the full PCC to discuss and confirm their recommendations. In addition the PCC has authorised certain church members to be responsible for particular areas of church activity, such as health and safety, safeguarding, pastoral visiting, liaison with the adjacent Church of England primary school, visiting families to prepare for baptism, Churches Together and Care Home services. The members of these committees / teams and post holders are reviewed each year at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

Paid Staff

At the start of 2019, the PCC employed two part-time staff: Jane Penny as a lay worker to lead the ministry to children and families across the Parish, and Clare Presley, as administration assistant. At the end of 2018 the PCC decided to employ a Youth Co-Ordinator to cater for the significant number of youth in the parish, and Ethan Richards started work on Monday 7 January 2019.

An ordained pioneer minister is serving her curacy in the parish, carrying out community ministry with a focus on Sedbury, where she serves as Chair of the Committee and Board of Directors and Trustees of Sedbury Space, a not-for-profit community group, made up of local residents who have come together to develop and manage a community space in the middle of the village.

Volunteers

The PCC relies almost entirely on volunteers to carry out its objectives, and we would like to thank all our volunteers who contribute in so many ways to make our church in the Parish of Tidenham the active and vibrant community that it is.

Risk Management

The PCC has a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Church is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against those risks. The Parish engages in activities with children and young people, and comes into contact with vulnerable people in the course of its pastoral ministry.

Safeguarding

The PCC has adopted the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy: '*Promoting a Safer Church*'. It has a Safeguarding Policy for working with Children and Young People, and a separate Safeguarding Policy for working with Vulnerable Adults. These important policies are reviewed, revised and reissued each year, usually at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

No safeguarding incidents were recorded during 2019.

The PCC has longstanding insurance policies with Ecclesiastical Insurance covering both its church buildings and its activities. It uses Ecclesiastical's template documents to create comprehensive Health & Safety Policies. It has a 5-year contract with Chubb to provide and maintain fire extinguishers in its buildings.

Data Protection

The PCC has always taken its responsibilities for data protection very seriously, and believes it complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). No issues were recorded during 2019.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC's **Charitable Objectives** are primarily focused on the advancement of religion for the public benefit. The scope of which is reflected in its **significant activities**: -

- Regular public worship open to all.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- Pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Teaching Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
- Provision of child/youth activities with a Christian ethos.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings.
- Promoting the mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and other special need groups.
- Regular provision of a parish magazine to show community and church ideas and activities
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Grant making is not a primary activity. However, as part of its charitable purpose of promoting the whole mission of the Church, the PCC makes grants to other charitable organisations with complementary activities which help us achieve our purpose.

Public benefit - Church Services

Each Church in the Parish holds a public Christian worship service every Sunday with additional services at times of significance in the Christian calendar and at important times in people's lives e.g. birth, marriage and death. St Luke's Tutshill is open to the public each day for personal prayer, and access to the other churches can be provided on request to the Administration assistant or churchwardens. The churches may be used for community purposes. Local Schools use the Church for regular acts of worship during term time and for other services during the year.

Public benefit - Engaging with the community

Built in to the Parish Vision is a commitment to 'doing relationship well', so there is a strong emphasis on building community and engagement within the Parish.

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The ordained ministers are assisted in pastoral work by a pastoral visiting team. They together provide pastoral care in local hospitals, local care homes and via home visits to the bereaved, sick, elderly and housebound according to their needs. In addition, monthly lunches and coffee mornings offer social activity for senior residents of the parish. Visits are also made to a local care home where two short services are held each month, one of which is a eucharist service; home communion is also delivered to about ten people each month.

With 11 volunteers we continue to staff and run weekly toddler groups for the whole community. *Tutshill Toddlers* meet in the Memorial Hall with an average of 19 children and their grown-ups. *Sedbury Toddlers* meet in Sedbury Village Hall with an average of 15 children and their grown-ups. It has been a privilege and delight to watch these groups develop. The adults have a real sense of ownership and have been instrumental in fundraising and helping the groups to become successful and a valued community resource. We are grateful to God for His blessing in our ministry to families with babies and toddlers.

Various activities are run for children and teenagers to help them explore Christianity in a fun and engaging way. Additional activities and gatherings are available for adults to help them explore the Christian faith.

The Easter Scarecrow trail celebrated its 11th anniversary: many families walk around the parish to try to identify scarecrows made by the local community. This raises money for the church and this year 10% of the proceeds went to the Lily Foundation in memory of a local girl Tirion who died from mitochondrial disease. Tidenham Tower floodlights went green in her memory during Mitochondrial Awareness week in September 2018 and 2019.

During the year Sedbury Space, was licensed for public worship, and in May a monthly *fresh expression of church* was launched there, called *The Well*.

As part of our engagement with the community our Parish Magazine '*The Link*' contains articles on general parish interest and the Christian faith. With a print run of 400 it was produced only 8 times in 2019 as the editor was away for a number of months. Distribution to subscribers and a number of local shops and public places via a band of volunteers.

For the first time we held a dementia friendly carol service in Tutshill church, and as it was a success, we have planned a weekly 'Singing Together' meeting in Tutshill church that started on 5 January 2020.

Authorisation

This Annual Report for 2019 was approved by the PCC and signed by the Revd. David Treharne. It is made available to the general public via the notice boards of each church in the Parish and information on how to obtain one is available on the weekly Parish Notice Sheet prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Electronic and a number of hard copies of the Report are made available.

Revd. David Treharne, Vicar

Financial Review 2019

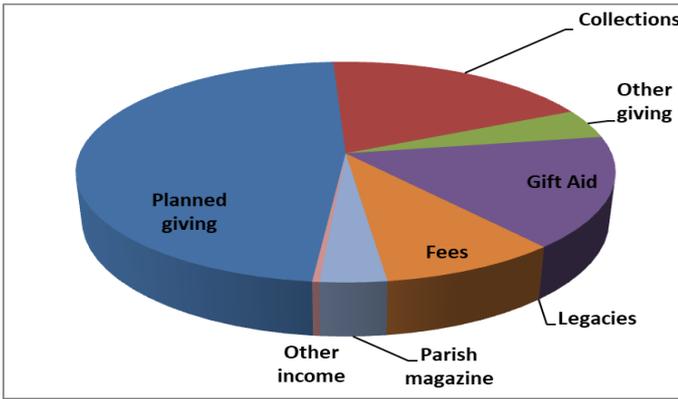


Chart 1: Where the General Fund income came from

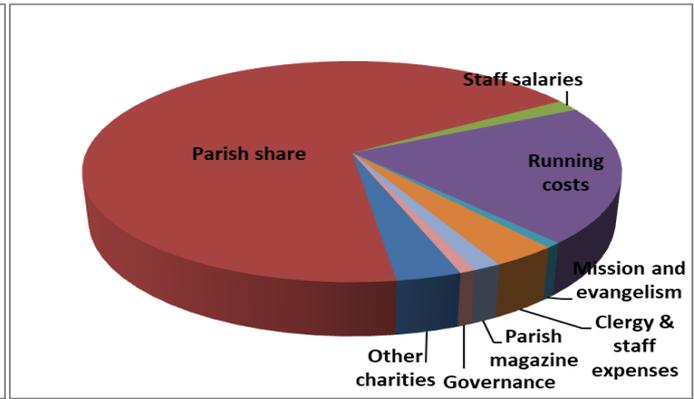


Chart 2: How the General Fund income was spent

During 2019, total receipts (i.e. income) on the General Fund were **£88,549** (2018: £89,491), a 1% decrease year on year. Total General Fund voluntary receipts of £77,119 (2018: £80,124) decreased by 3.8%, but 2018 included a legacy of £5,000, so other General Fund voluntary receipts increased by 2.7%. The amount of planned giving by regular standing orders reduced by 4% to £42,031 (2018: £43,853), although collections and other donations increased to more than offset this fall. After an unusually low year in 2018, fees for weddings and funerals were up 53% to £8,101 (2018: £5,305).

The amount spent from the General Fund to provide Christian ministry in the three churches and throughout the parish was **£88,812** (2018: £81,531), an increase of 9% year on year. Within this is the diocesan parish share, much of which pays indirectly for clergy stipends, pensions, housing and training. The PCC committed to increase its contribution in 2019 by 14% to £60,780 (2018: £53,144) in order to reduce the shortfall between what we pay and the underlying costs to the diocese. Church running costs of £17,956 (2018: £15,068) included utilities: £5,357 (2018: £5,516) and insurance: £3,854 (2018: £3,784).

The net result was that payments out of the General Fund were £263 more than receipts in. However, after the transfer of £278 from restricted funds to contribute to the use of St. Luke's Church for various youth and children's activities, the balance on the General Fund of £35,045 (2018: £35,030) at the end of the year was £15 more than last year, and still in line with the PCC's reserves policy.

The restricted fund made up of grants and other voluntary income to support youth, children and families ministry stood at £41,955 (2018: £23,706) at the year end, thanks to the financial support of donors and particularly grant-making charities, from whom grants of £38,000 were received in the year.

Project to refurbish and develop the interior of St. Luke's Church, Tutshill. After several years' preparation and fund-raising, the PCC considered in early 2019 that it had sufficient funds to go ahead with the first phase of the project to refurbish and develop the interior of St. Luke's Church, Tutshill. This cost £150,351 for building work and gas supply, and a further £20,378 for chairs and amplification equipment, all of which was met from the restricted funds raised for this project, or the funds previously designated to it by the PCC. £26,823 was subsequently claimed back from the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme to cover the VAT paid. At the end of the year the remaining balance of restricted funds available towards the next phase of expenditure was £18,474 (2018: £105,109).

The PCC also paid £18,936 for much-needed new heating at Tidenham Church, which came from funds designated or restricted to maintenance and development of buildings. At the end of the year such funds stood at just £3,463 (2018: £9,309) restricted and £3,335 (2018: £15,000) designated.

Including all restricted and unrestricted funds, the total receipts for the year were £207,346 (2018: £137,239) and total payments were £319,840 (2018: £121,704).

Total cash funds at the year-end were £116,349 (2018: £228,843) held with Lloyds Bank, Monmouthshire Building Society and CBF Church of England deposit funds.

Ewen Hamilton, Treasurer

Electoral Roll Review 2019

The number of people on the church electoral roll of Tidenham Parish as at 31 December 2018 was 197, of which 165 lived in the parish and 32 lived outside the parish.

1. Report to AGM 2019

The Church Representation Rules require each PCC to create a completely new Church Electoral Roll every six years, and this was duly achieved during January and February 2019 in advance of the APCM held on 25 March 2019. Joan Watts passed away in February 2019 before the new roll was created. Thirty-five people on the old roll did not apply to go onto the new roll for various reasons. Seventeen people applied to go onto the roll for the first time.

The PCC reviewed the new roll in March 2019, and a list of all names on the new electoral roll was exhibited on all three church notice boards for 15 days. No errors have been reported.

The following 17 names who were not on the old roll are on the new roll: -

Lisa-Marie Abbott	Paul Abbott	Rachel Barnes
Keli Beamon	Angela Boxall	Brian Boxall
Kanyarat Boxall	Averil Bradford	Jenny Channing
Margaret Francis	Kenneth Jackson	Verity Jackson
Christina O’Gorman	Dilys Poole	Christopher Poyntz
Gillian Poyntz	Marilyn Turner	

At the 2019 APCM on 25 March 2019 there were 178 people on the new church electoral roll of Tidenham Parish, of which 136 live in the parish and 42 live outside the parish.

Iain Gardiner, Church Electoral Roll Officer, 25 March 2019

2. Update to 31 December 2019

The following changes have taken place since the 2019 AGM: -

- One name was added to the church electoral roll: - Dr Toity Deave
- 5 names have been removed from the church electoral roll: -

Gillian Jones passed away in April and Doreen Wootton passed away on Christmas Eve.
The Harris family – Tony, Lydia and Bethan moved away in the autumn

Consequently, at 31 December 2019 there are 175 people on the church electoral roll of Tidenham Parish, of which 134 live in the parish and 41 live outside the parish.

A review of the church electoral roll is due to take place in advance of the Annual Meeting scheduled for 23 March 2020, when a full update of all the changes to the roll since the 2019 AGM will be given.

3. Changes to our worshipping community

Seven people who were part of our parish worshipping community, but who for various reasons were not on the current roll have passed away during 2019:

Todd Callow	Doreen Fryer	Len Langley
Geoff Mead	Anna Nicholas	Judy Stephens
Neville Tyler		

Iain Gardiner, Church Electoral Roll Officer, 21 January 2020

Church Attendance and Statistics

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Electoral Roll	156	162	162	160	163	192	192	193	195	178
Easter Communicants (Parish)	145	131	140	149	186	163	167	179	186	201
Christmas Day Communicants (Parish)	55	26	48	61	66	60	75	68	44	80
Christmas Day Attendance (Parish)	145	128	151	161	191	205	195	183	160	181
Midnight Mass Communicants	75	93	79	71	75	74	71	65	76	80
Midnight Mass Attendance	90	114	88	79	90	80	82	82	83	100
Christmas Eve Family Service Attendance	84	126	125	125	152	140	223	222	192	192
Christingle Service Attendance	N/A	48	77	100	104	81	99	100	114	79
Ash Wednesday Attendance (Parish)	8	16	16	53	32	39	33	34	47	64
Good Friday Attendance (Parish)	74	47	92	97	77	105	114	124	125	89
Av Sunday Attendance all ages(Parish)	103	111	115	131	150	138	129	140	133	121
Av Sunday Attendance (Tidenham)	20	20	22	21	25	26	27	27	26	31
Av Sunday Attendance (Tutshill)	64	73	76	89	108	97	87	96	89	75
Av Sunday Attendance (Chase)	19	18	17	21	15	15	15	17	18	15
Back to Church Sunday attendance	N/A	N/A	N/A	123	186	96	134	141	115	125
Av Sunday attendance <16s (Parish)	7	10	9	12	23	19	17	18	18	20
Weddings	3	4	4	6	6	8	8	1	6	2
Funerals, burials, memorial services	10	18	30	39	30	25	33	25	23	25
Baptisms (& thanksgivings)	2	12	7	9	14	13	3	10	14	12
Confirmations	5	0	3	0	8	2	3	0	0	4
Admittance to Holy Communion	2	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0

Above are a series of statistics that can be used to detect patterns in the life of The Parish of Tidenham. There is often a story behind the figures that needs to be heard and interpreted with discernment. For example, we created a brand new church electoral roll for the 2018 APCM, as required by the Church Representation Rules. Positive changes have occurred over the last few years in the electoral roll figures, the number of baptisms, and in the average attendance at both St Mary & St Peter Tidenham and at St Luke's, Tutshill. Attendance at St Michael & All Angels Chase has held up well despite a number of losses.

