

**The Parish of Tidenham  
with Beachley and Lancaut**



**Annual Report  
2023**

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

**Charity Number 1158940**

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

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### Authorisation

The Annual Report for 2023 was approved by the Churchwardens and Vicar and signed by 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 / Briefing prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Electronic and a number of hard copies of this Report are made available.

*Revd. David Treharne, Vicar*

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Legal and Administrative Information

**Full Name:** The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut (The Parish of Tidenham).

**Working Name:** Tidenham PCC

**Location:** The Ecclesiastical Parish of Tidenham is located in Gloucestershire in the south part of the Forest of Dean District Council, between the Rivers Severn and Wye, and adjacent to Chepstow. It is part of Forest South Deanery, within the Church of England's Diocese of Gloucester. There are 3 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

**Charitable Status:** The PCC 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.

**Registered charity number:** 1158940

**Address for correspondence:** Tidenham Vicarage, Gloucester Road, Tutshill, CHEPSTOW NP16 7DH

**Website :** - [Home \(tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk\)](http://Home(tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk))

**PCC members** who have served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 are: -

### **Ex officio members:**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Position held</b>
<i>Incumbent</i>	Revd David Treharne		Chair
<i>Curate</i>	Revd Nicki Bullivant		
<i>Churchwarden</i>	Prof Brian Duerden CBE		Vice chair
<i>Churchwarden</i>	Miss Nicholette Flatman		Vice chair
<i>Reader</i>	Mrs Fiona Gardiner		
<i>Reader</i>	Mr James Parsons		Deanery Synod representative

<b>Lay members:</b>	Mr Paul Coombs		Treasurer
	Mr Iain Gardiner		Secretary
	Dr Emma Phillips		Deanery Synod representative (until 23 April 2023)
	Mrs Molly Mayo		Deanery Synod representative
	Mr John-Ross Henderson		Health & Safety Advisor
	Ms Marilyn Henderson		Parish Safeguarding Officer (until 25 September 2023)
	Mrs Polly Morgan		
	Mr Andrew Palmer		
	Mr Ethan Richards	(Resigned 27 February 2023)	
	Mr Robin Riordan		
	Miss Chantelle Wynn	(Resigned 23 April 2023)	

**Independent examiner:** Andrew Royle

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

### Governing Document

Tidenham Parochial Church Council (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). They were revised in 2011 and completely rewritten in 2019, coming into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

### Aims and purposes

All PCC members are Trustees of the charity. The PCC is responsible for: -

- co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in Tidenham parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical for the public benefit.
- making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

### Objectives and activities

The PCC seeks to promote the whole mission of the church by engaging in activities including: -

- the holding of regular public worship services open to all;
- the provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation;
- pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved;
- teaching Christianity by sermons, courses and small groups;
- taking Christian assemblies in local schools;
- provision of children and youth activities with a Christian ethos;
- promoting Christianity through staging other events and meetings;
- carrying out the mission of the Church by the provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and other special needs 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 - Engaging with the community

In planning the activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Built in to the parish vision is a commitment to 'doing relationship well' and therefore a strong emphasis is placed on building community, loving engagement and wellbeing within the Parish. In particular we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through: -

- worship and prayer;
- learning about the Gospel;
- developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish; *and*
- volunteering and loving service day by day.

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## **PCC Structure**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. It consists of both ex-officio and elected members, and all members have full charity trustee responsibilities.

### *Ex-Officio PCC members*

Tidenham PCC consists of the following ex officio members: the vicar, two churchwardens, curates, readers and Deanery Synod Representatives.

### *Forest South Deanery Synod*

Three church members are elected every three years at the APCM to sit on Forest South Deanery Synod and become ex-officio members of the PCC. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church. Two Deanery Synod members were elected at the 2023 APCM for a 3-year term, leaving one position vacant.

### *Electing PCC members*

In addition, twelve 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. PCC members are also elected for a 3-year term, with a third of members elected each year. The PCC may co-opt up to two additional members as necessary.

The APCM must be well advertised and held by 31 May each year using a standard agenda. It was duly held in Tutshill church on Sunday 23 April 2023 at which The Annual Accounts for 2022, which had been independently examined, were presented to parishioners.

### *Church Electoral Roll of Tidenham Parish*

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. 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.

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 2019 APCM.

At 01 January 2023 there were 182 people on the church electoral roll, of whom 132 lived in the parish. The roll was revised in March 2023 in advance of the scheduled APCM. At 31 December 2023 there were 187 people on the church electoral roll, of whom 134 live in the parish.

## **PCC Management**

### *PCC Meetings and sub-committees*

The full PCC met ten times during 2023 (usually in person) with an average attendance of 59%. Safeguarding, health and safety, and data protection are mandatory topics for the agenda. Once signed the Minutes are public documents and are available from the PCC Secretary. Highlights of the PCC meetings are published in the Link church magazine.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These sub-committees, which include buildings, finance and charity giving, are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly.

The PCC has also authorised certain church members to be responsible for specific areas of church activity, such as safeguarding, health and safety, pastoral visiting, liaison with Tutshill Church of England primary school, visiting families to prepare for baptism, and care home services. The members of these committees and post holders are reviewed each year at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## CHURCH BUILDINGS

### General

To facilitate our activities it is important that we maintain the fabric of the three church buildings in the parish. In November and December 2022 our church architect undertook the Quinquennial Inspections of our buildings. As part of this process a drone survey was conducted for the first time. All work arising from the 5-yearly fixed wiring inspections carried out in 2022 by an NICEIC-approved contractor was completed.

### Tutshill church

The recently re-ordered main church building has required no significant work this year.

### Tidenham church

Tidenham church has required no significant work this year. The PCC continued to develop plans to repair the tower and in October the DAC granted the PCC a faculty to do so. The PCC is continuing its support of the Friends of Tidenham Church in their ongoing scheme to reorder the north aisle.

### Tidenham Chase church

Chase church has required no significant work this year.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### Covid 19 Crisis

Although all UK Government's legal restrictions ceased on 19 July 2021, access to care homes was still limited and indeed our regular services at Castleford House Nursing Home did not restart until January 2023. This was due to Covid, staff shortages and other illnesses at the nursing home.

### Public Benefit - Access to Church buildings

St Luke's Church Tutshill and St Michael and All Angels Church at Tidenham Chase were both open to the public on 3 days a week for personal prayer. Access to St Mary and St Peter Church in Tidenham can be provided on request to the Administration Assistant or churchwardens. The churches may be used for community purposes. Local Schools and the local nursery can and do use the Church for regular acts of worship during term time and for other services during the year.

### Public Benefit - Worship and Prayer

Public worship is conducted by those licensed and authorised to do so by the Bishop of Gloucester, which as well as the incumbent, curates and readers of Tidenham Parish listed on page 2, includes a number of retired clergy and two people from the adjacent United Benefice of St Briavels with Hewelsfield and Brockweir: Revd David Rees, an Ordained Local Minister and Mandy Vaughan a reader.

All three churches in the parish held a public Christian worship service each Sunday with additional services at Tutshill and Tidenham during the week.

Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and, through funeral services, friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in the world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We celebrated 18 (12) baptisms/thanksgivings for births; 2 (5) weddings and held 30 (36) funerals in our churches and at local crematoria. 2022 data is in brackets.

Parishioners are encouraged to learn about the Gospel, and to develop their knowledge and trust in Jesus, not only through teaching during services, but also by joining one of the small 'Life groups' which met regularly once again in person to discuss the Christian faith and how it affects their lives.

The annual quiet day at Ty Mawr Convent took place in July, preceded by a 2-day retreat.

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Public Benefit - Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The ordained ministers are assisted in the pastoral work by a pastoral visiting team, whose usual activities, providing pastoral care in local hospitals and via home visits to the bereaved, sick, elderly and housebound, are now back to normal. We continue to hold the monthly lunches at the local Woodcroft Christian Centre, which offer social activity for senior residents of the parish, and we restarted regular visits to a local care home.