David Burr, Churchwarden

CHARITABLE GIVING

Policy

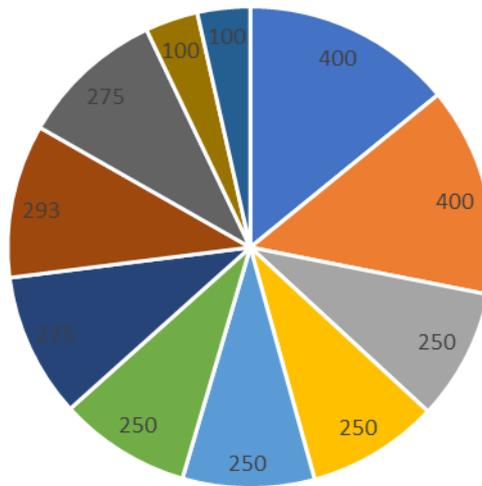
The PCC authorises the Charity Giving Team to make grants totalling 10% of the surplus unrestricted income from the previous year i.e. 2018. There is to be a spread of charity size plus there should be a selection of local, national and international beneficiaries.

Headline The PCC Charity Giving Team allocated £2,843 in 2019. This compares with £3,695 in 2018, £2,815 in 2017, £3,492 in 2016, £3,297 in 2015, £3,122 in 2014 and £1,754 in 2013.

Details The 2019 recipients are similar to those for 2018, but PCC decided to continue making a donation to the specialist international team within The Salvation Army's Anti Trafficking and Modern Slavery department, and to include donation to Riverside Nursery and Tutshill CoE Primary School.

Church Mission Society We support Heather Johnstone from the Church Mission Society. Heather works for CMS in Tanzania and manages the Rehema Project for the Diocese of Mara – an empowerment project aimed at helping the most disadvantaged women and children in Mara. See <https://churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/heather-johnstone> for more information.

TIDENHAM PCC CHARITABLE GIVING 2019 (£2843)



- CMS £400
- TearFund £400
- Salvation Army for Trafficked Children £250
- National Churches Trust £250
- Gloucester Historic Churches £250
- CAP £250
- SARA £275
- Sedbury Space £293
- Woodcroft Christian Centre £275
- Tutshill School £100
- Riverside Nursery £100

Charity Giving Team

Christian Aid

Many people in the parish of Tidenham took part in the Christian Aid 2019 house-to-house collection and the sum raised by the parish was £1400.00. A good number of donations were Gift Aided resulting in more money for Christian Aid. The overall total raised for Christian Aid in 2019 through Churches Together was £2967.00. As ever, Tidenham Parish donated just under 50% of the total amount sent to Christian Aid, Cardiff and the people of Tidenham Parish are to be commended for their great generosity. Christian Aid week 2020 runs from Sunday 10 May to Saturday 16 May.

Cate Phillips

Church Copyright Licence Review

1. Licencing and Costs

We obtain annual licences from Church Copyright Licensing International (CCLI), a private company that manages the copyright of many songs, books and films.

In summary, the Annual CCLI licences legally required for Tidenham Parish churches are as follows:

- **St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham** (church category A): PRS licence to cover fund-raising concerts and other non-church musical events. A copy of the licence certificate is displayed in Tidenham church porch. Costs £38.46. It expires on 31/07/2020.
- **St Michael's and All Angels, Chase:** none required
- **St Luke's, Tutshill** (church category B): total cost £681.13 comprising: -
 - *Church Copyright Licence (CCL)* to reproduce song words that are in copyright, on a service sheet, songbook or by computer projection, cost £136.00.
 - *Music Reproduction Licence (MRL)* to photocopy direct from music books or downloaded SongSelect data for use of the music group, to use in worship services, cost £68.00
 - *SongSelect®* to download worship music, chords or words sheets in digital electronic format to enable the music group to play modern worship songs where music books are unavailable or tablet/projector display is required, cost £98.00
 - *PRS for Music Church Licence* to perform music outside of acts of worship such as the fund-raising Gospel Choir concerts and St Luke's Folk Club, cost £70.99
 - *PPL Church Licence.* The PPL and PRS together, allow audio recordings (CDs, etc.) to be played on the premises in addition to performing live music, cost £74.70
 - *Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)* to photocopy from non-music books such as study books, games and puzzle books, cost £66.00
 - *Church Video Licence (CVL)* to use clips of commercially available films/videos, which are authorised by the copyright holder for public display cost £161.70

Activities covered by all seven licences are regularly required for St Luke's main services, off-site children's and schools' ministries and other non-worship events held at the church. A copy of the full licence certificate is displayed in Tutshill church porch. It expires on 30/09/2020.

2. CCLI Reporting

All necessary reporting is currently being handled on a regular weekly basis by the CCLI Administrator

Bill White, CCLI Administrator



Fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches of the Parish

1. INTRODUCTION

During December 2017 the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) for each of our three churches was completed by our church architect, Peter Belchere from Hook Mason Architects, a long-established firm who are Diocesan Surveyors for the Diocese of Hereford.

PCC Buildings Committee has a prioritised list of all issues identified by, and proposed actions to address, the recommendations from the following reports on our three churches:

- The Ecclesiastical Insurance (EIG) Risk Management inspections carried out in 2014.
- the December 2017 Quinquennial Inspection (QI) reports.

2. FACULTIES

All work carried out in our churchyards & buildings are subject to DAC approval in the form of:

- An Archdeacon's written notice, or A Faculty.

Archdeacon's written notices received in 2019 have been completed:

- The British Legion installed a new bench in memory of Mary Langley at Chase Churchyard in June
- An existing bench in St Michael & All Angles' Churchyard, Tidenham Chase was re-positioned

Updates on Archdeacon's written notices received in 2018:

St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham

- 25th July 2018 - All redundant cast iron radiators now removed; stored for sale at a local farm
- 25th July 2018 - replacement of Tidenham under pew heating; completed in October 2019.

Faculties applied for in 2017 and granted in 2018:

A faculty to reorder **St Luke's, Tutshill:**

- Phase 1 was completed on 23 June 2019.
- The works as authorised to be completed by September 2020, or subject to an extension granted by the consistory court. Following discussion with the DAC, it is our intention to apply for an extension towards the end of July 2020.

3. MAINTENANCE OF THE FABRIC OF ALL THREE CHURCHES BUILDINGS

Normal maintenance of the three churches has continued throughout 2019. A considerable amount of major work is still required to bring all our churches up to a satisfactory 21st century standard.

Issues that concern all our churches: -

- **Gutter & Window Cleaning**

The gutters were thoroughly cleaned, and all windows cleaned both internally and externally in February / March 2019.

- **Smartwater** (required by our insurers Ecclesiastical)

Smartwater was reapplied to metalwork at all three churches in 2017 and is valid for 5 years.

- **Asbestos Registers**

No further work is required on The Asbestos Registers for each church, completed by our Health & Safety Advisor and the Churchwardens.

- **Testing of Fixed electrical wiring and Portable electrical equipment**

PAT testing and fixed wiring inspections was not required in 2019 as both were carried out in January 2017. PAT testing and fixed wiring inspections are next required in 2022.

- **Testing of Lightning Conductors** (every 2 years)

This was carried out at each church on 14 March 2018 with acceptable results.

- **Terrier (i.e. the full inventory of the goods and chattels at each church) and**
- **Log Book (i.e. details of work carried out at each church)**

These documents were revised to reflect the changes made by the re-ordering of St Luke's Tutshill and work at the other churches during 2019, and inspected by PCC members.

4. SPECIFIC ISSUES AT EACH CHURCH

4.1 Tidenham

- 1 The tower clock is maintained by Cumbria Clock Company. The previous problems in 2018 with chiming and timekeeping were finally fixed on 24 January 2019. The clock is in good order.
- 2 The 2012 and 2017 QI inspections recommended that major work on the Tower roof be completed as soon as possible, but lack of funds prevented this. An inspection was carried out in November 2018 which concluded that the Tower remained safe for public use. The Friends of Tidenham have commissioned our church architect Philip Belchere to produce a design and specification. A Faculty will be required and the estimated cost of the necessary work is £100,000. We still hold a grant of £3000 from the Barnwood Trust, towards this work.
- 3 New underpew was completed in October by Electric Heating Solutions at a cost of £18936 partly financed by the Friends of Tidenham St Mary & St Peter.
- 4 The Tower was again floodlit in green from 15 – 22 September to mark *Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week* in memory of a local girl, who died from mitochondrial disease
- 5 The Parish Council upgraded the handrail for the path from the main gate to the church in May.
- 6 A Level Access Path to Tidenham Parish Church beside the western boundary wall was completed by Tidenham Friends on 31 May.



4.2 Tutshill

1. The reordering of Tutshill church is covered elsewhere in this Report.
2. On 29 September the flashing on the valley gutter between the north aisle and St Luke's room became dislodged and allowed water ingress to the corridor and room. The roof was not finally repaired until 29 October. The ceiling, walls and carpet were all damaged and will need to be replaced. A claim has been lodged with Ecclesiastical. St Luke's room was out of action for the remainder of the year.
3. Slight water ingress into the vestry would appear to be coming from around the existing chimney, though recent storms have not seen any ingress. Work will need to be carried out to rectify this.



4.3 Tidenham Chase

- 1 The PA system failed in November 2018, leaving only the radio mike and lectern mike active, but PCC decided in February 2019 that the current situation was acceptable, as the cost of repairs - £594 to repair the broken cable or £1734 for a completely new system to replace the existing antique one could not be justified.
- 2 The West wall is very damp during the 2019 winter rains; this needs further investigation.



5 CHURCHYARDS

1. The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the closed churchyards of Tidenham and Tutshill.
2. *Greengrafters* have tidied up the edges of Chase churchyard and the area where ashes are buried.
3. Churchwardens are currently looking at further work to improve access to Chase churchyard.

6 GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

1. The goods and ornaments in all three churches are generally in a satisfactory condition.
2. One silver plated Chalice at Tidenham has been replaced.
3. New Communion Burses and Veils at Tidenham & Tutshill have been produced by the sewing group.

David Burr, Churchwarden

7 ST LUKE'S CHURCH: NEW PUBLIC ADDRESS (PA) AUDIO SYSTEM 2019

St Luke's church was re-ordered in 2019, and one of the many improvements included a PA system for sound amplification. The visual display equipment has not yet been upgraded, so apart from the portable projector screen, everything has to be brought in from home and set up in church as before.

Although work is still in progress on the sound system, we now benefit from a new state-of-the-art 32-channel digital audio mixer connected to wired microphones and instruments via two 16-channel digital stage boxes located on either side of the chancel step. The mixer feeds three, dual-channel amplifiers via a loud-speaker control unit all mounted in a separate amp-rack, which in turn drive the four wall-mounted loud-speakers and a bass speaker located under the pulpit. This system was specified by music technology professional Alex White, and installed by Protech Systems Ltd. a local sound equipment hire and installation company based in Sedbury.

The new system will provide for all the various services and other events that are hosted at St Luke's church. It delivers a higher quality sound - especially for music groups - and we have far fewer complaints about it being 'too loud' than with the old system. However, the open space and hard walls and floor of the church nave will always be a challenge for amplified sound - especially when there is a lot of 'chatter' before services begin. It has greatly improved flexibility as we can now arrange speech plus live and recorded music sourced from many locations throughout the church. There are several additional facilities such as an equalizer, fold-back monitor outputs and 48v feed for mics, etc. plus some advanced technologies such as the Wi-Fi remote control via an iPad.



Although the new system is fully functional when set up properly, it is by no means finalised since much of the equipment must still be stored away in St Luke's Room after use, as we do not yet have a lockable cabinet to secure the mixing desk and other equipment when the church is open during the day. As a temporary measure, church members have built a portable desk/cabinet for the mixer and to store microphones, cables, etc. and an enclosed radio microphone receiver tower - all constructed out of recycled materials.

A temporary 19" rack has been purchased to house the main amplifiers which are permanently connected to the loud-speaker cables at the floor access point and so these must be kept out in the church together with the hearing-aid loop amplifier and radio mic receivers - although the latter are not visible within the corner wall cabinet.



The plan is for a permanent, fixed, lockable cabinet to match the cafe décor, but this will now be part of the phase II reordering upgrades. Until this is provided, the current process involves hauling the mixing desk/cabinet through from St Luke's Room (usually a two-person task) and then connecting it up to the amplifier and mains cabling before it can all be power-up in sequence and the mixer configured to give the required signal routing for the microphones and instruments.

We had planned to retain the old PA speakers and mixer/amp, e.g. under the pulpit for simple, limited PA setups such as funeral services, but it was necessary to dismantle all of this, together with the audio cabling to St Luke's Room, so that the refurbishment work could take place. Due to the floods, St Luke's Room was not used much last year, but we are aware of the need to re-establish an audio signal from the mixer to that area so that child-minders, et al, can hear the main service activities.

We are also attempting to reduce setup time by programming and storing pre-configured signal routings for the most common types of service and work is in progress on documentation and training up as many church members as possible. In this regard, it is hoped that we can encourage our younger people to get involved as some have already expressed an interest in learning the new technology.

Bill White, December 2019

Our Parish Vision

Our Vision as the Church in the Parish of Tidenham is Living Life Together in the Flow of God's Love

We will seek to do this in, through and by relationship:

- T**ransforming Relationship through Worship: We seek to worship God the Father through Jesus Christ in the power Holy Spirit (our relational God) in our daily lives; being transformed individually and as a gathered community through encounter with profligate grace.

We commit ourselves to this through:

- A Simple Rule/Rhythm of Life
- Corporate Prayer
- Various corporate acts of worship that provide opportunities to connect with God
- Opportunities to receive ministry e.g. prayer for healing

- A**uthentic Relationship through Discipleship: We will seek to listen to God's call on our lives and endeavour to work out what it means for each of us to follow Jesus Christ day by day by living in the flow of his love and applying his teaching 24/7.

We commit ourselves to this through:

- Recognising and responding to God in all areas of life: work, rest, play, eating, spending etc...
- Life Groups and teaching the faith
- An Annual Quiet Day and Parish Weekend or Retreat.
- Baptism, confirmation, marriage, and communion preparation.
- Discerning vocations and providing opportunities for service.

- B**uilding up Relationship Capacity: We will seek to use the spiritual, physical (buildings), human and financial gifts and resources that God has given us to enable the building up the Body of Christ and to further the Kingdom of God.

We commit ourselves to this through:

- Working with the Holy Spirit to enable, equip & commission individuals & teams
- St Luke's Church Reordering
- Tidenham Car Park & Church Restoration
- Effective administration (Parish Office/Hub), information and communication
- Working with our partners in the wider Church and Community

4. **Loving Relationship through Community:** We will seek to respond to the command of Jesus to 'Love One Another.' As a diverse community we will endeavour to welcome and value each other on life's journey; supporting one another through the joys and challenges of life, and reaching out with hospitality and compassion to others.

We commit ourselves to this through:

- Pastoral Care
- Children, Youth and Families Ministry
- Social/community Events
- Parish Lunch, Man Thing, Wives etc...

5. **Engaging Relationship through Mission:** We will seek to pass on the love of God by taking up opportunities to be positively involved in connecting with and serving our local community and the wider world.

We commit ourselves to this through:

- Schools Ministry
- Sedbury Pioneer Project
- Pastoral Care
- Health and wellbeing activities, particularly in our reordered buildings
- Churches Together Projects: Foodbank, Christian Aid, Fairtrade, CAP etc...
- Charity Partners

"Where the river flows everything will live" Ezekiel 47:9

PCC. 21/2/17



2019: A Year of Discipleship in the Parish

Discipleship: A Priority for our Parish and for every Christian

When I arrived in the Parish of Tidenham our vision to 'do relationship well' started to emerge. 'Doing relationship well' with God gave particular focus on worship, whilst 'doing relationship well' with each other gave particular focus on community, and 'doing relationship well' with the wider community and wider world provided us a mission focus. Of course, these are interrelated but the focus on each helps.

The fourth strand of discipleship galvanises the 3 strands together in our lives. We are all called to be 'disciples' of Jesus Christ, following his life and teaching, playing our part in the life of the Church (the Body of Christ), and seeking to live out his teaching in our everyday lives. As we do this hopefully we begin to be more like the One we are following.

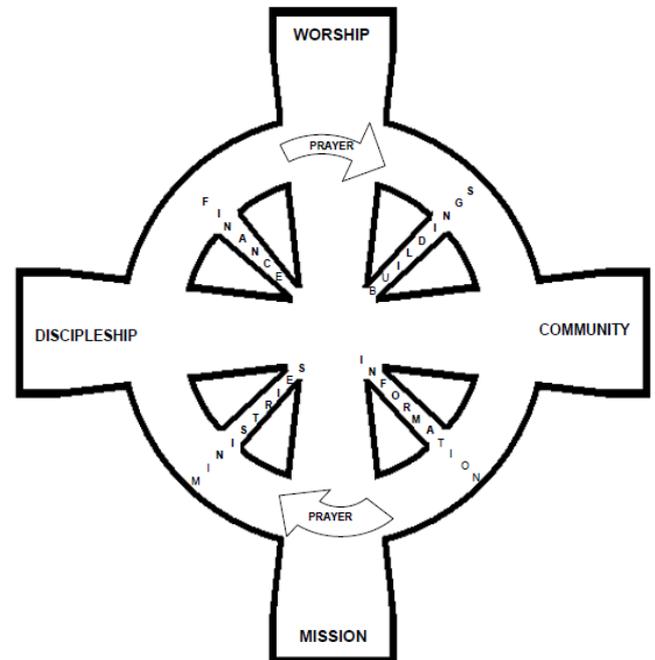
The former Bishop of Tewkesbury, Martyn Snow who is now Bishop of Leicester, said in 2014 that churches should be offering opportunities for people to explore life and faith, deepen their knowledge of Scripture and their practice of prayer, and learn how to apply their faith to daily life in very practical ways. More importantly churches and parishes need to do this to enable Christian women and men to be transformed and shine the light of Jesus Christ in our world today.

Part of our Parish Vision is to live life together in the flow of God's love by '**Authentic Relationship through Discipleship.**' We will seek to listen to God's call on our lives and endeavour to work out what it means for each of us to follow Jesus Christ day by day by living in the flow of his love and applying his teaching 24/7.

We commit ourselves to this through:

- Recognising and responding to God in all areas of life: work, rest, play, eating, spending etc...
- Life Groups and teaching the faith
- An Annual Quiet Day and Parish Weekend or Retreat.
- Baptism, confirmation, marriage, and communion preparation.
- Discerning vocations and providing opportunities for service.

This Report sets out some of the ways the Parish encouraged discipleship in 2019. Well done to all of you faithful servants/disciples!



"So what is the engine of the church? Discipleship. I've said it many times: If you make disciples, you will always get the church. But if you try to build the church, you will rarely get disciples."

Mike Breen, September 2011

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Some Highlights of What Happened in 2019

Worship & Prayer Services

Regular Sunday services in the Parish during 2019 were as follows:

St Mary & St Peter Tidenham	9am	Morning Prayer on 2 nd Sunday Holy Communion on all other Sundays
St Luke's Tutshill	10.45am	1 st Sunday: Family Service with youth & children on music. 2 nd Sunday: Traditional Holy Communion with organ. 3 rd Sunday: Word, Prayer and Praise with Music Group. 4 th Sunday: Contemporary Holy Communion & Music Group. 5 th Sunday: Special. All with Splash 'Junior Church' except Family service
St Michael & All Angels Tidenham Chase	6pm BST 4pm in winter	Compline on 2 nd Sunday Holy Communion on 3 rd Sunday Evensong (1662 BCP) on all other Sundays. With special services for certain feast days and festivals

- There was a 10.15am healing Eucharist with anointing and refreshments after the service on the first Wednesday of each month and a service of Holy Communion every Wednesday during Lent.
- Weekly corporate Morning Prayer 9.30am on Mondays at Tidenham remains a firm fixture in the diary with between 4 and 10 people participating. Morning Prayer also takes places on Tuesdays at 9am in Sedbury Space.
- Contemplative Prayer at Tutshill continued each Wednesday morning with about 4-6 attendees.
- The Parish continued to follow the liturgical seasons and used the Lectionary for the Bible readings. Seasonal Eucharist booklets are used.

Our gathered worship continued to have important participation and involvement from so many people... indeed too many to mention all by name. We continue to be blessed with some wonderful and dedicated musicians who enhance our worship through a variety of traditional and modern hymns and songs, with voices and instruments of all different kinds, although there is a need for some new people in this area of ministry. The contribution of musicians to our worshipping life is greatly valued throughout all our church community, particularly during the Christmas and Holy Week/Easter seasons which are very busy.

Participation and involvement extend also to those who read the lessons, administer the chalice, lead our prayers of intercession and provide welcome, guidance and information. Also those who carry out Warden and sidespersons duties, clean and decorate and work for the upkeep of our church buildings with love and diligence, operate our PA and heating systems, mend things, open and close our churches, put out bins, joyfully ring our church bells, prepare refreshments and wash up afterwards; work with our babies, toddlers, children and young people, serve at the altar, produce altar linen, serve our community, volunteer for charity and diligently count, bank and manage money, fundraising and policy matters. Involvement of so many people in these aspects of worshipping life is something of what it means to operate as many members of the body of Christ. It enables us to be a community of faith that can look after one another but also reach out to others. Thank you.

Thank you to our churchwardens, deputy wardens, staff/ministry team, pastoral visitors, volunteers together with colleagues from the wider Diocese, for all their support and assistance once again.

We were blessed by all those who have been involved in worship & service leading and preaching including Fiona Gardiner, James Parsons, Nicki Bullivant, Jane Penny, Ethan Richards, David Rees, Mandy Vaughan,

Leonie Jones, Tanya White, Revd David Johnson, Fr Barry Coker, Revd Canon Dr Tom Clammer, Revd Tony Jones, Revd Philip Averay, Revd Robin Mann, our Pioneer Curate Revd Janice Hamilton, our Associate Priest Revd Canon Robert Simpson and our Vicar Revd David Treharne.

Whatever your role has been in 2019, thank you for your ministry!

Living the Year in our Churches

Each open church building in the Parish plays its own unique and special role in our worshipping life together as a Parish.

St Mary & St Peter's Church, Tidenham

St Mary & St Peter's Church, Tidenham is the Parish Church and continues to offer weekly Sunday morning worship. Services are traditional and Eucharistic in the main using seasonal material from Common Worship. Worship is enriched by a relatively small but enthusiastic choir and ever increasing enthusiastic bellringers too! Once a month Tidenham also has sung Matins which some people very much value.



Tidenham Church is the largest church building in the Parish and is able to accommodate over 200 worshippers. Yet, despite its size St Mary & St Peter's is not an austere space. It meets the needs of both a large community funeral or wedding and also small gatherings of people for prayer.

The church congregation at Tidenham has been going through a process of rediscovering themselves in recent years as questions have been asked about the future use and viability of the building. As this and previous Reports document, the Friends of Tidenham in very close partnership with the PCC, have been addressing these questions. Since 2014 significant steps have been taken to revitalise the congregation

and community in Tidenham and restore the building. The Friends contribution to this Report outlines a number of activities and events that have taken place over the last year including another Burns Night Supper, summer Flower Festival and the Christmas Tree Festival.



The 'fundraising' events and activities were originally designed to raise money (and still do) for the church building. However, they have become just as important, indeed probably more important, in bringing the community together in and around the special place which is Tidenham Parish Church.



The new Church Car Park has had a positive impact on gathering for church services as have the new under pew heating system and new disabled access.

Highlights of the worship in St Mary & St Peter's, during 2019 included the Holy Week services. Tom Clammer together with other team members led us from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Good Friday's afternoon service was particularly memorable as

the joint Parish choir led by Roger and Wendy sang some beautiful music culminating in Roger leading 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord' which was extraordinarily moving. Easter Sunday saw one of the largest Easter morning gatherings at Tidenham for years. Indeed, the service booklets ran out!

Nine Lessons and Carols and Midnight Mass were again highlights. The large joint Parish choir (a wonderful feature of recent times) with members from across the churches and community joined to lead the music. Tutshill School once again brought a group of school children to sing and added much to the worship. The music from both choirs was a joy and thoroughly uplifting. Fellowship followed the service with wine and mince pies and a fantastic community spirit; all this with community Christmas Trees and hundreds of homemade stars around the church! Christmas in Tidenham Parish Church was also illuminated by a creatively constructed Christmas tree in the new Car Park! To those responsible... thank you!

St Luke's Church, Tutshill

St Luke's Sunday morning congregation usually has over 70 attendees. With the benefit of toilets, a kitchen, small meeting room and use of the neighbouring Tutshill School Hall, St Luke's has crucial facilities for the community, especially children and families.



St Luke's Church building was closed from March to June for reordering works to take place. These works provided much needed flexible space. Gathered worship therefore moved to Tutshill School next door. A massive thank you must go to School and its Headteacher Miss Jenny Lane for supporting the church during these works. This Report documents the changes that are finally happening to the church building with the Reordering.

Worship at St Luke's is eclectic. Different Sundays provide different liturgy and music ranging from contemporary music and informal liturgy to traditional music with organ and choir and more formal liturgy. Sunday worship can be Eucharistic or non-Eucharistic. This mixture of worship is reflected in the congregation with worshippers having come from many different denominations and traditions. Whilst there are certainly likes and dislikes amongst members of the congregation these are hopefully more than outdone by the common bond found in being the Body of Christ, the family of God.

Some highlights in 2019 included:

- Easter Sunday in the School
- Service of Reopening at St Luke's Church following the Reordering works with lunch and community consultation over how the space might be best used for divine worship, community and well-being.
- Derek and Jean Cramp renewing their marriage vows after 60 years
- Baptism and Confirmation Service with Bishop Christopher
- All Saints Baptism Celebration in November
- Remembrance Sunday

St Michael & All Angels' Church, Tidenham Chase

"The Chase" continues to offer weekly evening services – with two BCP Evensong/Evening Worship each month. The Chase also offers Compline monthly, and Holy Communion monthly. It is the only church in the whole Chepstow area that is still presenting regular BCP Evensong. It is good news that during the past 12 months there have been



occasional visitors to the area who have come along and have expressed delight to participate in these services. During wintertime services move to 4pm whilst the summer services take place at 6pm.