In person activities were run for children and teenagers to help them explore Christianity in a fun and engaging way. Our weekly in person sessions for our Parish baby and toddlers groups continue to be very well attended.

The Wellbeing Chaplain spends the equivalent of one day a week at Sedbury Space, and visits many people both in their homes and places of work and liaises with the health providers, community police and social services.

## Mission and Evangelism

The PCC's commitment to Mission and evangelism was demonstrated by its continued support of the part-time Youth, Children and Families (YCF) Missioner and part-time Wellbeing Chaplain, both of whom made presentations to the PCC. The YCF Missioner takes a monthly assembly at a local primary school and collaborated with the Parish Council Youth worker and Sportily to offer a comprehensive suite of activities for local youth during the summer.

The Parish produces a 'weekly briefing' for members and the wider community, which is circulated on email, posted on the Parish website and placed at the back of each church. The Parish Easter and Christmas cards designed by members of the congregation were delivered to every home in the new estates of the Parish. YouTube and Facebook posts reached well beyond the usual church membership.

The Link, our parish magazine, is now printed 4 times a year, but it is also available via the parish website.



The church website provides information about our church buildings, life events, contact details and a comprehensive calendar of events.

During the year, the PCC gave £1,654 (2022: £2,882) to a range of other charitable causes in the local community, nationally and throughout the world.

## Ecumenical Relationships

As we are located right on the Welsh border, we have good relationships with churches based in Chepstow, participating in foodbank collections and Christians Against Poverty. Chepstow-based Churches Together in Wales (Cytûn) no longer exists as a formal organisation and its bank account was closed in 2023.

## STAFF

### Paid Staff

During 2023 the PCC employed three part-time staff: -

- a Youth, Children and Families (YCF) Missioner,
- a Wellbeing Chaplain to address the many issues that have been highlighted by Covid *and*
- an Administration Assistant.

**Volunteers** The PCC relies almost entirely on volunteers to carry out its objectives, and thanks them for all they do to make our church in the Parish of Tidenham the active and vibrant community that it is.

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## **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.

### **Safeguarding**

The church engages in activities with children and young people and may come into contact with vulnerable people in the course of its pastoral ministry. The PCC has reconfirmed its acceptance of the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to The House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The PCC has arranged for all trustees to undertake the mandatory domestic abuse training or obtain an exemption. The PCC was compliant by 28 February 2023.

The PCC has a safeguarding policy for working with children and young adults and a separate safeguarding policy for working with vulnerable adults. These key policies are reviewed, revised and reissued each year, usually at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) Marilyn Henderson stood down from the role in September after faithfully undertaking the role for some 18 years. The PCC thanked her for her dedication. The PSO ensured that:

- All volunteers were subject to the safer recruitment procedure before commencing work;
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certification was up to date;
- All relevant training was provided.

There was one new safeguarding incident during 2023, which was reported to all the relevant agencies.

### **Insurance**

The PCC has insurance policies covering both its church buildings and its activities. It has comprehensive health and safety policies, which are reviewed each year, and a contract for the provision and annual maintenance of fire extinguishers in its buildings.

### **Data Protection**

The PCC has always taken its responsibilities for data protection very seriously and reissued a privacy notice in January 2023 as part of its review of the church electoral roll. The PCC has reviewed the data it holds and believes it complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018. No data protection issues were recorded during 2023.



# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Financial Review

**Total receipts (i.e. income) on the General Fund were £123,671** (2022: £93,719), an increase of 31.9%. Total General Fund voluntary receipts were £103,165 (2022: £76,248), an increase of 35.3%. Income from the recovery of Gift Aid: £17,015 was up nearly 100% compared with 2022: £8,547.

**The amount spent from the General Fund to provide Christian Ministry throughout the Parish was £99,572** (2022: £107,515), a decrease of 7.4% on the previous year. The largest element is the Parish Share we pay to Gloucester Diocese, which remained the same as in 2022: £68,293, and was paid in full during the year. At £23,789 Church running costs were down 9.1% compared with 2022, including utility costs of £8,990 (2022: £7,561). The 3-year fixed price electricity and gas contract with SSE ended in December 2023. The new 2-year contract with SSE will add 62% to electricity and 103% to gas supplies. Insurance costs during the year were £4,614 (2022: £4,308). There were no Building Repairs or Improvements paid from the General Fund in 2022.

**Reserves Policy.** After a comprehensive revision in 2021, the reserves policy was further reviewed in December, when the PCC increased the value of its reserves in its General Fund by 10% to £22,000, and agreed to maintain £5,000 between the main Restricted Funds – the YC&F and Wellbeing Project and the Wellbeing Chaplain.

### Restricted Funds (See page 15)

- 1. YC&F.** On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 the fund stood at £19,075 (2022: £39,903).
- 2. Wellbeing Project.** On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 the fund stood at £42,189 (2022: £30,286).
- 3. Wellbeing Chaplain.** On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 the fund stood at £3,638 (2022: £20,080).
- 4. Tutshill Re-ordering** £12,915 remains in the Fund as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (2022: £12,690), which includes £1,320 funeral donations specifically for St Luke's church that will be moved to a new restricted fund (Tutshill St Luke's General Fund) on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.
- 5. Tidenham Tower Repairs.** £112,419 is being held in the fund on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023; (2022: £109,497) £1,865 was paid out for Bat ecology certification.
- 6. Buildings (Fabric) Funds.** £8,227 was spent from the Restricted Fund updating electrical circuits and control boxes in Tidenham church and repairs at the other two churches in addition to quinquennial expenses. On 31<sup>st</sup> December the Restricted Fund stood at £1,703 (2022: £5,138) whilst the Designated Fund stood at £1,724 (2022: £1,956).
- 7. During 2023 the PCC voted to create one Designated Fund on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 and open two Restricted Funds on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024: -**
  - Pastoral Fees (Designated Fund)** established on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 received/paid £775 during 2023.
  - Tutshill (St Luke's) General (Restricted Fund)** established on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 with £1,320 transferred from Tutshill Re-Ordering Restricted Fund.
  - Chase (St Michael's) General (Restricted Fund).** Established on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, with zero balance.

**Total Receipts and Payments Summary** (i.e. including all Restricted, Designated & General Funds)  
Total Receipts for 2023 were £161,626 (2022: £271,776) *and*  
Total Payments for 2023 were £165,051 (2022: £167,769)

**Total cash funds** at year-end on 31 December 2023 were £259,936 (2022: £263,360), held with Lloyds Bank and CBF Church of England deposit accounts.

The PCC discussed its account with Monmouthshire Building Society (MBS) as part of a financial review and decided to close it. Local Building Societies no longer open new accounts for charities. The MBS account was closed on 17 November 2023.

*PCC Finance Committee*

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Electoral Roll Review 2023

At 01 January 2023 there were 182 people on the church electoral roll: 135 living in the parish.

### Report to 2023 AGM held on 23 April 2023

The review of the church electoral roll of Tidenham Parish was completed by the PCC on 02 April 2023. Since the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 08 May 2022, the following changes have taken place:

#### People on the previous church electoral roll, but not on the revised roll: -

*Faithful departed 2022:* Mary Adamson, Barbara Ashley, Margaret Payne

*Faithful departed 2023:* John Poyntz

*Moved away from the Parish:* NIL

#### The following 13 names were added to the new roll: -

Jane Edwards	Aaron Joseph in 2022	Lesley Sterry
Mike Edwards	Shleah Joseph in 2022	Esther Woolcock
Corette Firth	Peter Phillips	John Woolcock
Jonathan Firth	John Sterry	Mary Vittle
Charlotte Hitchings		

**Summary:** There are now 192 names on the new church electoral roll of Tidenham Parish: 53 live outside the parish and 139 live in the parish.