The Chase plays a key role on providing special services in the Church Calendar – notably Advent Carols, Epiphany Carols, Candlemas & All Souls. Chase is also the only church in the Parish with an open churchyard for burials. Visitors to be found in the churchyard visiting family graves.

Thanks go to Audrey, Kath and Susanna, who oversaw the cleaning and service duty each week; to the organists – Judith, Della, Marje, young Tom and the Vicar – who covered services between them throughout the year, and to singers from Tutshill, joined by some from Tidenham, who augmented the singing particularly for the special services.

Sadly towards the latter part of 2019 Audrey ceased to be able to get to church, whilst Della came to the decision that due to her age and health she would be giving up playing the organ at Chase.

Joint Endeavours

It is a joy to report that the Parish seems to be seeing itself more as one rather than three; finding unity in diversity and diversity in unity. As well as being blessed by having newcomers and visitors to all our churches, church members appear more likely to attend other churches in the Parish.

Despite its length this Report can only capture highlights of 2019. Throughout the year members of our churches lived out their Christian lives day by day at home, at work and in our communities. Members have gathered formally and informally to worship and pray with one another. Sometimes this has been in church, sometimes in a home or a community venue, or even walking along the road. Our worship and prayer life individually and together are crucial.

Christmas and Easter continue to provide so much joy. It is jolly hard work with so many services and events happening around these times and the cost and commitment of those who prepare, support and lead such events, often with a family and/or work commitments too, is most worthy of notice and thanks! The churches are thoroughly cleaned and decorated for these occasions. Fantastic music is prepared and delivered. Advertising is prepared and sent out in the form of cards to every home in the Parish, and glory is given to the God who is revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Ministry & Discipleship through the year:

Parish Weekend



From 1-3 March 2019 a group of 58 people from or connected to Tidenham Parish travelled to the stunning Lee Abbey in North Devon for a Parish Weekend. There were opportunities to wander around the local countryside, go down to the beach, catch up on sleep, chat, pray and attend some teaching sessions and corporate worship. Lee Abbey staff provided all the input over the weekend. The 'community' at Lee

Abbey is about 90 strong with members involved in a number of ministries including managing the estate, cooking, hospitality and children's work.





It was lovely that amongst the Parish group were several children and young people who had an absolute ball in part because they had a magnificent facility in which to play 'hide and seek!' In addition to their own games the children and young people had opportunities for walks outside near the lovely Valley of the Rocks, sport, archery, cooking and craft, as well as some Christian teaching of course. Thank you to Clare and Kathy for organising everything so well.

At the beginning of Lent a call once again went out to all Church members in the Parish inviting us as a community of faith to deepen our discipleship by observing Lent.

- There were 2 Ash Wednesday services and Wednesday morning Communion services during Lent.
- Saturday 23 March saw the Annual Parish Quiet Day at Ty Mawr Convent, near Monmouth. The day was led by Revd Francis Buxton, former House for Duty priest in St Briavels with Hewelsfield. The Day was fully booked.
- The 2019 Lent Course was run in partnership with the Parish of Chepstow meeting on Tuesday afternoons at the Gardiners' house in Woodcroft and Wednesday evenings at St Christopher's Church, Bulwark, Chepstow. The course used the Diocese of Gloucester's material on 'Shapes for Living': Relating, Praying, Working, Playing and Growing. Attendance was very good.



Nina Summerfield, placement

It was a joy to welcome Revd Nina Summerfield from Lydney for a month's placement in Tidenham Parish in early summer. Nina was exposed to plenty of mission and ministry within the Parish and led or took part in a variety of services including the 6am Ascension Day service at Tidenham Church, which was followed by an inventive yummy breakfast.



Flourish

During this year of discipleship the Parish signed up to the Gloucester Diocesan Flourish initiative. The initiative is a partnership between CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society), LICC (London Institute of Contemporary Christianity) and Gloucester Diocese. It is aimed at helping worshipping communities to be more confident in their discipleship. As a prelude, members of the congregations were asked to fill in a questionnaire about discipleship. Nicholette Flatman, Emma Phillips, Steven Shaw, Revd Janice Hamilton, Fiona Gardiner, James Parsons, Revd David Rees and Vicar David Treharne will work with other parishes. Material will feed into the life of the Parish in 2020 and 2021.

Baptism & Confirmation

On Sunday 7 July, Linda Wilson, Mark Wilson, Keli Beamon and Terri Vaughan made public declarations of faith when Bishop Christopher Hill came to St Luke's Church to officiate at a service of baptism and confirmation. It was a splendid occasion with great joy as Linda and Mark were baptized by full immersion and then joined by Keli and Terri to be confirmed. Keli, Linda and Mark gave testimonies which were extremely moving. Celebration drinks and lunch followed the service.



Occasional Offices:

There were 11 **baptisms** during 2019.

Linda, Mark, Naomi B, Wren,
Gussy, Naomi G, Ellis, Henry,
Guy, Stephanie & Lara.

Not every parent has their child baptised, with some opting for a service of thanksgiving and dedication.

During 2019 there was one service of thanksgiving for the birth of Finley.

Two **weddings** took place in the Parish.

Jonathan (Jon) David Edward BOLT &
Kathryn (Kate) Margaret ANTRUM



Benjamin Peter THORNTON &
Heather Frances Carina LEIGHTON

There was also 1 Wedding Blessing during the year.

In front of family and church family **Derek and Jean Cramp renewed their marriage vows** after 60 years of marriage at St Luke's on 7 July 2019. It was a joy for the gathered community to witness this and very appropriate to have celebratory drinks following the service.



Big congratulations to all who had times of celebration in 2019!



The Parish conducted 25 **funerals** plus 18 burials / burial of ashes during 2019 including Church members who will be greatly missed: Todd Callow, Doreen Fryer, Len Langley, Geoff Mead, Neville Tyler, Anna Nicholas, Judy Stephens, Gillian Jones, Joan Watts & Doreen Wootton. Several Church members and friends of the Church also experienced bereavement and loss during the year. May they and all those who have died rest in peace and rise in glory! Parish Reader Fiona Gardiner, Revd Robert Simpson, Revd Tony Jones and Revd Janice are to be thanked for the funerals they conducted in 2019 along with Vicar David. As in previous years all those bereaved were invited to the November All Souls service at Tidenham Chase.

Pastoral care continues to be a very important shared ministry carried out with dedication, love and diligence. The Pastoral Visitors, Julia Parsons, Kathryn Payne, George Healey, Colin Pears and Sue Pears Revd David Johnson, Revd Janice Hamilton, Fiona Gardiner, Peter Jones, Cate Phillips, Polly Morgan, James Parsons and Nicki Bullivant carried out official pastoral duties along with the Vicar, including taking Holy Communion usually on a monthly basis to the sick and housebound in the Parish and sometimes beyond. Over the course of the year 25+ people were in receipt of this ministry. The Care Home services co-ordinated by Eirwen Griffiths also provided vital pastoral ministry in the Parish.

As mentioned above and evidenced throughout this Report, the ministry of lay people in the life of the Church here, and day by day in the community and society in general, is absolutely vital and a great blessing to the Parish of Tidenham and beyond.

Growing in Faith

Being able to talk through issues of life and faith is an important ingredient of the Christian journey. The Parish had a number of small groups, called 'Life Groups' running in 2019 to enable this to happen. The groups vary considerably reflecting different needs, spiritualities and personalities!

LIFE GROUP	DATE TIME	CONTACT NAME & LOCATION	DETAILS OF GROUP
BIBLE STUDY	TUES AFTERNOON 12.30pm to 2pm	JULIA PARSONS BERYL HEALEY The Old Bakery, Woodcroft	Small friendly group not afraid to take on questions raised by the Bible.
ADULTS WITH PRE-SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN	WED AFTERNOON FORTNIGHTLY 1.45- 2.45pm	JANE PENNY Various Locations	Child friendly group and any Toddlers will be involved.
FOOD FOR THOUGHT	WED Morning 10.30am to 12noon	Revd David TREHARNE TOAST Tutshill	Always light and informal to encourage openness and authenticity on what can be difficult subjects.
SEDBURY	WED evening 7.30pm	Janice Hamilton Sedbury Space	A chance to explore faith and offer each other mutual support

LIFE GROUP	DATE TIME	CONTACT NAME & LOCATION	DETAILS OF GROUP
REFRESHMENT ROOM	WED Evening 7 for 7.30pm	Fiona Gardiner Elm House Woodcroft	Go deeper with God, support one another in prayer and in practice, and have fun.
SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION	THURS AFTERNOONS	Contact JANE PENNY for further details	Prayers and discussions.
DISTRACTION	Meeting Once every 6-8 weeks	Contact Steven Shaw for Venue	Informal gathering a chance for children to meet & play and parents to talk about life and faith.
Deanery Initiatives: Xsite (7-11s) Branch (11+)	Varies	Contact Jane Penny and Ethan Richards For venue & times.	Various groups & activities for Children and Young People to have Fellowship & grow in faith.

In addition, there was a baptism and confirmation preparation group early in the year and a new nurture group begun at the end of the year to explore life, faith and the Scriptures.



Youth, Children & Families (see also the report from Jane):

The Youth, Children and Families Project moved into its second year funded fantastically by grants from the Gloucester Diocesan Life Development Fund, Joseph Rank Trust and Sylvanus Lysons Charity, but mostly because of the fantastic support of members of the Church. Thank you!

Jane Penny (3 days a week), Clare Presley (10 hours a week) and Ethan Richards (10 hours a week) all receive funding through this project. Thanks go to Jane, Ethan and Clare together with the fantastic band of volunteers for this vital ministry.

The Youth, Children and Families Ministry (YCFM) Project outcomes for the next 3 years are:

1. For young people to grow in personal faith and belonging, and learn to apply their faith in the everyday.
This involves Ethan and others working with young people in the Church but also connecting with Schools.
2. For more children to become more engaged with faith and find belonging in Church/community.
This involves Jane and others providing Splash Junior Church on Sundays, working with all the Schools in our Parish, running 2 Toddler Groups and connecting with children through sport.
3. For the Church and the Christian faith to connect with, and have a transforming effect upon the busy and stressful lives of parents and families, and also upon the staff and volunteers involved in youth, children and families ministry.
This involves all the Church investing time into 'doing relationship well' and seeking to live life well. This element of the Project links with so many other aspects of church life and ministry such as Pastoral Care, Sedbury Pioneering, Life Groups and Reordering.



Mission & Community

Janice Hamilton continued **pioneer work** in Sedbury community and it is exciting to witness all the developments that are taking place in Sedbury and Sedbury Space (see report).

The **Easter Scarecrow Trail** was once again a big hit with the organisers Carol Clammer, Liz McBride, Susan Riordan, Melanie Walton, Hannah Ransom, Jane Penny & Sarah Lewis working extremely hard to make it a roaring success once again. Now in its 11th year the Scarecrow Trail is a wonderful community event.

As part of our Youth, Children and Families Ministry the **Schools work** with Tutshill C of E, Offa's Mead and St John's on the Hill continued to be a big part of our outreach. Once again there has been considerable commitment. Thank you to our dedicated team who minister in and to our schools.

Throughout the year efforts were made to connect with our communities. The Link Magazine, Easter and Christmas Cards and Parish Website played important roles in **communicating** and connecting with people.

A **Family Cricket Day** took place on Francis Field following the morning church services.

In April we sadly said **goodbye to Revd David Johnson** as he moved into clergy accommodation in Cheltenham. David will be greatly missed by his church family here. His assistance with leading services and pastoral care (particularly Castleford) have been much appreciated, as have the many wonderful holding crosses he made.



On Sunday 23 June there was a Celebration Service and Open Day at the **reordered St Luke's, Tutshill**

- 10.45am *Celebration Service at St Luke's Church*
- 12.30pm *A Bring and Share Reception Lunch in Church*
- 12.30pm-3pm *Consultation and Demonstration of the use of the new space*



A reordered and reopened St Luke's Church was something for the whole Parish to celebrate. It was thought that the works might never start, yet over 10 years after initial discussions and plans were drawn up St Luke's has undergone a major reordering. The building has been made more accessible and useable

for divine worship and community use, and ready for future mission and ministry. Thank you, and well done to everyone who has made the project happen. Thanks especially to those who have donated money and the reordering team of Janice, James, Tony, Ewen, Tanya, together with our churchwardens Nicholette and David and Clare Presley (admin)! There are still further works to be undertaken such as the servery but the really big works are hopefully completed. The reopening was a wonderful day of celebration as the worshipping community moved from the School back into the church building. There was also a lot of relief too!



Tidenham Flower Festival took place from 6-13 July. The church building was beautifully adorned. On Sat 5 July there was musical entertainment with strawberries and cakes and a tremendous buzz around the church. Go2 Theatre once again provided two glorious nights of entertainment with their performances of 'Tales from the Bookshelf' on Saturday 12 and 13 July.

On Sunday 1 September more than 50 people and 7 well behaved dogs from far and wide made a **mini pilgrimage** to the former Church of St James, **Lanaut**, now a ruin. Despite having multiple sclerosis, Associate Priest Tom Clammer made it along the winding woodland paths with the help of fellow worshippers to the 12th Century church, which was bathed in glorious sunshine. Vicar David led the service and Tom gave a talk.



In September John Newell once again headed up **'Ride and Stride'** which involved cycling and walking to raise funds for the Church buildings of the Parish of Tidenham and the Gloucester Historic Churches Trust.

Tidenham Church was lit up green to mark **Mitochondrial disease awareness week** in September. This followed the death of a young local woman Tirion Ray who died in April 2018 of this rare genetic disease.