*Iain Gardiner, Church Electoral Roll Officer, 02 April 2023*

### Update to 31 December 2023

**The following name was added to the church electoral roll:-** Janet Banks

**The following 6 names were removed from the roll since the 2023 AGM: -**

*Faithful departed:* Sylvia Lewis, Pat Manson, Peter Phillips, Betty Rymer, Margaret Smith

*Moved away from the Parish:* Mary McDowall

Consequently, at 31 December 2023 the church electoral roll contained the names of 187 people: 134 living in the parish and 53 living outside the parish.

A review of the church electoral roll is due to take place in advance of the Annual Church Meeting scheduled for 14 April 2024, when a full update of all the changes to the roll since the 2023 AGM will be given.

### For Information

#### Changes to our Worshipping Community and former members

During 2023 the following changes have taken place: -

**One person who cannot be on the church electoral roll has joined:-** Revd Miri Keen

**Five people have passed away:**

Olwen Coles, Revd Royston Grosvenor (Vicar of Tidenham Parish 1997-2011), Revd David Johnson, Charles Lewis and John Pullinger

*Iain Gardiner, Church Electoral Roll Officer, 22 January 2024*

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)



# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Church Attendance and Statistics

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021*	2022	2023
<b>Electoral Roll</b>	192	193	195	178	191	190	183	192
<b>Ash Wednesday Attendance (Parish)</b>	33	34	47	64	43	-	43	27
<b>Good Friday Attendance (Parish)</b>	114	124	125	89	-	117	89	66
<b>Easter Communicants (Parish)</b>	167	179	186	201	-	109	168	138
<b>Back to Church Sunday attendance</b>	134	141	115	125	-	-	88	116
<b>Christingle Service Attendance</b>	99	100	114	79	0	55	0#	96
<b>Christmas Eve Family Service Attendance</b>	223	222	192	192	84	54	70	135
<b>Midnight Mass Attendance+</b>	82	82	83	100	47	87	90	125
<b>Midnight Mass Communicants</b>	71	65	76	80	46	71	78	103
<b>Christmas Day Attendance (Parish)</b>	195	183	160	181	56	56	78	62
<b>Christmas Day Communicants (Parish)</b>	75	68	44	80	18	27	28	24
<b>Av Sunday Attendance (Tutshill)</b>	87	96	89	75	77	43	56	63
<b>Av Sunday Attendance (Tidenham)</b>	27	27	26	31	29	26	23	24
<b>Av Sunday Attendance (Chase)</b>	15	17	18	15	16	14	12	12
<b>Av Sunday Attendance &lt;16s (Parish)</b>	17	18	18	20	15	4	13	12
<b>Av Sunday Attendance all ages (Parish)</b>	129	140	133	121	122	83	104	111
<b>Baptisms (&amp; thanksgivings)</b>	3	10	14	12	1	5	12	18
<b>Weddings</b>	8	1	6	2	4	8	5	2
<b>Funerals, burials, memorial services</b>	33	25	23	25	29	34	36	30
<b>Confirmations</b>	3	0	0	4	0	-	2	2
<b>Admittance to Holy Communion</b>	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0

Normal church services resumed on 31 January 2022, but with Covid guidance issued by Revd David Treharne. Holy Communion was celebrated in one kind only – i.e. the chalice was not used until Pentecost Sunday - 5 June 2022.

### NOTES

\* Live services were severely disrupted by the COVID-19 restrictions in both 2020 and 2021.

+ Since December 2020 we hold 2 x Midnight mass services: 9pm at Tutshill and 11.15 at Tidenham.

# The Christingle service was held on 29 January 2023.

*Brian Duerden and Nicholette Flatman, Churchwardens*

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Charitable Giving

**POLICY** - Tidenham PCC Charitable Giving Policy (full Policy available on Church Notice Boards) was reviewed in December. The PCC has determined that 10% of its disposable ordinary and unrestricted income after paying the parish share be used to support and further God's work locally, nationally and internationally, focussing on those charities which cohere with the PCC's mission statement – *'To live life together in the flow of God's Love'*.

**HEADLINES** - The PCC endorsed the Charity Giving Team's proposed allocations of £1,654 in 2023. This compares with £2,882 in 2022. It agreed once again with a request from the Scarecrow Trail Committee to donate 10% of the funds raised to each of two local charities.

**DETAILS** – Due to the significant reduction in monies available for distribution in 2023, the PCC had some difficult decisions to make. Here is the full list of donations made in 2023, based on the annual accounts for 2022.

Name of Charity	2022 £	2023 £
Church Mission Society (CMS)	500	<b>178.86</b>
Tearfund	234	<b>0</b>
Christian Relief Uganda	120	<b>178.86</b>
National Churches Trust	50	<b>50</b>
Gloucester Historic Churches Trust	50	<b>50</b>
Church Army	234	<b>178.86</b>
Crisis at Christmas	234	<b>178.86</b>
Christians Against Poverty (CAP)	234	<b>178.86</b>
Woodcroft Christian Centre	500	<b>0</b>
Scarecrow Trail - FOD Dementia Action Alliance	N/A	<b>151</b>
Scarecrow Trail - FOD Breathe Youth	N/A	<b>151</b>
GARAS	234	<b>178.86</b>
SARA	234	<b>178.86</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2882</b>	<b>1654</b>

**CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY (CMS)** - The Church continues to support Heather Johnstone from the Church Mission Society, who works for CMS in Tanzania and manages the Rehema Project, a project aimed at helping the most disadvantaged women and children in the diocese of Mara.

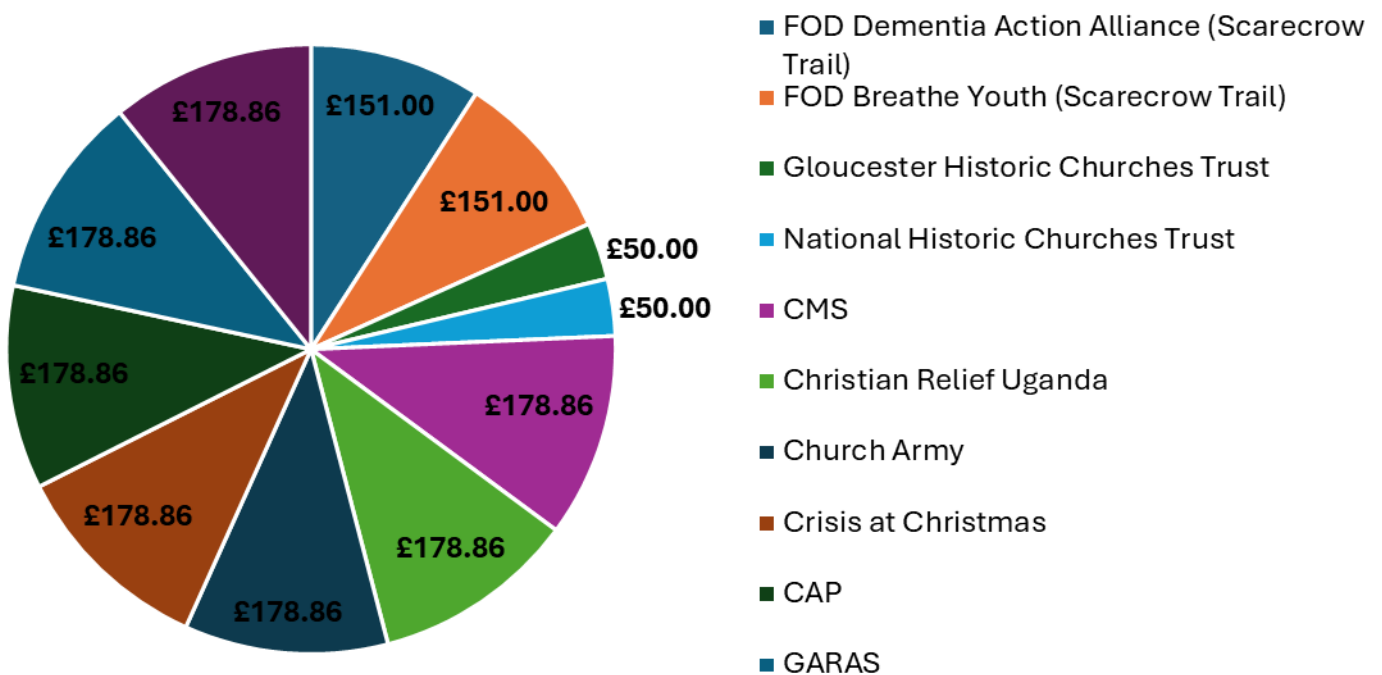
**RETIRING COLLECTIONS** – PCC decided in 2021 to stop most retiring collections. The exceptions are:

- **Remembrance Sunday:** when the Royal British Legion makes a collection at the entrance to Tutshill Church before the start of the church service;
- **Church Christingle service:** when the collection is given to The Children's Society.

Congregations at Easter and Christmas are instead advised how to support various charities such as Barnabas Aid, Tear Fund etc, but all collections at church services are for our General Fund.

The Parish's true level of Charitable Giving is not and cannot be fully represented as it does not include the very significant regular giving by members of our worshipping community or 'giving in kind' including time, talents, care and use of church buildings, volunteering, foodbank collections, etc.

## TIDENHAM PARISH CHARITABLE GIVING 2023



*PCC Charity Giving Team*



Nicholette Flatman  
Churchwarden



Prof Brian Duerden  
Churchwarden



Paul Coombs  
PCC Treasurer

## Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches of the Parish

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The reports of the December 2022 Quinquennial Inspections (QI) of our three churches were received in the early part of 2023. The Buildings Committee is reviewing the recommendations.

### 2. FACULTIES

All work carried out in our churchyards and buildings are subject to approval from the Diocesan Advisor Committee (DAC) in the form of an Archdeacon's written notice, or a Faculty.

#### 2.1 Archdeacon's written notices received in 2023 -

- February 2023, replacement outside light for Tidenham Church east end footpath.
- June 2023, replacement organ for St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase.

#### 2.2 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.
- Phase 2 works were due to be completed by September 2020, but due to COVID-19, the consistory court granted an extension to September 2022. Additional work has taken place, and we have requested a further extension to complete the final phase.

#### 2.3 Faculties under application and discussion in 2023 -

Faculties for restoration and reordering work at **St Mary and St Peter, Tidenham**

- Extensive discussions with both our church architect and a conservation architect resulted in a revised application for a faculty being submitted on 19 December 2022; it was granted on 27 October 2023. In December our church architect sought tenders from DAC approved contractors to undertake the work; four tenders were received on 23 February 2024.
- Our application for a faculty to reorder the north aisle of the church, including the provision of toilet, kitchen and parish office facilities was granted on 27 October. The Friends are seeking grants to undertake the work.

### 3. MAINTENANCE OF THE FABRIC OF ALL THREE CHURCHES BUILDINGS

Normal maintenance of the three churches has continued throughout 2023. Significant work is still required to bring all our churches up to a satisfactory 21<sup>st</sup> century standard.

**Issues that concern all our churches: -**

- **Testing of Fixed electrical wiring and Portable electrical equipment**  
PAT testing and fixed wiring inspections was not required in 2023, as PAT testing and fixed wiring inspections in each church were carried out between January and April 2022. All work recommended was carried out by 31 October 2022.
- **Asbestos Registers** for each church were reviewed on 25 October 2020, though some work has subsequently been identified at Tidenham.
- **Smartwater** (required by our insurers Ecclesiastical)  
Smartwater was reapplied to metalwork at all three churches in 2017 and is valid for at least 5 years. A check of its effectiveness will be carried out in 2024.
- **Testing of Lightning Conductors** (every 2 years)  
This was carried out at each church on 06 December 2022 with acceptable results at Tutshill and Tidenham; the remedial work required at Tidenham Chase was carried out in February 2024.
- **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 work carried out at our churches during 2023, and inspected by PCC members.

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## 4. SPECIFIC ISSUES AT EACH CHURCH

### 4.1 Tidenham

- 1 **The tower clock** is maintained by Cumbria Clock Company (CCC). Planned maintenance was carried out in July 2023, but since then the clock has been going slow as the auto regulator has failed. CCC has so far failed to resolve the problem, as a new part needs to be fabricated.
- 2 **Tidenham Tower** The 2012 and 2017 QI reports recommended that major work be undertaken on the roof, but lack of funds prevented this. Following the grant of a faculty and a generous donation from the Tony James Trust the church architect requested approved contractors to submit tenders for the work. The PCC hopes that work can start in the summer of 2024.



We still hold a grant of £3000 from the Headley Trust (one of Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts), towards this work.

**3 Tidenham organ** was tuned on 16 January 2024.

**4 Level access.** The lack of a level access to the church is noted, but PCC regrets that no sustainable and affordable solution that satisfies the DAC is currently available.

### 4.2 Tutshill

1. A new digital piano was installed on 12 April.
2. The heating in St Luke's room suite is unsatisfactory. PCC is developing proposals to bring the heating up to standard.
3. The lighting and surface of the main path to the church needs to be improved, though the removal of the dying holly tree has made a difference to the lighting. PCC is developing proposals to bring the path up to a satisfactory standard.



### 4.3 Tidenham Chase

- 1 The old organ was replaced by a splendid second hand organ on 27 April.

## 5 CHURCHYARDS

1. The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the closed churchyards of Tidenham and Tutshill.
2. Grateful thanks must go to Keith Mayo who has spent many hours tidying up the banking on the approach to Tidenham church. The brambles and weeds have gone, but we know that ongoing work will be required!
3. Chase Churchyard. The revised grass mowing regimen has continued, allowing the growth of wild flowers and an improved habitat for wildlife.
4. Access to Chase churchyard has been improved.

## 6 GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

1. The goods and ornaments in all three churches are generally in a satisfactory condition.

*Nicholette Flatman and Brian Duerden, Churchwardens*



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

*At the Parish AGM (23 April 2023) groups reflected on the Parish Vision:*

**What has been achieved and is going well and need to keep doing: Green**

**What is ongoing but perhaps needs some work/progress/development: Yellow**

**What is struggling, has not happened and is still to happen: Red**

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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 of the 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;**
- 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... (Whole life discipleship);**
- **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.

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

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~~ Wellbeing Project;
- Pastoral Care;
- Health and wellbeing activities, particularly in our reordered buildings;
- Churches Together Projects: Foodbank, Christian Aid, Fairtrade, CAP etc...
- ~~Charity~~ Mission Partners.

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

*Originally document agreed by PCC. 21/2/17*

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Some Highlights of What Happened in 2023: A Year of Discipleship

After the upheaval, disruption and uncertainty of Covid, 2023 saw gathered worship return to some kind of normality although there was still some apprehension and concern about illness and the spreading of germs at larger gatherings. Indeed March 2023 did see a significant number of the church family unwell with Covid, with some particularly poorly including the Vicar.

Nevertheless, as the year progressed numbers did begin to increase, and it was a joy to see people return and reengage with the gathered worshipping community. Many people commented how much they had missed the opportunities to gather as community both in worship and socially and how the detachment had been detrimental to their lives.

### Online Worship 2023

The Parish maintained the online presence that had begun in 2020. The Parish YouTube Channel, Parish Facebook Group, Zoom, Website and Mailchimp have all become important points for gathering, connecting and worshipping as well as information sharing.