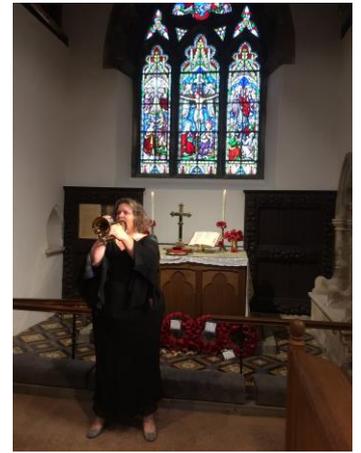
The Parish sadly said **goodbye to the Harris family** as they moved house to Porthcawl and back to Wales. The whole family has been very involved with Tidenham Parish in various ways over a number of years, and their presence amongst the church family will be greatly missed. Following a service on 28 September there were drinks and nibbles and a chance for hugs and goodbyes.



In October after the morning Harvest services there was a **Harvest Hunger lunch** in St Luke's Church. The meal was organised by Tanya White with support from A & H Jones. The lunch was a simple yet very tasty soup, bread and cheese affair with people donating money they might have spent on Sunday lunch. In total £460 was raised for GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) whose Director Adele Owen worships at St Briavels Church. In addition food offerings went to Stow Park, Newport Foodbank.



There was a fabulous **Mozart and Dvorak fundraising concert** at St Luke's in November kindly offered by the Poet Quartet. They have performed around the South West but this was their first concert on this side of the River.



Remembrance as usual was a very important occasion for the Parish with the annual Remembrance Sunday community service at St Luke's very well attended.

Christmas brings wonderful mission opportunities and the chance to be community:



- Near neighbours Riverside Nursery made their first trip to St Luke's for their Christmas production, making use of the newly reordered Church.
- A successful first Dementia Friendly Carol Service was held in St Luke's
- For the second year running some fun Carol Singing at Toast resulted in some new and unexpected attendees at Church services later that week!
- Our CMS Mission Partner Heather Johnston returned to the UK and came to visit the Sunday after Christmas.



Vocations

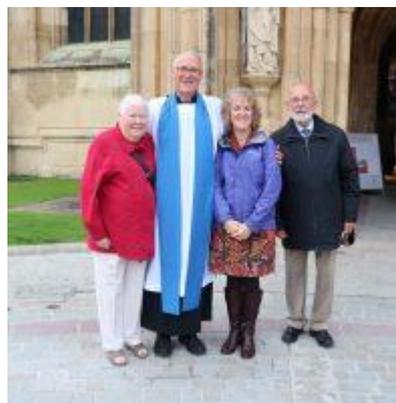
The Ordination of David Rees at Gloucester Cathedral.

A year on from Janice having been ordained as a priest within the Church it was a joy to be able to gather once again at Gloucester Cathedral on Sunday 30th June 2019 to see **David Rees** of St Briavels ordained deacon by the Bishop of Tewkesbury, Rt Rev Robert Springett. David is a locally ordained minister i.e. licensed to minister only in the Parishes of St Briavels, Hewelsfield & Brockweir and Tidenham.

The licensing of James Parsons as a

Reader at Gloucester Cathedral

We returned to Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 5 October 2019 to witness and enjoy the licensing of James Parsons as a Reader in the Parishes of Tidenham together with St Briavels with Hewesfield & Brockweir. A wonderful colliding of history occurred that day as James was licenced together with Peter Gee, son of Michael Gee who was Vicar of Tidenham from 1980-1991. James will continue his work as a Chartered Engineer involved in designing and constructing all kinds of bridges.



Other Vocations news...



Nicki Bullivant, having been selected for training for ordained ministry in 2017, has moved into her third and final year of training and is due to be ordained in 2020. Nicki's curacy will be served here in the Parishes of Tidenham, St Briavels with Hewelsfield & Brockweir and will have an exciting 3 fold focus. Nicki will be living out her ordination continuing to work as a Nurse in Chepstow Hospital, and will also be exploring hospital chaplaincy with Gloucester Hospital as well as serving her local community here.

After 6.5 years of ministry as a House for Duty Priest in the area, **Robert Simpson** (right with Vicar David) retired from retirement) still bounding with energy and enthusiasm. Robert has been such a faithful and trustworthy colleague and pastor over these years and the people of St Briavels and Hewelsfield/Brockweir will particularly miss Robert, as will I. Robert was a particular support to me whilst Kathy was unwell. Robert was/is committed to Christ and the Gospel, loyal as a colleague, faithful in prayer and in pastoral care and enthusiastic in so much! Thank you Robert for everything!!!



It was a joy to officially welcome **Ethan Richards** (right) as our Youth Co-ordinator in January 2019. Ethan joined: myself as Vicar, Revd Janice Hamilton our Pioneer Curate; Jane Penny, our Children and Families Minister; Fiona Gardiner, our Reader; James Parsons, our new Reader; Revd Canon Robert Simpson, our Associate Priest (until 24 Nov 2019); Revd David Rees our new locally ordained



minister & deacon; Revd Tony Jones retired priest based in St Briavels; and Mandy Vaughan, Reader in St Briavels with Hewelsfield & Brockweir. In 2019 we also welcomed Revd Canon Dr Tom Clammer back to the Parish as Associate Priest. With Tom having finished as Canon Precentor in Salisbury Cathedral he is a part of the team here.



It is very encouraging that these people have been called by God to ministry. It is also encouraging that so many others in the Parish together with them have been seeking, and continue, to love and serve God in and with their lives both in the Church and in our communities. It is simply stunning what the Body of Christ is involved in!

Church Buildings:

The Report gives an update on Fabric works undertaken, progress with Tidenham Parish Church Building and the installation of new heating together with new disabled access (big thanks to Tidenham Friends and Robert Adams in particular), and a report on the St Luke's Re-ordering project. A big thank you to all those who have put in hours of time and given financial support to this massive area of activity. (See the Fabric, Reordering of St Luke's and the Friends of St Mary and St Peter, Tidenham reports)

Governance:

Due to the reordering of St Luke's Church, Tutshill the Annual General Meeting was held at Tidenham War Memorial Hall on Mon 25 March 2019. Thanks go to the Memorial Hall Committee for their support.

At the start of the meeting members were asked to write on post it notes things to be thankful for in Church life during the past year, and challenges that face the Church in the Parish.

David Burr and Nicholette Flatman continued as Churchwardens. The AGM passed a motion to enable David to continue for an additional year after his 6 years finished. We have been blessed to have such dedicated servants in this important churchwarden ministry ably assisted by deputy wardens Brian Duerden, Cate Phillips, Iain Gardiner, James Parsons, Peter Jones, Steven Shaw, Emma Phillips and Andrew Palmer. This Report wishes to acknowledge the vital often behind the scenes role these people played in 2019 and thank them all heartily for their service to Christ and His Church.

The PCC met regularly to conduct business and oversee the mission and ministry of the Parish. The PCC continued to pay attention to latest policy developments, particularly in the areas of GDPR, Health and Safety and Safeguarding, with significant work carried out by Marilyn Henderson, Marion Andrews Evans, Iain Gardiner and Steven Shaw. The reordering of St Luke's Church brought additional work much of which was fielded initially by the reordering group, then during and after the works by James Parsons as Project Manager and Nicholette Flatman.

With limited time at PCC meetings and the need to remain strategic, the PCC authorised individuals and teams with task and finish duties to report back to PCC. Generally in 2019 the groups were as follows:

Group/Team	Members / Elected Reps	Lead (Convener)	Main Reporter to PCC
Finance	Andy Royle, Nicholette Flatman, Revd David Treharne; David Burr; and Ewen Hamilton		Ewen
Charity Giving	David Burr (Chair), Nicholette Flatman, Emma Phillips, Cate Phillips, Revd David Treharne,	Nicholette	Nicholette
Stewardship	James Parsons, Nicholette Flatman, Andrew Palmer, Revd David Treharne	James	Revd David
Children, Youth & Families	Jane Penny (Co-ordinator), <i>Children and Families' Minister</i> , Marilyn Henderson, Leonie Jones, Andrew Palmer, Nick Tyldesley, Revd David Treharne	Jane	Revd David
Quinquennial Review Team and Buildings Oversight	James Parsons, David Burr, Roger Martin, Peter Gilchrist, Nicholette Flatman, Iain Gardiner, Revd David Treharne	David Burr	David Burr
Re-ordering of St Luke's Church, Tutshill	Janice Hamilton, Ewen Hamilton, Tony Harris, James Parsons & Tanya White. Plus Churchwardens and Vicar	Janice	Janice
Churches Together	Margaret Coombs	Margaret	Margaret
Deanery Synod	Margaret Coombs, Emma Phillips & Nicki Bullivant	Margaret	Margaret
School Governors	Robin Riordan (Chair. Stepped down on 20 March 2019 after 6 years of service), Revd David Treharne;	Robin	Revd David
Health and Safety	Steven Shaw	Steven	Steven
Safeguarding	Marilyn Henderson, Dr Marion Evans, Revd David Treharne;	Revd David	Marilyn
Tidenham Friends. <i>Constituted as separate Charity. Registered charity in Dec 14</i>	Stephen Hall, Roger Martin, Anne Martin, Iain Gardiner, Peter Gilchrist, Sarah-Jane Gilchrist, Brian Duerden, Revd David.	Sarah-Jane	Roger
Churchwardens	David Burr & Nicholette Flatman with Revd David		
Day to day staff team	Revd David Treharne (Vicar), Fiona Gardiner (Reader), Revd Janice Hamilton (Curate), Jane Penny (Children & Families Minister), Ethan Richards (Youth Co-ordinator), James Parsons (Reader), Clare Presley (Admin), Revd David Rees (Locally Ordained Minister), Revd Canon Dr Tom Clammer (Associate Priest) & Nicki Bullivant (Ordinand)... in addition there are many others engaged in ministry within the life of the church and community.		

Stewardship:

Parish Share payments have increased from £34,500 in 2012 to £60,780 in 2019. The increase is likely to continue.

Financial commitments in 2019 extended well beyond Parish Share, (e.g. children and families ministry and having our buildings shipshape for the future) and the local Church is to be thanked and commended for the fantastic monies raised locally within our churches and the wider community over the last year to fulfil these commitments. Thanks also to the grant making bodies who have given their backing. Thankfully we managed to pay all our bills which is encouraging but planned giving did decrease a little in 2019 and all members are urged to reflect on their financial giving. Responding generously with our giving to the generosity of God in Christ Jesus enables the Parish to fulfil the call of Jesus Christ in the Church and world. It also enables the Parish to better plan the future.

Administration:

Clare Presley continued as Administrative Assistant in the Parish. Clare is employed for 10 hours a week and is partly funded by external funders to work specifically on administration concerning Youth, Children and Families Ministry.



Administration within the Parish is also undertaken by a number of other individuals. Considerable work is undertaken by Iain Gardiner as PCC Secretary as well as our two Churchwardens David Burr and Nicholette Flatman. The Parish Notices Sheet were faithfully produced by Emma Phillips before passing this task over to Clare. Steven Shaw and Anthony Parsons continued to manage the Parish website www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk/ and Tanya White continued to edit 'The Link' Parish Magazine. Tanya had a brief and well deserved sabbatical at the start of 2019 before resuming the magazine. The Link continues to be a regular and important means of communication for the Church. Once again Easter cards and Christmas cards were distributed around the Parish. Thanks to Mike Scott & team and Hanley Printers for their assistance.

The PCC have identified Tidenham Parish Church as a future long-term place for a Parish Office once restored and re-ordered.

Revd. David Treharne



SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is a subject that many of us think we understand. However, the consequences of turning a blind eye to those who abuse children or vulnerable adults by not having effective practices do not bear thinking about. Everyday, historical and current cases are uncovered and reported to Safeguarding teams across the country.

The PCC has reconfirmed its acceptance of the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy: '*Promoting a Safer Church*' and the National Safeguarding Parish Handbook. It is, therefore, essential that every parish adheres to the Church of England's Safer Recruitment procedures for both paid staff and volunteers. Equally, it is the responsibility of all of us to read and understand the Safeguarding policies of our own parish, whether you are paid or unpaid.

The Child Safeguarding and Vulnerable Adults policies are displayed on the noticeboards of all three churches for us to read. These policies are reviewed annually by Marilyn Henderson the *Parish Safeguarding Officer*, and Dr Marion Evans the *Deputy Safeguarding Officer*. These policies are updated when required or whenever there is significant change in legislation, whichever is the sooner and approved by the PCC and the Incumbent.

"It won't happen in Tidenham" is not something I agree with as your Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). We must all be vigilant in knowing what signs to look out for and report to your PSO or the Vicar who will investigate your concerns and take the appropriate and necessary actions.

What did the PSO do this year?

- Reviewed and updated the Child Safeguarding and Vulnerable Adults policies (PSO, Deputy PSO and Vicar). It was approved by the PCC and returned to the Diocese.
- Checked and verified six 5-year DBS renewals and online eligibility for post holders.
- Ensured the Safer Recruitment process was followed for all new volunteers for the "Singing Together" group, and the Toddler groups in both Sedbury and Tutshill.
- Completed the Annual Parish Safeguarding checklist for the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.
- Completed and submitted Bishop Rachel's "Diocesan Safeguarding Team's Review of current and past cases". We confirmed there are no current incidents and have been no past incidents in the Parish of Tidenham.

As your Parish Safeguarding Officer, I am also a point of contact and support for advice about concerns you may have for an individual (this support includes Clergy and the Pastoral Team). Together, we can refer anyone for help to the appropriate organisations confidentially.

Please contact me immediately on 01291 620140 if you have any concerns regarding a Safeguarding issue.