Website: <https://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk>

Parish YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCkRjOlvDBT9M9usfhp2722w](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkRjOlvDBT9M9usfhp2722w)

Parish Facebook Group (private) [www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/)

### Gathered Worship 2023

Regular 'in person' Sunday services in the Parish were as follows:

St Mary & St Peter Tidenham	9am	Holy Communion
St Luke's Tutshill	11am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: Family Worship (all ages together). 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Traditional Holy Communion with Choir. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Non Eucharistic Morning Worship. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: Contemporary Holy Communion. 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: Various! All Sundays with Splash 'Junior Church' except Family Worship
St Michael & All Angels Tidenham Chase	6pm BST 4pm in winter	Compline on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Holy Communion on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Evensong (1662 BCP) on most other Sundays. Special Services as announced

- A Midday healing Eucharist was held most Wednesdays with anointing and laying on of hands.
- Weekly corporate Morning Prayer:
  - Mondays at Tidenham usually with between 3 and 8 people attending.
  - Tuesdays at Chepstow Priory with 3-5 people in attendance.
  - Contemplative Prayer at Tutshill each Wednesday with 3-6 attendees.
  - Thursdays at St Briavels or on Zoom with 2-3 attendees.
- In addition, Revd Nicki led Morning Prayer at Sedbury Space on Tuesday afternoons and Compline on certain days at Hewelsfield.
- The Parish continued to follow the liturgical seasons and used the Lectionary for Bible readings. Seasonal Eucharist booklets were used. With 2023 being a Year of Discipleship preaching throughout the year had a focus on whole life discipleship. This followed on well from the Year of Community in 2022 and learning to be God's people once again.

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

- The times and seasons of the Church year were marked with special gatherings for Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Harvest, All Souls, Remembrance, Advent and the Christmas/Epiphany season.
- The Parish celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla over the weekend 6-7 May 2023. A special Parish Evensong was held at Tidenham.

A little child, a shining star, a stable rude, the door ajar. Yet in that place, so crude, forlorn, the Hope of all the world was born. God bless you!



Rev'd David Treharne  
on behalf of your Church family in Tidenham Parish

3 December	4.00 pm	Advent Carol Service, St Michael & All Angels' Chase
17 December	11.00 am	Family Nativity Service, St Luke's Tutshill
	3.00 pm	Nine Lessons & Carols, St Mary & St Peter's Tidenham
		Tree Festival begins at St Mary & St Peter's Tidenham
24 December	4.00 pm	Family Crib Service, St Luke's Tutshill
	9.00 pm	Midnight Mass, St Luke's Tutshill
	11.15 pm	Midnight Mass, St Mary & St Peter's Tidenham
Christmas Day	9.00 am	BCP Holy Communion, St Michael & All Angels' Chase
	10.00 am	Morning Worship with optional Holy Communion, St Luke's Tutshill
New Year's Eve	10.30 am	Parish Communion, St Luke's Tutshill (no other services that day)
7 January 2024	4.00 pm	Epiphany Carol Service, St Michael & All Angels' Chase
28 January	11.00 am	Christingle Family Worship, St Luke's Tutshill

For details of worship and events in the Parish, including SPLASH Children's Provision and Youth groups:  
Parish Website: [www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk)  
Parish Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/tidenhamparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/tidenhamparishchurch)  
Online Services - YouTube Channel: 'Tidenham Parish Online Church'  
Rev'd David Treharne - 01291 760034 / [dtrevd@aol.com](mailto:dtrevd@aol.com)



*"where the river flows everything will live"*

- The days between Ascension and Pentecost were highlighted as days for prayer. Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May was a Parish Day of Prayer and Fasting with some fantastic Prayer Stations at St Luke's.



- One Sunday in June we arrived at Tidenham to find the door had been glued shut. Everyone pulled together and we worshipped outside. It was an act of worship to remember and thanks to Ed the story even made the Church Times!

**Church service held outdoors after locks are superglued shut by vandals:** by Paul Wilkinson 16 June 2023



- It has been part of the culture in Tidenham Parish to nurture vocations and encourage the participation, involvement and collaboration of God's people. It was therefore a joy to commission 5 new worship leaders in July:

Emma Durbin, Jonathan Firth, Corette Firth, Aaron Joseph and Shleah Joseph

Each of them did the Diocesan Worship Leaders Course which Vicar David delivered locally. They joined Tanya White, Nicholette Flatman and Polly Morgan as lay worship leaders working together with the fabulous team of lay and ordained licensed ministers.

- The Parish is extremely blessed to have a great number of people engaged in a variety of ministries including: assisting with worship, reading the lessons, leading prayers of intercession, welcome and hospitality, cleaning, linen, polishing the brass, clearing churchyards, organising heating, arranging flowers, ringing bells, filming and editing and operating the PA system. A big big thank you to all those who contributed to living life together in the flow of God's love!

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

- A particular thank you goes to the Parish musicians whose gifting assists and enhances our gathered worship including: Alex White, Kathryn Payne, Marjorie Duerden, Susanna Jacks, Shleah Joseph, Jono Firth, Bill White, Aaron Joseph, Ruth Rusling, Julia Parsons, James Parsons, Zach Rusling, Zanna Treharne, Mike Scott, Canon Ed Pruen, Roger Tucker, Kathy Treharne, Hannah Ransom, Thomas Hodgkinson and Vicar David. Thanks also to our choirs and singers including Roger Martin who headed up the singing at Tidenham and Marje Duerden who led singers at Chase and elsewhere in the Parish. A particular thank you to Wendy Moppett who passed on the baton of leading the choir at St Luke's to Vicar David. Vicar David had great joy leading the choir at St Luke's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

## Areas of Focus and Development in Worship

Following the 2023 AGM there was a Bring and Share Lunch and an opportunity to reflect on the Parish Vision and areas for focus and development including:

- Renewing individual and corporate worship following Covid and changes of personnel;
- More use of silence and reflection;
- Recognising that Sunday morning cannot do everything for everyone. Further development of the 'whole life' worship and 'whole life' discipleship approach and culture is to be encouraged;
- Making the most of our diversity: e.g. profiles of preachers and worship leaders, HC in Tidenham and Tutshill not being the same;
- Consider increased use of tech at Tutshill;
- Consider a corporate rhythm of life to hold us together as God's people whilst we are apart/scattered;
- Sharing more story in worship - testimony and 'this time tomorrow' to make connection between daily life and faith in worship - whole life worship;
- Wed Healing Eucharist and pastoral care opportunities for prayer. Develop opportunities for prayer on Sundays.

## Discipleship

Extra focus in teaching preaching and small groups was given to discipleship in this Year of Discipleship. Great effort was put on looking at the links between faith and everyday life and how we as Christians can be effective followers of Jesus Christ day to day as the church scattered.

## Life Groups

The Parish Life Groups continue to provide opportunities for support, friendship, community, prayer, questions and faith development. Their importance cannot be overstated. The small group environment gave people opportunities to work out how faith might be applied in daily life. Small group members were able to pray for one another and give one another pastoral support.

The following Life Groups ran during 2023.

Sunday 7.30pm Life Group for Men – James Parsons - <a href="mailto:jamesdparsons727@gmail.com">jamesdparsons727@gmail.com</a> (until May 2023)
Monday 2-3.30pm Bible Study @ Sedbury Space – Nicki <a href="mailto:nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk">nicki1002@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Monday 7.30pm Life Group watching The Chosen – Vicar David – <a href="mailto:DTRevd@aol.com">DTRevd@aol.com</a>
Tuesday 1.00pm Life Group - Julia Parsons, venue varies - <a href="mailto:juliaparsons727@gmail.com">juliaparsons727@gmail.com</a>
Wednesday 10.15am Food for Thought Life Group @ Café on the Hill - Vicar David - <a href="mailto:dtrevd@aol.com">dtrevd@aol.com</a>
Wednesday 7.30pm Life Group - Fiona and/or Wendy - <a href="mailto:fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com">fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com</a>
Wednesday 7.45pm Life Group fortnightly – John & Esther <a href="mailto:essywoolcock@googlemail.com">essywoolcock@googlemail.com</a>
Thursday 1.30pm Life Group - Tanya White - <a href="mailto:tanya.rockymead@gmail.com">tanya.rockymead@gmail.com</a>
Youth Life Group – Emma Durbin – <a href="mailto:emmad.cyfm@gmail.com">emmad.cyfm@gmail.com</a>

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## The Lent Course 2023

Members of the Parish of Bream, who were in vacancy at the time, joined the Parishes of Tidenham, St Briavels and Hewelsfield for the Lent Course 'Living the Christian Life'. Material from the very useful Emmaus Nurture Course was adapted and used for the 5 Monday evening sessions.

- 1. Living God's Way:** *God's commandments, ethics and lifestyle.*
- 2. Serving the Lord:** *Christian ministry and calling.*
- 3. Your money and your life:** *Christian attitudes to money and possessions.*
- 4. Learning to Love:** *Relationships and matters of forgiveness and reconciliation.*
- 5. Sharing the Faith:** *Sharing our story.*

It was one of the most successful Lent Courses of recent years with excellent numbers and engagement and participants enjoyed the opportunity to explore the practical day to day application of Christian faith.

## Other Discipleship Opportunities

In addition to the Life Groups, various community groups and gatherings operating in the Parish provided spaces for pastoral care and faith exploration. It is very noticeable that some people's faith grows through volunteering and service rather than through small group study and discussion.

## Flourish

Following Parish involvement with the Gloucester Diocesan Flourish initiative, a partnership with CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society), LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity) and several parishes in the Diocese of Gloucester, the staff team continued to try and implement the action points throughout the year:-

1. Looking to put joy, laughter and fun into our life together;
2. Reimagining/Restating our vision, direction and purpose;
3. Reforming the staff team following Janice and Jane's departure and Nicki's ordination;
4. Learning to be God's people once again as we gather Post Covid;
5. Encouraging story telling, reinvigorate small groups and applying faith to the whole of life;
6. Clarifying/naming 1 degree shifts of change.

## Areas for Focus and Development in Discipleship

Reflecting on the Parish Vision at the 2023 AGM identified the following areas for focus and development in discipleship:-

- There has been good focus on whole life discipleship and the development of Life Groups and other small groups have been an important feature of Parish Life and Faith Development;
- There is still need for basic nurture and deeper discipleship. Consideration might be given to how we mentor new Christians. How does one live out Christian faith day to day? How does a Christian grow? Learning how to pray. Finding a rhythm of life and disciplines that work;
- Look at growing leaders and building up the Body of Christ: what it means to be the church. Responsibility, accountability, giving, service, calling;
- Explore opportunities for prayer and retreat: Quiet Days, Retreat, Parish weekend away.

## Personnel

There were many personnel changes during 2021 and 2022 with the departure of our curate and Pioneer Minister Revd Janice Hamilton, our Children and Families Minister Jane Penny, our Administrator Clare Presley and our Youth Co-ordinator Ethan Richards. We also had the arrival of Emma Durbin as our Children, Youth and Families Missioner and Annabelle Stephens as our Administrator. Our curate Rev Nicki Bullivant also became the Parish Wellbeing Chaplain.

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Whilst there was sadness as several people moved away or died, the Parish has been blessed with the arrival of new people; those new to the area and those new to faith and fellowship.

In 2023 we were delighted to welcome Revd Miri Keen (right) and her husband David to the Parish. They were also joined by Rowan, a gorgeous Golden Retriever Guide Dog in Training!



We were also delighted by the arrival of Lorna Theophilus (left), her husband Sam and their 3 children. Lorna, who hails from Bream, began her training for ordination in September 2023 and will be with the Parish of Tidenham for the duration of the theological training. The Parish has an important role in praying for Lorna and encouraging and supporting her and the family during this time.

## Faith Development

Central to Parish life is the discovery, development and exercising of faith in Jesus Christ. It was therefore a joy to see people find faith, take steps of commitment and exercise faith in 2023. This report is full of wonderful examples of faith being lived out day by day. In addition to these:-

- Charlotte, Mike and Fern (Lydney) were confirmed by Bishop Robert at St Luke's in July 2023;
- 5 new worship leaders commissioned: Emma, Jono, Corette, Aaron and Shleah;
- 7 new pastoral assistants commissioned: Mary, Susanna, Sue, Linda, Leonie, Rosalind & Kathy;
- Emrys was baptised by full immersion in June in St Luke's and Shane was baptised by full immersion in September at St Anthony's Well in the Forest;
- At the end of 2023 a further 5 adults were considering first steps of faith;
- During 2023 there were 21 people involved in leading Sunday worship/giving talks.

## Life Events

### 2023 Baptisms

Harry, Reid, Joseph, George, River-Mya, Jack, Oliver, Isabella, Charlotte, William, Olive, Mabel, Charlotte (conditional), Emrys (full immersion), Shane (full immersion @ St Anthony's Well), Leo, Findlay.



**2023 Thanksgiving for Birth**  
Freddie.

**2023 Confirmations**  
Charlotte, Mike and Lorna  
(from Lydney).

**2023 Weddings**  
Gareth HUGHES and Serena SAUNDERS (at St Pierre left)  
Moses THOMPSON and Kelly McDAID  
Michael SWAMBO and Hester JOUBERT.



and congratulations to Bob and Pauline Civil and Mike and Jane Edwards whose marriages were blessed in church on 10 December 2023.

**Congratulations to all those who were baptised, confirmed and married during 2023!**

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Funerals

The Parish conducted 30 funeral services, memorial services, burials and burial of ashes services during 2023, including a number of church members and regular worshippers who will be greatly missed within the congregations:

Joyce BROWN  
Betty RYMER  
Sylvia LEWIS  
Peter PHILLIPS  
Margaret SMITH  
John POYNTZ  
Pat MANSON  
Olwyn COLES



Two members of the clergy also died:



Revd David JOHNSON whose legacy of holding crosses will live on for many years to come!

Revd Royston GROSVENOR, former Vicar of the Parish of Tidenham (1997-2011) and Priest in Charge of St Briavels and Hewelsfield (2005-2011) whose faithful encouragement of different ministries laid the foundation for vibrant collaborative ministry here.



We give thanks for their lives of service to Christ and his Church.

Several church members and friends of the church also experienced grief and loss. May they and all those who have died rest in peace and rise in glory.

A big thanks to all those who exercised funeral ministry for and on behalf of the Parish: Revd Nicki Bullivant, Parish Readers Fiona Gardiner and Mandy Vaughan, Revd David Rees, Revd Canon Dr Tom Clammer, Revd Canon Dr Tudor Griffiths, Revd Clare Dean and Revd Philip Averay together with Vicar David Treharne.

Sadly, several of our church family and Parish community died or experienced the death of a loved one during 2023. Life changed for many others with illness or perhaps a new job or new house. A number of parishioners moved during 2023 and sadly a few people have still not been able to return to church post Covid.

Whatever the reasons for people no longer gathering with us in here in Tidenham Parish, we grieve their absence greatly!

As 2023 came to an end it was hopeful to see the cycle of life returning to some kind of normality. The Covid years brought too much illness and death and whilst illness and death remain a difficult part of our life together there was more hope in the gathered church community even as the world faced ongoing trauma and challenges.

## Tidenham Parish Church Restoration IS on the Cards

Thanks to an extraordinary kind legacy from the estate of the late Tony James the Parish has been able to work towards the restoration of the Tower of St Mary and St Peter's Church, Tidenham. With the Friends of St Mary's and St Peter's also being gifted money there are also plans for the reordering and



# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

restoration of the interior of the church involving the installation of water, toilet facilities and a servery, and additional facilities in the building adjacent to the Church. See the Friends report for further details.

These developments are not realised overnight and continue to involve an enormous amount of work with other bodies. Our thanks to Peter Gilchrist, Chair of the Friends, together with the Trustees and supporters for the massive support they continue to give the PCC. Without their help we would not be where we are today.

## Governance

We have been so blessed to have dedicated servants within our worshipping communities. Churchwardens Nicholette Flatman and Professor Brian Duerden have worked so hard over these 2 years together with our PCC Secretary Iain Gardiner, PCC Treasurer Paul Coombs, our Deputy Churchwardens and the PCC members listed within this Report. We acknowledge the vital, often unseen roles these people have played during challenging times and heartily thank them for their dedicated service to Christ and his Church.