Marilyn Henderson, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Health & Safety Report

The PCC discusses Health and Safety as a mandatory item at every PCC meeting. The following items were noteworthy in 2019: -

- Western Power Distribution [WPD]'s transformer that serves the church and our neighbour's cottage failed during the Sunday afternoon service on 13 January 2019. After this, the service was conducted in candlelight and the church left secure. The Fire service attended on Sunday at the transformer. WPD replaced the transformer and the electrics were restored the following day.
- Portable ramps were purchased in January to allow our new associate Priest, Revd Tom Clammer to access all parts of Tidenham church and most of Chase church.
- Following discussions with DAC Disability advisor, Tidenham Friends created a concrete path ideal for wheelchairs. It runs parallel to the church boundary wall from the public road at the lych gate to the existing gap in the church boundary wall. It was available for use on Sunday 2nd June and has been much appreciated by Revd Tom Clammer.
- Mains water pipe reached the Tidenham church boundary on 2 March 2019, when Welsh Water installed a water meter at the bottom of Tidenham Lane. All this was funded by Tidenham Friends.
- The major Tutshill church reordering work from March – June saw no workplace accidents
- Tidenham Parish Council commenced £15k. churchyard walls repairs beside Tidenham Lych Gate on 17 June, having replaced the handrail beside the steep Tidenham churchyard path in May.
- White tape was placed across the chancel steps at Chase church and across the pulpit steps at Tutshill church in July to improve colour definition and reduce the risk of someone tripping.
- 29 September water started to flood the corridor and St Luke's room, rendering the room out of use until final repairs were completed in November
- Autumn/ winter preparations set out to minimise the risk from slippery surfaces – e.g. salt bags purchased, paths brushed to remove berries.
- Portable appliance testing (PAT) – PCC decided following investigation, that PAT Testing originally scheduled for 2019 could be delayed until 2022
- The annual inspection of fire extinguishers at all 3 churches was carried out by Chubb on 26 November, as required by legislation.
- Tidenham Chase RCD failed on 31 December, but was repaired on 2 January 2020



Steven Shaw, Health & Safety Advisor

Youth Children and Families' Ministry

Partnering with Chepstow Baptist Church, fortnightly Bible fun and getting messy!

Living life together is messy, but it's a privilege to share with the families in the joys and challenges of life.

Regularly have 10 children & their grown-ups.



Messy Church



PRAYER is vital

Please continue to pray for CFM. THANK YOU!



Splash on Sundays

Children mainly aged 3 to 6 years.

We enjoy exploring faith and learning Bible stories in creative ways.

Weekly average = 7

Over 20 registered children



Parish Toddler Groups

106 different families engaged with a Toddler group.

Tutshill average 19 children per week

Sedbury average 15 children per week

Some adults are expressing interest in faith and requesting prayer.

Generous donations from Waitrose Caldicot.

Entered the Christmas Tree Festival & Scarecrow Trail.



Children & Families' Ministry 2019 Highlights



Light Party

Annual alternative Halloween Celebration. Wholesome Fun for all.



Volunteer Teams

HUGE THANKS to all the TEAMS!

Alex, Carol, Carole, Christine, Colin, Emma, Fiona, Eirwen, Hannah, Holly, Jan, Janice, Jean, Jenny, Jo, Julie, Kathryn, Kathy, Kaylee, Leonie, Linda, Lisa, Liz, Lucy, Melanie, Non, Pat, Peter, Richard, Ruth, Sarah, Sue, Sue, Susan, Tanya & Wendy.

Without you we could not do what we do....

'Well done good & faithful servant'



Eastingle Service

Creative & interactive way to remember the Easter story.



Scarecrow Trail

Another successful year with nearly 700 trails sold.

Popular community event, with some interactive Scarecrows!



Schools' Ministry

Involvement in Tutshill, Offa's Mead and St John's.

Opportunities for over 400 children to hear the Good News of Jesus!

NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for this ministry to continue.

Speak to Jane Penny, Children & Families' Minister

ANNUAL REPORT - YOUTH 2019

PARISH WEEKEND AWAY

- A whole parish trip away to Lee Abbey near Linton from March 1st to March 3rd.
- We had 8 of our youth attend.
- A great chance to build relationship, play games and get to know each other more.

YEAR 6 TRANSITION WORK FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

- Jane Penny and I worked together to help year 6 students with the transition from Primary to Secondary school.
- We were in two Primary schools: Tutshill C of E and Offa's Mead.
- Started with a whole class assembly on change and how Jesus helps us with our storms
- Then went onto a focus group picked by the year 6 teachers who they felt needed the additional support.
- We met before and after the transition days to discuss ideas of challenge, e.g. making friends and bullying. Then met again to reflect on how it was at Wyedean.

SOUL SURVIVOR

- Attended Soul Survivor, a Youth camp with 3 of our Youth, from August 18th - 22nd.
- Joined with a larger group of small youths, with around 30 in total.
- A great time to build relationships with the wider church in our area, and see the size of the body of Christ as there were 32,500 people attending Soul Survivor at the various events through the summer.

SUNDAY YOUTH AT ST LUKE'S TUTSHILL

Sunday Morning Youth

Started as once a month breakfast for the older ages, year 9 upwards. Now developed into the current format. From September 2019, we were able to run this twice per month.

- Held at St Luke's during the service, for year 6 upwards.
- Back to join the congregation for communion.
- Following the scriptures used in the readings at the main service.

Sunday Evening Youth

Started as once per month due to the reordering of the church. From September 2019 onwards, we are meeting twice per month,

- Held at St Luke's, for Year 6 upwards. A mix of games, snacks, videos and discussions.
- Year 6 - 8 is from 5 - 6:30 pm and Year 9+ is 6 - 7:30 pm. Cross over to remind them they are one youth, and one in Christ.
- Both ages following the Youth Alpha material, to create space for conversation and engagement in a way that is applicable to their age.

WYEDEAN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Christian Union

Exploring Faith within Wyedean

- The school was happy for us to run a Christian Union at Wyedean School.
- A space for young people to connect with our young people, to help make sure they don't feel isolated in their faith.

Chill Space

Weekly space for young people to come to and feel safe.

- We run games, and have snacks for young people to enjoy.
- Not Christian on the tin, however it is a space for us to build relationship and demonstrate God's love.
- Good attendance, around 16-20 each week now, with around 30 young people coming through the doors at different points in time.
- Currently mostly year 11 students that are attending the group.

SEDBURY SPACE

- Worked with the community group to put on a 'Youth Cafe' for those within the community of Sedbury.
- A space for the young people to come off the streets and have a safe place to come to. A view on building relationships with them.
- Ran from March - June.
- Stopped now as there wasn't anyone to lead the group, however, still meet monthly to pray for the group and project..

Foundation Governor links to Tutshill School

It is the role of Foundation Governors to forge and maintain links between a church school, church and the community, as well as serving on the Full Governing Body Committee of the School and other committees. For Church schools, it is important that the values of the school speak to all of the love of God.

“Love One Another, Know Ourselves, Believe and Grow” is the mission statement of Tutshill School. The church and the school’s vision is to work together and reach out to one another and the wider community.

How do the Foundation Governors achieve this huge ask? One link is the Friday Assemblies held in St. Luke’s church which enable the children and staff to visit the church and take part in a whole school worship time.

Our Foundation Governors and members of the church community support the school and aim to maintain links between the school whether it be via Splash, Junior Church or being in class, or links within the parish and the community.

The Church has 3 Foundation Governors spaces. Vicar David is one, but the year ended with 2 vacancies following the departure of Robin Riordan in March 2019 and Marilyn Henderson in 2018. Robin had been Chair of Governors and a fantastic asset to School and the Church in his role as Governor over 6 years or so. His insight, wisdom, strategic thinking, compassionate heart and sense of humour will be missed! Hopefully new Governors can be found very soon to replace two fantastic servants in Robin and Marilyn.

Pastoral Visiting Team

Tidenham Pastoral Visiting Team is made up of members from the churches in the Parish. We are a small team that visits people in the Parish who, for various reasons, are unable to get to church. Our aim is to enable those confined to home to feel part of the church. For those in hospital, we are also able to arrange visits from the hospital Chaplains who visit on our behalf. We can sometimes arrange lifts to church, so if you need a lift, please ask and we will do what we can.

We do not know who needs visiting unless church members let us know of those who do. You can speak to Julia, Kathryn or Revd David. Please pray for the Team, and the Pastoral Assistants who work with us, that we may bring the light of God to those we visit.

Thank you to the members of the team for your faithful work in Jesus' name.

Julia Parsons, Tidenham Pastoral Visiting Team

Life Group Reports (Also known as Home Groups or Discipleship Groups)

Life Group, Elm House, Woodcroft Close

This has been a year of variety: of subjects studied, of venues visited. We've had lots of laughter and some tears. We said goodbye to Lydia as she moved to Wales and welcomed in Renate. We've gone deeper with some of the Sunday Sermons and grappled with Tom's wonderful Holy week series. We've read books together with a variety of reactions...learning new things, deepening our appreciation of living life in the reality of our world and sometimes even been scandalised! Together we have celebrated the arrival of new grandchildren and grieved the deaths of folks we've loved. We've prayed for each other and for suffering friends and difficult situations at home and far away. We've rejoiced in answered prayer and God's grace and blessings. In other words, we've lived our lives together in the flow of God's love.

Iain and Paul - The 'Splinter Group' - have continued putting the world to rights over lashings of tea and mountains of biscuits in the kitchen and they'd welcome anyone who'd like to join their little band.

Fiona Gardiner

Tuesday Daytime and Thursday Evening Life Groups

Tuesday Life Group

The Tuesday group continues to meet over lunch time, 12.45pm – to approximately 2.30pm. We generally meet at the home of Beryl Healey. We are a small group, but have welcomed new members over the last year. We study characters and books from the Bible, discuss various topical issues and questions raised, and pray together. We are currently looking at the Gospel of Mark and working out what it means for us in our lives today. We have also looked at 'Who is God', and 'What is Prayer and How do we Pray'? We are happy for new members to join us, and please feel free to bring a sandwich to eat. For more information, please talk to Beryl or Julia.

Thursday Evening Life Group

Due to changes in circumstances, the Thursday Evening group no longer meets. Most group members now attend other groups.

Julia Parsons

Distraction Life Group

An informal monthly life group allowing parents a short moment to catch their breath to discuss life and faith with their children 'distracted' by a near-by movie or activity. The afternoon culminates in all getting back together, as a whole family, for shared food and refreshments. We have had the regular attendance of five families, but partly because some of the children have now grown into young adults, we have had a hiatus through 2019. Looking ahead in 2020, we are hoping to restart the group and expand and reach out to all new families, and perhaps look to St Luke's as a new and bigger venue.

Contact: Steven Shaw for details.

Food for Thought Life Group. Wednesday mornings at Toast, Tutshill

An informal gathering over a drink and sometimes a snack at Toast in Tutshill on Wednesday mornings 10.30am-12noon to 'chew the fat' and talk life and faith (except 1st Wednesdays in the month). Amidst the warm hospitality of the staff at Toast we have been able to gather and talk informally, honestly and at times humorously about many matters of life and faith. It has been a joy to gather together. The group is very much open to all. You are welcome to join in and to dip in and out as you wish.

Contact: Revd David Treharne for details.

Sedbury Space Life Group. Wednesday evening

A small mixed group meet at Sedbury Space on Wednesday evenings to eat a meal together and discuss issues of faith, reflecting on what's been going on in each of our lives and drawing on the wisdom of Scripture. We are 'mixed' in terms of age (23-63), faith journey (explorers to novice nun!) and church allegiance (Tidenham Parish, Sedbury Evangelical church, St Mary's Chepstow and none!), but we all have a desire to grow closer to God and a heart for the community of Sedbury.

During 2018 we enjoyed piloting a short course designed by Nicki Bullivant as part of an assignment and the Bible Society 'Bible Course'. We welcome new members so if you're interested in joining us, please contact Revd Janice.

Thursday Afternoon Life Group

Thursday afternoon Life Group meets weekly to worship, pray and read the Bible. This year we have also watched DVD interviews & films to encourage us in our faith. We read 'Phoebe' by Paula Gooder and found this enlightening and interesting. We are a relaxed friendly group, trusting God for our times together. We support each other in prayer and conversation. We also enjoyed creating Christingles for St John's Christingle Service. New members welcome, please speak to Jane Penny.

For more information please contact Jane Penny

Reordering of St Luke's Church



Having finally received the go ahead from the DAC on our plans for the re-ordering of St Luke's church and having raised a significant proportion of the necessary money for the project the building work went ahead this year. The church was closed for fourteen weeks while Phase One of the re-ordering plans took shape. In the meantime regular Sunday worship



services took place in Tutshill school hall.

The church was re-opened with a special service of celebration and dedication followed by lunch and a consultation event on 23rd June. People from the wider community and other churches came along to join the celebrations and see the transformed space.



Despite teething problems of delayed delivery of chairs, getting the heating working effectively and getting used to the PA arrangements, the general consensus has been very positive and we have since been able to utilise the space in many different layouts for worship and other parish activities.



The fundraising is continuing to enable phase two to take place in 2020 which will include a servery, sound desk, projection equipment and a new internal glazed door. The finishing touches will

include new display boards, new storage cupboards in St Luke's room and dividing walls in the vestry.



Thank you to everyone for your support financially and in prayer and for your patience while these works took place.

Revd Janice Hamilton

Fairtrade in Tidenham Parish



Fairtrade in Tidenham Parish in 2019

Tidenham Parish is a Fairtrade Parish. This means we have pledged to serve Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar after our services and at church events, as well as using other Fairtrade products when we can. Buying and using Fairtrade ensures farmers and producers are paid fairly for their hard work to produce the things we buy. They can then feed their families properly and send their children to school. By buying and using Fairtrade products we are showing God's love and justice in and through our lives and church, so please shop fairly.

Cate and Julia run stalls in Tidenham and Tutshill churches, and take orders for products from Traidcraft. Catalogues are available in St Luke's Church which is open daily. The Parish magazine regularly publishes articles about Fairtrade. Please speak to Cate, Marilyn, Tanya or Julia if you would like to know more, or if you would like to join the local group that promotes Fairtrade in the Parish, and Chepstow area.

Julia Parsons, Tanya White, Marilyn Henderson and Cate Phillips

Harvest

On 6th October 2019, about 60 of us gathered after the Harvest Service at St Luke's Church to enjoy time together and remember others who may not have the benefit of meeting all their needs. We were fortunate and enjoyed many different delicious soups made by those within our church family, some bread and cheese and some water. We answered a quiz in teams. We gathered over £400 of donations for GARAS (Gloucester Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers). During our Harvest Service we collected Foodbank contributions for Stow Park Church in Newport.



The Link Parish Magazine

In 2019 we produced our Link Magazines on eight occasions as our Editor took a well-deserved break! With a print run of 400 copies, the Link is delivered throughout the Parish by our great Distribution Team. On her retirement from the team, special thanks to Margaret Smith for all her help with distribution over many years, with hope that we will be able to find someone who is able to help with Link Distribution. Thanks to Margaret Rastall for her valuable part in Link distribution and thank you to all of you who help. We give free magazines to the Castleford Care Home, the schools, doctors' surgeries and some trading contacts (like Jones' Butchers, Sheila's Sedbury, Toast at The Live & Let Live and Tutshill paper shop).

We have 29 local businesses advertising in the magazine, well co-ordinated by Roger Martin. The furnished advertising costs plus subscriptions means that we are not out of pocket in our Link expenses. To assist with expenses and contribute further to church costs we will hold the 2020 annual subscription rate at £5, but ask for further donations from those who value our magazine and can afford to contribute more.

The Link is a positive way of expressing our faith, what has and what is going on and inviting Community involvement for all. Please contact the Editor with your contribution and if you can help with its production: I like to include as many different elements as possible as you have hopefully noticed!

Thank you for your support.

Tanya White, Editor



Pioneer Curacy

Since her ordination in July 2017 Janice Hamilton has served as **Pioneer Curate** for the Parish of Tidenham, developing mission with a particular focus on the community of Sedbury. Pioneering mission seeks to go where the people are and be church among them, rather than expecting people to 'come to us' and 'be like us'.

As Janice has entered her third year, she has begun a programme of training 'Into Incumbency', in preparation for the end of the curacy and taking up a post of responsibility. During 2019 she has continued the pioneering activities for the equivalent of three days a week co-ordinating activities at Sedbury Space. Alongside parish duties the main focus of her ministry during 2019 has been the launch of '**The Well**', a new Fresh Expression of church.

Sedbury Space <https://www.sedburyspace.org.uk/>

Janice serves as **Chair** of the committee and Board of Directors and Trustees of Sedbury Space, a not-for-profit community group, made up of local residents, who have come together to develop and manage a community space in the middle of the village.



The partnership between Parish Church and Sedbury Space has been acknowledged with the Parish logo now appearing on documentation and the website alongside those of the Parish Council, Two Rivers and other major funders.

Regular activities at Sedbury Space now include a monthly Memory Café, weekly gentle exercise classes, a homework club for primary aged children, a shared reading group, a craft café and board games café as well as providing refreshments for the Walking for Health group. The main weekly activity is the One Stop Café on a Tuesday morning where Janice serves essentially in a Chaplaincy role, offering a listening ear and prayer support.

The big development at the centre in 2019 was the re-landscaping of the back yard into a lovely garden which was opened formally with a garden party and cream tea in June 2019. A ribbon was cut by Lady Bathurst and members of St Luke's folk club provided musical entertainment. It was well attended by people from the local community and potential partner organisations and agencies. Since then the garden has been well maintained by volunteers and participants of the centre activities.

In the second half of the year, funded by a grant from the District Council, Sedbury Space has invested in their volunteers by running a programme of training in first aid, food hygiene, health and safety and fire awareness. The other main project latterly has been putting together plans to recruit a Centre Manager who will take on a lot of the administrative burden and management of the premises and volunteers. This is due to be advertised in the New Year with appointment after Easter.

The Well

The Well is a fluid, drop-in style of church, operating from 11.30am – 9.30pm with an act of worship on the hour every hour. It takes place on a monthly basis and provides a welcoming safe space for people of tentative or developing faith to draw on the 'water of life' and go deeper in their relationship with God.

Following an ecumenical prayer event in February to trial the ten hour rhythm of worship the Fresh Expression of church was launched in Sedbury Space in May 2019. The theme has been 'Who is Jesus to me?' exploring the 'I am...' statements of Jesus, which has led to some inspiring worship and discussion.

The average attendance at The Well has been 17 including three children. There has been regular support from eight church members, representing each of the three parish congregations and three previously non-church attenders have been coming regularly as well as a few fringe members.

Revd Janice Hamilton

Castleford Care Home Services

Days and Times

A service is held on the premises at 2.15 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. In addition there is a Home Communion service each month, attended by an average of 6 residents plus 1 member of staff.

Aims

The aim is to join together in fellowship, to sing favourite, well-loved hymns; to chat; to share memories and experiences, and to meet the spiritual needs of the residents.

Attendance

This varies, but on average 12-15 people attend on a regular basis. It is good to see that, on occasions, relatives join with their loved ones.

Team Members

As in previous years, strong support is provided by a faithful team of people, without whose help these occasions would be less effective and enjoyable. Thanks must go to Jan, Sue, Tanya, Leonie, Ann, Janet and Julia for sharing their talents and faith. Each member plays an important part in the service, be it providing visual aids for sharing memories, reading verses from the Bible, leading in prayer, singing to Julia's proficient accompaniment, or Sue's competent use of the CD player. A new member is Dianne, who has been warmly welcomed. It is also good to see that Margaret is now able to join us occasionally after a period of illness earlier in the year.

Services

Without the help and goodwill of Beth, the care-worker, the services would not run as smoothly or efficiently. The practice of choosing a favourite hymn continues, with a bank of hymns being cultivated for use within the home. Some favourites have included: *How Great Thou Art* and *The Old Rugged Cross*.

Topics over the year have included: Love, Comfort, Light of the World, Animals, Spring, Celebrations and, of course, major religious festivals.

Special Occasions

Thanks must be given to Tutshill Primary School which, as is the custom each Christmas, provides a choir which sings to the residents. The children bring such joy and happiness, making it a really special and memorable occasion.

Links with Dementia Singing

At the Dementia Friendly Carol Service at St. Luke's on Wednesday 18th December, two of the Castleford residents, accompanied by Beth and carers, attended and contributed, not only by singing, but also by reading short passages. Following this, since January, residents have participated in the weekly singing groups (weather permitting) – an initiative that has been warmly welcomed by Castleford.

Eirwen Griffiths

ST LUKE'S CHURCH CHOIR – TUTSHILL

Throughout 2019 the church choir, with organ accompaniment by Judith Wells, has continued to lead the music for the traditional communion on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The organ was removed as part of the re-ordering and we very much hope finances will allow for a replacement at some time in the future.

Makeup of the choir tends to vary from month to month as participants i.e. Service Leaders, Splash, Sidespeople etc. juggle their other commitments.

It has been rewarding to be joined by choir members from Tidenham and elsewhere for special services such as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday at Tutshill as well as the Advent and Epiphany Carol services held at The Chase. We continue to try and recruit more singers, especially men so that we can be more ambitious in the music we are able to provide.

Wendy Moppett, Choir Leader

TIDENHAM CHURCH CHOIR

The Choir has regularly led Tidenham services with great enthusiasm – and risen to the occasion when normal choir numbers were depleted, though new voices joined the choir in 2019. The regular and excellent support each week from Kathryn Payne on the Tidenham organ helps the choir and congregation alike.

The growing congregation is very appreciative of the choir, and now watch and listen to produce good solid singing. The second Sunday matins are gathering favour, with the psalms and hymns now sung boldly!

The very well attended Parish Service of Nine Lessons and Carols once again produced a choir of some 20 voices, who, with only four rehearsals, led the congregational carols most ably, accompanied by Marjorie Duerden on the organ. We were delighted to be joined once again by Tutshill Primary School Choir and their teachers, who added their special presence and sound to the occasion, much to the delight of their parents and all present.

The four items performed by Tidenham choir were well received with two being unaccompanied; special mention must be made of our performance of 'Here is the little door' a difficult piece written by Herbert Howells CH CBE, who was born in Lydney and died in London in 1983. The words were written by G K Chesterton. Tutshill Primary School Choir joined us to sing John Rutter's joyful 'Star Carol'.

If you are able to sing and hold a part in choral harmony, please contact Roger Martin on 627800.

Roger Martin, Choir Leader

Tidenham Wives and Friends

Tidenham Wives and Friends is a small and friendly group of eighteen members. We usually meet in St. Luke's Room on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. This year, however, we have been meeting in Sedbury Village Hall because of the Reordering of St Luke's Church. We are led by our Chairman Pauline Civil who was elected for a fourth year at our Annual meeting in April and we sponsor a Guide Dog for the Blind called Eddy. During the past year we have had a variety of Speakers on different subjects: -

- A most interesting talk on The Hidden Places in Gloucester Cathedral by Jane Penny.
- Local Potter, Ned Heywood.
- Kate Heaton on flower arranging
- Liz McBride on her book Tidenham Remembers
- Helen Muggeridge on holiday in North America with amazing pictures of wildlife.

Our summer outing was a guided tour of Hanley Farm pulled along by a tractor ending with a cream tea in the Farm Shop.

We entered exhibits at the July and December Festivals at Tidenham Church and raffled Rupert Bear in aid of the renovations at Tidenham Church. Rupert is now living in Japan!

Poppy Moss, Secretary.

The Parish Folk Club

Our folk club meetings have gone through a few changes this past year as Bill and Tanya were away during January/February 2019 and so the organisation was taken on by Jenny and Steve Shaw. St Luke's Reordering work had begun so the venue moved to Sedbury Space for the first few months of 2019. This was convenient but quite cramped, especially as Jenny and Steve's use of social media for advertising had attracted a much wider audience and performers from the surrounding areas. Most people have continued attending following the move back to the newly refurbished main body of St Luke's church during the Summer, as they took advantage of the warmth, space, excellent acoustics and comfortable chairs.



Further changes on the local folk scene this year included the departure of one of our regular *Barnstomers* band members now that Tony and Lydia have moved from Tutshill to their new home in South Wales. We wish them well.

Our final session for 2019 met on Saturday 7th December where we had about 30 in attendance.

Music licencing is covered by St Luke's PRS-for-music licence administered for us by CCLI and we look forward to many more folk clubs in 2020 beginning on Saturday 8th February.

Bill and Tanya White

BELL RINGING AT TIDENHAM CHURCH

Tidenham Tower is the name of the group of people who meet at Tidenham to ring the Church bells. We have had another extremely good year with a growing number of ringers from a wide age range. We still regularly host ringers from Alvington, Chepstow and Lydney towers as well as the occasion visitors from farther afield.

We have 6 bells and continue to practise on Tuesday evenings. We ring for the 9am Sunday service at St Mary and St Peter, Tidenham, other church services such as the Nine Lessons and

Carols service, and for weddings when needed.

In 2018 Tidenham became the Forest South Branch's Tower of the Year, which allowed us to go forward in 2019 for the nomination of Gloucester and Bristol Association Tower of the Year. This consists of 12 Branches covering Wiltshire, Avon, Bristol and Gloucestershire. Tidenham came joint runner-up! A number of us went from Tidenham to Mitcheldean to accept the award.

In December Tidenham hosted the Forest South Branch Annual Carol Service with many ringers from the Forest towers attending. It was a joyful evening with good ringing and a lovely service led by Revd David. We ended the evening with mulled wine and mince pies.



Cate Phillips

THE SEWING GROUP – TIDENHAM PARISH

The sewing group have had another busy year, when we: -

- created a red chasuble for Revd David
- repaired curtains in St Luke's vestry
- repaired a choir robe for a choir member at Tidenham
- made curtains for Chase vestry
- designed and made kneelers for the Altar rail at St Luke's
- made curtains at the back of the choir stalls, over the North Door and the Choir exit door at Tidenham Church with help from Roger Martin
- made numerous box covers for Jane Penny

As we are very few, we would welcome anyone else joining us.

Judith Wells, Linda Harrison and Susanna Jacks

The Man Thing

The Man Thing made a welcome return to the calendar in 2019 and was pleased to see good numbers including new faces attending a short series of events.

After a most pleasant curry at The Sitar followed by post dinner drinks (bottles?) at The Bellhanger, we decided upon a more active approach in the second half of the year.

DT kindly loaned his table tennis table on two occasions as we made full use of the superbly reappointed space in St Luke's church, which just so happens to have perfect light, perfect roof space and a perfect floor for a dynamic clash of local men of the village!

Buoyed by his inaugural championship win over George Healey in the first event, DT suggested an inevitable second staging. This time a close fought final, conquering AP - special mention to young man Toby Palmer who made the semi-final in both events.

2020 promises more of the same and we hope we can welcome new parishioners into a fun and friendly environment.

Andrew Palmer

Thursday Parish Lunch

From its humble beginning in October 2009, when just 12 guests attended, the Thursday Parish Lunch now greets more than 40 guests every month at Woodcroft Christian Centre. This event is not confined to churchgoers or church members, but is open to anyone over 50 years of age, with a connection to Tidenham parish.

We celebrated our 10th Birthday in 2019 with a birthday cake and live entertainment! And the 3 course Christmas meal was a great success as usual followed by singing our favourite carols. The meal charge of just £2.50 was maintained and still remains the same for 2020!

Once again, we were able to grant Kate and Gareth a gift of £100 for their personal use. This was in recognition of the work they put into the Lunch, which is far and above what is required.