## Who's Who?

A lovely who's who in the Parish is listed in the entrances of our church buildings.

Revd David Treharne, Vicar of the Parish of Tidenham and Priest in Charge of St Briavels with Hewelsfield and Brockweir

Revd Nicki Bullivant, Curate and Wellbeing Chaplain (to be Associate Priest and Wellbeing Chaplain in 2024)

Revd David Rees, Locally Ordained Minister

Revd Canon Dr Tom Clammer, Associate Priest

Revd Canon Dr Tudor Griffiths, Associate Priest

Revd Anna Griffiths, Associate Priest

Revd Canon Ed Pruen, Associate Priest

Revd Miri Keen, Associate Priest

Fiona Gardiner, Parish Reader

James Parsons, Parish Reader

Emma Durbin, Children, Youth and Families Missioner

Annabelle Stephens, Parish Administrative Assistant



Nicholette Flatman, Churchwarden and Worship Leader

Prof Brian Duerden, Churchwarden

Iain Gardiner, PCC Secretary

Paul Coombs, PCC Treasurer

Rosalind Seward, Parish Safeguarding Officer (Marilyn Henderson to Sept 2023)

Julia Parsons, Pastoral Team

Kathryn Payne, Pastoral Team

Peter Jones, Pastoral Team

Polly Morgan, Pastoral Team and Worship Leader

Andrew Palmer, Men's Group

Tanya White, Link Magazine Editor and Worship Leader

Roger Martin, Tidenham Choir

Major General (Retired) Peter Gilchrist CB, Chair of Tidenham Friends

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Thanks go to all listed above for their ministry amongst us. Thanks also to the MANY others (there are too many to mention by name) who are active members of our church community serving the Lord in so many varied ways.

## Stewardship

THANK YOU to everyone who gave financially to the Parish in 2023!!! Your significant and faithful financial giving was essential. Much of our ministry and mission in the Parish is FREE..., but it is costly and challenging during the cost of living crisis! The vicar, our buildings, our work with Children, Youth, and families, wellbeing and pastoral care is largely paid for by our local Christian giving.



### *How much?*

***Before any projects such as Wellbeing, Children, Youth and Families or the mighty Church Buildings, it costs around £8,000 a month to run the Parish! Direct giving amounts to about £6,500 a month!***

As we move into 2024 and beyond, with exciting things going on within the church here, we are called to consider afresh our financial commitment to God's church in this Parish. The former Bishop of Sheffield Jack Nicholls said, *"Our generosity is measured not by what we give, but by what we have left when we have given."*

Members are invited to give regularly and electronically if possible.

Here are some giving options that are available:-

Bank Account - Tidenham Parochial Church Sort Code 30-91-89 Account Number 00304754.

Standing Order & Gift Aid Forms available to download from the Parish Website.

There is also now a card reader at St Luke's to cope with an increasingly cashless society.

Once again thank you to all those of you who have given generously and regularly over the last year to help make things happen. Thank you!

## Areas of Focus and Development in Building Capacity

Reflection on the Parish Vision at the 2023 AGM identified the following areas for focus and development in discipleship:

- There has been a wonderful history of growing/enabling vocations which is to be celebrated and nurtured.
- Look at growing leaders: particularly but not exclusively young leaders / building capacity of the Body: Worship Leaders, Governance, Pastoral visitors, Life Group facilitators, Intercessors etc...
- What are the plans for the ongoing development and use of St Luke's as a wellbeing hub?
- Undertake Tidenham Tower restoration and the reordering of the inside of Tidenham. The work of Tidenham Friends has been and is vital.
- Need for fundraising/increased financial giving: Wellbeing, CYFM, Buildings, Core costs.
- Work at improving communication across Parish life.
- Ensure ongoing funding of parish admin support.

## Mission and Community Engagement

It was a joy to see the continued development of the Parish Wellbeing Project with Revd Nicki as our Wellbeing Chaplain, along with Emma Durbin our Children, Youth and Families Missioner. Their work together with other members of the church was a vital part of mission and community engagement

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

within and beyond the Parish. Nicki, Emma and the Parish benefited from an amazing team of volunteers.

Partnership is a key ingredient of our life lived out day to day and Nicki and Emma worked really hard to develop networks and partnerships that added great value to the work, but also recognised what God is doing in our communities over and above the church.

A number of wonderful concerts were held in St Luke's Church and St Mary & St Peter's Church as well as the Christmas Tree Festival.

Christmas and Easter Cards were distributed in 2023 although the decision was made not to use Royal Mail to deliver to every home after the failure to deliver in 2022.



It was a delight to welcome Breeze the donkey to the Parish for the Palm Sunday procession. He particularly enjoyed the fresh lush grass on offer at St Luke's!

The Parish Scarecrow Trail continued to bring great enjoyment to many within and beyond the Parish.

The Parish Link Magazine, faithfully and lovingly edited by Tanya White was published and circulated quarterly and remained a vital connection and information source.

There was a fantastic Hog Roast gathering for Harvest which was free in order to express thanks to all those who volunteer and contribute so much freely to our life together.

Sadly, the Lancaut Pilgrimage was a washout in September although doggies Jim and Leo ensured there was at least some kind of devotional walk to Lancaut!

Remembrance Sunday was again marked with the community, and it was lovely to have the Parish Council, Royal British Legion and Uniformed Groups involved.

Throughout the year there were other gatherings bringing people together.

## **Thank yous.**

Thank you to everyone within our worshipping communities that joined in with God's mission as the church gathered and the church scattered day to day.

Much of what we do as a worshipping community in the Parish of Tidenham involves working with other individuals and communities in the Parish therefore a big thank you also needs to go to our partner organisations, groups and individuals in God's mission in, around and beyond the Parish. Whether people have Christian faith or not we continued to find much common ground to work together under the reign of Christ. In particular, our partners at Sedbury Space including their Trustees and volunteers, Tidenham Friends, Tidenham Bellringers, Robert Adams, Sportily, the Parishes of St Briavels with Hewelsfield and Brockweir, our local schools, Café on the Hill, the Rising Sun and Emily Timmings and Tidenham Parish Council have been particularly important partners.

## **Points of Development in Community and Mission**

Reflection on the Parish Vision at the 2023 AGM identified the following areas for focus and development in Community and Mission:-



## TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

- The Parish has very good connections with the community and will look to maintain and develop these. e.g. Baby/Toddler Groups, Sedbury Space, Coffee Morning, Man Thing, Pastoral Visiting, Folk club, Castleford Care Home, Schools;
- Explore the development of partnership with Sportily;
- A recognition that Wives and Friends has finished;
- New pastoral visitors are being trained;
- Ensure long term future and funding for Nicki and Emma with Wellbeing and CYFM Projects;
- Consider the requests for more opportunities to gather together for community / fellowship / fun;
- Ensure that we are building bridges and have open doors as a community of faith.



# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is about keeping people safe from harm and abuse, and is part of our culture of doing relationship well and looking after each other's welfare and wellbeing.

This year Marilyn Henderson has stood down as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). The church thanks Marilyn for her many years of faithful service in this role. Rosalind Seward has now been appointed as PSO and has visited the three congregations to introduce herself and remind everyone of the responsibility we all have to please pass on any safeguarding concerns so the matter can be dealt with in a timely and sensitive way. There is a new email address in place which people can use to make contact about any safeguarding matters: [tidenhamsafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:tidenhamsafeguarding@gmail.com) or they can call Rosalind on her mobile: 07988607844.

As time goes on, the Church of England has continued to update its safeguarding guidelines, and the requirements around training and recruitment to volunteer roles are now quite substantial. There is a new electronic audit tool, the Safeguarding Parish Dashboard, which we are now using, to notify our progress to the Diocese. A safeguarding working group has been set up to ensure we continue to meet our safeguarding obligations with regard to DBS checks, training, recruitment of volunteers, responding to safeguarding concerns, and implementing policies and procedures in partnership with the Diocese. Vicar David, Rosalind (PSO), Robin Riordan (DBS evidence checker), and the churchwardens Nicholette and Brian are part of this group. David has run a number of safeguarding training courses in the parish this year. This means we now have the option to learn and discuss together as a group, along with the existing online training offer. With these measures in place we hope to ensure that we stay up to date and continue to fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities.