Our regular team of Chefs and Helpers – Kate, George, Beryl, Ann Rymer, Non van den Braak and Jill make every month a great success; not forgetting the large number of volunteer drivers for transporting guests to and from the venue. We thank our Lord for their continued involvement. Please contact Beryl or George on 01291 625551 georgechealey@gmail.com

Beryl and George Healey



Forest South Deanery Synod

Forest South Deanery Synod met only twice instead of the usual three times. The October 2019 meeting was cancelled due to a high number of apologies received. Tidenham Parish has three representatives: Nicki Bullivant, Margaret Coombs and Emma Phillips.

23 February at Littledean.

- 1 The Diocesan Mission Partnership with the Church Army is to proceed. Initially at Matson in Gloucester, then later in the year at Coleford.
- 2 The Deanery Parish share contribution for 2018 is £20,000 down. If this continues eventually clergy will be lost. No money was lost through staging the Speech House Christmas event in November 2019. It was seen as highly successful.
- 3 Lydney with Woolaston, Aylburton and Alvington is a new united benefice in the Deanery.
- 4 Rev. Joe Knight, (Curate of Newnham), gave a presentation on how the Church can impact upon the environment in positive ways. <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/> 'Loving God means we love what God has made and to be a Christian is to be an environmentalist.' Eco-church is a fast growing organisation which encourages churches to live in harmony with nature. Small grants are available to help parishes become eco-churches and the scheme is supported and promoted by the Diocese. Anyone interested in eco-church can contact Joe at joeknight@outlook.com
- 5 Mike Smith, the newly appointed Diocesan Giving Coordinator, spoke about stewardship. Our Deanery had made a commitment that all our churches would invest in stewardship each year. He discussed the principles of Christian giving, suggesting we need to approach different people in different ways, depending on where they are at in the Christian journey. Mike believes significant change can happen and he is happy to come and speak to any group with reference to their particular situation.

4th July at Viney Hill

- 1 Congratulations were offered to David Rees (recently deaconed) and Nina Summerfield, (soon to be licensed) among others.
- 2 Rev David Gardiner to become Vicar of Lydney, with Woolaston, Aylburton and Alvington.
- 3 The new Archdeacon of Gloucester, Hilary Dawson, addressed ways of facilitating mission towards 2030. More interaction with neighbouring parishes and benefices was seen as key. Between 2015 and 2018 average congregation sizes had fallen by 10%. Our Deanery's Parish Share is heavily subsidised by parishes outside the Forest, but in the long term this will not be sustainable. Shortly we will be asked to consider what would be the outcome of reducing the number of clergy and increasing the number of lay people in ministry? Very small congregations require the same input as large congregations, services do not all have to be on a Sunday and neither do they all have to be Eucharistic. One possible solution could be to divide the Deanery into maybe three geographical areas, and each area would have one service with a large congregation each week. Would people be prepared to travel? Or do we need to do something completely different? Working together sharing resources and ideas? Group discussion followed.
- 4 Jonathan Kear spoke about **Prayer Spaces in Schools**, to enable children of all faiths or none to explore life questions in a safe, creative and interactive way. <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/>

Margaret Coombs

Churches Together (Cytun)

Nine Churches or Parishes are members of Cytûn and all but two of them, (Tidenham Parish and Stoa Evangelical Church) are in Wales. There were three meetings over the year. We said farewell to a long-standing supporter and friend, Rev. Andrew Webster, and also to Leonie Jones, who had been out Treasurer for many years. She has been replaced by Averil Brand from St Arvans.

Three joint events took place:

1. **Combined Lent Course** which had a variety of leaders. Identical daytime and evening sessions took place at 3 Woodcroft Close and St Christopher's Church Bulwark. This was much appreciated and seen as a success, and is to be repeated in 2020.
2. **Easter Sunday service by the Bandstand.** Many people were in the area enjoying the sunshine, but there were few Church people there apart from Revd Gareth Davidson of the Baptist Church and Revd Philip Averay, Vicar of Chepstow, who led the service with members of their congregations. It was suggested that perhaps Easter Sunday is not the best time to have such a service.
3. **Carols by Candlelight** at St Mary's Priory Church Chepstow, a few days before Christmas Day. An enjoyable occasion with the Town Band and a large congregation of predominantly non-church people.

Joint Community Projects.

1. **The Foodbanks** at the Baptist and the Bridge Churches are busier than ever, so they are no longer able to support other foodbanks. They believe much of the increased need is due to Universal Credit, when people have to wait for six weeks before receiving any payments. At one Foodbank someone asked for a Bible and they were able to give some Bible Reading notes. They now put out Bibles with the food.
2. **Christians Against Poverty (CAP).** At the beginning of the year CAP appointed a new Manager, David Price of Lydney. David has been very busy and recently CAP nationally took a "Time to Breathe" with no new clients accepted. His needs are for a fundraiser, people to accompany him on his visits, (i.e. Befrienders), and someone to oversee the safeguarding. (They have drawn up a draft policy.)
3. **The Night Shelter** has been ready for use with the proviso that it will not be used unless the temperature falls to a certain level for a stipulated length of time and it has been too warm.
4. The Lunch Club and the Care Home Services are going strong.

Discontinued Projects

1. Following the retirement of long term coordinator Cate Philips, a replacement has not been found, so **Christian Aid** activities will no longer be associated with our local Cytûn. Churches and individuals can still have collections or other activities through Christian Aid Cardiff.
2. **Street Pastors** finished operating in Chepstow in January 2019 after patrolling the streets for 8 years, because the town is much quieter than it used to be. The money they had raised has been returned to Cytun to help local people.
3. **Besom** has been discontinued.
4. The Rainbow project involving help for ex-offenders following rehabilitation has been discontinued with the departure of Rev. Andrew Webster.

A possible new project for the Rainbow

Churches Together are praying about and exploring the possibility of using the Rainbow as a renewal wellness centre. <https://www.renewwellbeing.org.uk/our-centres> This is a place where "It's all right not to be all right." People concerned about their mental health can go there for companionship, a cup of tea, a listening ear, or to practise their hobbies and skills or discover new ones. Initially this would be open for a few hours once a week. It is very much in the formative stage, some training has been given, a small team meet regularly to pray about it, but Churches Together have yet to decide whether they should take this challenge further.

Margaret Coombs

The Friends of St Mary & St Peter Tidenham



Affiliated Charity: The Association of Friends of the Church of England Church of St Mary and St Peter Tidenham. Registered Charity No: 1159658



Set up in 2014 to support St Mary & St Peter Tidenham, The Friends of Tidenham Parish Church is an independent charity in its own right No: 1159658 and as such produces its own annual report and accounts which are available from the secretary: secretary.friends@icloud.com or from the Charity Commission.

The Trustees have continued to arrange a series of successful fund raising events, such as

- the ever popular Burns night dinner,
- summer flower festival 6th July, which saw around 100 people turn up throughout the opening afternoon to enjoy the music and tea and cake,
- Go2Theatre's 2-evening production of 'Tales from the Bookshelf' on 12th and 13th July
- a come-and-sing musical event,
- Christmas tree displays and
- other fundraising activities.

As a result of raising funds by these means and by receipt of generous donations, the Trustees were able to further progress the development of the car park, including the local community laying hedges along the walls. The car park is well used every Sunday and the project is ongoing, with final approval of the Local Planning Authority being obtained in due course when it is anticipated that ownership of the car park will be transferred to the PCC.

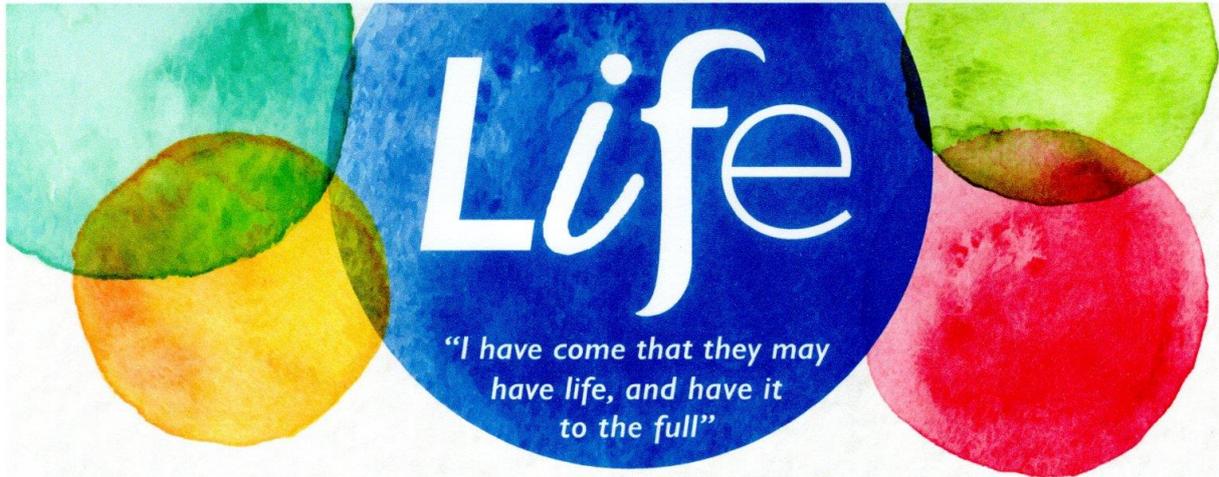


The Friends have employed the Church's Architect, Philip Belchere, who is preparing drawings and plans for the re-ordering of the church following advice from the DAC. Funds continue to be raised to pay for his fees.

The Friends designed, funded and arranged for a water pipe to be laid from Tidenham church boundary to Welsh Water mains pipe at the bottom of Tidenham Lane. Welsh Water installed a water meter on 2 March 2019.

The Friends assisted the PCC in part funding the cost of the new under pew heating system that was installed in October, and much appreciated by those attending Christmas services.

Sarah-Jane Gilchrist, Secretary Tidenham Friends



Leadership

Committed to transformation

- Developing diverse lay and ordained leaders from the communities we serve
- Piloting liberating models of leadership and ministry, especially in multi-parish benefices
- Creating learning networks for lay and ordained leaders

imagination

Opening new paths to faith

- Investing in our engagement with baptism families to spark an amazing adventure with Jesus Christ
- Placing schools at the heart of our mission with creative connections between churches and schools
- Encouraging new and courageous ways of worshipping, in different places, which connect with more people
- Approaching the use, upkeep and future of our church buildings in bold and creative ways



Find out more visit
gloucester.anglican.org

faith

Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ

- Enabling people to discover new depths to prayer and spiritual growth, individually and together
- Nurturing confident disciples to live out their faith seven days a week
- Sharing our stories in new and different ways, including through digital media

engagement

Living out Christ's love and hope

- Being advocates for human flourishing, through initiatives which combat injustice, environmental destruction, exclusion and isolation
- Using sport, music and art to build relationships and share the Christian faith
- Connecting with new housing developments in innovative ways
- Investing in people and programmes, which excite young people to explore and grow in faith



And finally... from the Vicar

The year 2019 has been a funny old year on a personal front. With my wife Kathy having been clear of cancer for a second full year there is much joy and relief in the Treharne household. However, I have had to face the trauma of what we had been through which manifested as shingles and pneumonia at the end of the year. In many ways 2019 was a year of reordering in my life which tallies rather well with the reordering of St Luke's Church.



As a Parish 2020 brings our year of worship and a number of challenges and opportunities with it.

1. Reshaping our life together

When I arrived in 2012 there was a sense of needing to 'get into shape.' After much prayer, listening and discussion we were able to discern our priorities for the future around the emerging vision of 'doing relationship well.' The 4 areas of focus of worship, community, mission and discipleship have helped shape us. With much change having happened over the last 7 years in our life together we are once again at a stage of reshaping, reordering and reorienting, although we are not in the same place as we were before. I thank God that he has led us to where we are now, however we now discern and prepare for what lies ahead... 2020 vision would be rather handy!

2. Whole life worship

George Herbert wrote 'Seven whole days not one in seven, I will praise thee.' Praise and worship is not merely an hour's pursuit on a Sunday but a daily life and calling for all who are disciples of Jesus Christ. Yet what happens at a church service can sometimes become divorced from the realities and experiences of our daily life and vice versa. Faith isn't supposed to be like this. May the Lord enable our church gatherings and our daily lives to come together and inform one another.

3. Passing on the baton

I realise that I am getting older! Indeed, I could be the father of many of the wedding couples I see! The whole UK Church, not just Tidenham Parish, faces an enormous challenge of connecting with the younger generation, particular the 20-40-year-old age group. Who will be the next in line to take on the roles and responsibilities of leadership and responsibility in mission and ministry within our community? Perhaps the Lord has other ideas of how we will be and do church, or perhaps there are those who he is already calling.

4. Pray for the future

I thank God for the commitment of his people here. Read this Report together with previous ones ... by the grace of God and loving service so much good has happened. Now I ask you to pray for our next steps together. Ask the Lord for the guidance, wisdom, discernment, people and money for us to be able to fulfil our calling. Pray that we can disciple disciples. Pray for people across the Parish to encounter the love of Christ and respond. Pray that we can find the way and the money to restore Tidenham Church in a way that is life giving and long lasting! Pray for all the different areas of mission and ministry listed in this Report.

Being a disciple is wonderful but it is not always easy. I rejoice with those of you who have had cause for joy and celebration over the last year, and I weep for those of you who have had trauma, heartache and suffering. Thanks be to God that Christ Jesus accompanies each one of us on the journey of life and faith whether it be a bumpy or a smooth part of the journey. And more than that, thanks be to God that he has provided us with companions on that journey to support, encourage, build up, teach, hold to account, pray, worship, laugh, cry and to live life together!

Thank you for living life in the flow of God's love.

Yours in Christ's love with my gratitude and continuing prayers,

David Treharne (Electronically Signed) March 2020

Revd David Treharne

Vicar of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut and Priest in Charge of St Briavels with Hewelsfield & Brockweir