Thank you to everyone for playing your part in helping us to follow all the safeguarding guidance and in keeping each other safe.

*Rosalind Seward, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)*



## Health & Safety

Health and Safety is everyone's responsibility, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to contact anyone on the PCC if something does not look safe within our buildings. Health and Safety as a mandatory item at every PCC meeting. There were no accidents during the year.

2023 offered the opportunity to work with a wide variety of volunteers and contractors to ensure our buildings are, and remain, safe places to worship.

A huge thank you if you were one of those who helped facilitate contractor visits throughout the year (especially Iain Gardiner), and special thanks to David Burr who remains the link to DAC liaising with them on our building plans.

Some of the highlights: -

- Template for Risk Assessments across the parish distributed to those who need to complete them in January;
- First Aid kits replenished in all three churches in February;
- New outside light at Tidenham installed in March (after much negotiation with DAC, thank you David B).

## TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

- A Fire Extinguisher in St Luke's was damaged, but easily fixed within a week in July;
- Our Electrical Contractor (Tim Howell) inspected Chase for some urgent issues in August, works carried out to current standards successfully;
- Tim Howell installed an IP rated (waterproof) light switch within the tower at Tidenham in September;
- Tim Howell fixed malfunctioning heating switch at Tidenham in late October, just in good time for the cold weather;
- Chubb Fire made their annual inspection and servicing of all their fire extinguishers at our 3 churches in November.

I have now stepped down from the H+S Advisor role, but it will remain a key focus for the PCC no matter who takes this on as a focus.

*John-Ross Henderson Health & Safety Advisor*



**YOUTH** - For most of 2023 we maintained a core group of 8 young people who attended Youth Breakfasts and Evening Youth at St. Luke's Church. We also continued to meet other Youth Groups in the Forest of Dean, attending a Youth for Christ weekend away in Ledbury with 3 of our older youth along with Forest Community Church. Due to a lack of take up we didn't manage to go to the Christian festival, Limitless in 2023. Our youth enjoy going in a larger group and don't want to go as a small group from Tidenham Parish Church (TPC). Due to other commitments our young people were unable to take up the opportunity to join Bream Youth on their trip abroad this year.

We were blessed to welcome Eve Lewis McLeod as our Youth helper. Eve leads sessions and is a great support and burst of energy to all.

In September 2023 the idea was for me to step down from the Youth work and find someone else to lead this part of the role due to cutting down the number of days I was working. Unfortunately, our hopes to work in partnership with Sportily have not come to fruition, thus we do not have a Youth leader at present, though we do have a fantastic Youth team who are taking turns to lead and run the Youth sessions with myself co-ordinating. We have also seen a shift in the Youth group with some of the older young people not attending and others joining. It is hard to see young people who have grown up in the church lose interest and leave. There definitely needs to be some reflection and prayer around the Youth work and how we move forward as a Church in this area.

A CYFM team was formed: John and Esther Woolcock, Caroline Buffet, Nicholette Flatman, Eve Lewis McLeod, Mike Scott, Non Van den Braak, Kathy Treharne and Emma Durbin. The majority of these folk now run and lead Youth sessions. We are extremely grateful for their time and input into the lives of our youngsters.

Towards the end of summer term, we hosted a joint Youth BBQ with 35 Youth from 5 churches attending. We made use of the bouncy castles hired for the Church picnic earlier in the day.

In October half term weekend we joined forces with The Bridge Church in Bulwark and the Churches in the Forest of Dean and took the Youth to Viney Hill Activity Centre. Three of our younger youth attended. It was a fantastic weekend as 42 young people enjoyed 2 nights and 2 days of mayhem, activities and talking about God. We hope to get another event to follow on soon (if time allows!!!)

**CHILDREN'S WORK, SPLASH** - We have a fantastic Splash team consisting of Molly Mayo, Ruth Hughes, Melanie Walton, Caroline Buffet, Non Van den Braak and myself and regularly see between 8-16 children attend on a Sunday morning.

We use Tutshill CoE School Hall when there IS NO Communion as this gives us more time to make the most of the space. Our questionnaire to parents asked how church works best for them. Parents want children to be in Church for the first song before going out, and they prefer for them to be in for Communion. Half were happy for them to be in the school hall and others uncertain, so we feel for now we have found a happy medium by only using the school hall once or twice a month, (though it's always good to reflect on these things). When staying in for the first song and communion we have approx. 35/40 minutes with the children, so it is easier and more time efficient to use St. Luke's room (SLR). Space and age range (2 -12yr olds) are issues, however, which might be addressed by relooking at the use of the old kitchen??

We also have a creche rota and set up SLR as a creche when Splash use the school hall.



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In the summer we held a Church Family picnic lunch and hired bouncy castles for the children, which our young people were able to use in the evening.

**A HOME GROUP** mainly consisting of Parents of young children in the Church runs twice monthly, hosted by John and Esther Woolcock, with socials organised by Shleah and Aaron Joseph.

**FAMILY WORSHIP** - has evolved into a service that takes place inside St. Luke's church on most of the first Sundays of the month. Our Family Worship team (Corette & Jono Firth, Shleah & Aaron Joseph, Lorna Wilks, Lee Durbin, Kathy & Zanna Treharne) dip in and out of these services depending on their availability. It's a fantastic opportunity to allow others to use and develop their gifting in leading worship whilst also making them feel part of the Church. We had a spell when some of our young people had the opportunity and wanted to speak, plus be a part of the band. I would love to see this service be a vehicle for folk in TPC to be able to share their own stories of God and use their untapped gifting.



We have also been able to invite outside speakers in to share in these services. Chepstow foodbank and Teens in Crisis have both been invited to talk about the work they do.

## COMMUNITY & MISSION



TUTSHILL BABY & TODDLERS (BATS) is wonderfully busy with 20-35 adult carers and 30-45 little ones attending weekly. This group could not be run without the dedicated support of the volunteers (Elaine Richardson, Leonie Jones, Margaret Pruen, Susan Thompson &

Non) who serve tea, coffee, and toast with a welcome smile on their face and help tidy away at the end.

SEDBURY STAY & PLAY - again run by fantastic volunteers, Molly Mayo, Suzy Roberts, Lynda Durbin, Susan Riordan & Non, is not quite as busy, but we have seen a lot more young parents from Sedbury attend which has led to being able to chat and build relationship. We have been able to refer a handful of these parents to Revd Nicki who is supporting them through her wellbeing role at Sedbury Space.



Vicar David has impressed on us the importance of building relationship. Both Toddler groups give TPC the privileged opportunity of touching and being a part (if only fleetingly) of the lives of those in our community and outside of the church. We are able to offer to listen and pray and give more concrete support when needed. This has led to applying for financial support, home visits, food parcels, christenings, and friendship.

We also did special Christingle sessions with a visit from Father Christmas (Thank you Lee & Tudor) at Christmas with singing from Ed which was really well received.

Our Partnership with Sportily continued with their running an Easter session at Tutshill CoE School for Years 5 & 6 which was great fun. Due to me taking my time off over the summer holidays and Emily (Youth worker for Tidenham Parish Council) being on sick leave, we did not employ Sportily over the Summer for any of their Sports sessions though at Halloween Sportily offered a great alternative event that a couple of our parents attended.

THE ST. MARTEN'S LANTERN WALK continues to grow in popularity and like last year, culminated in drinks and nibbles at St. Luke's church with many local families getting together.



# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

THE SCARECROW TRAIL raised £1507 for TPC Building fund, Breathe Youth Mentoring and Dementia Action Alliance. 496 Sheets were sold, equating to over 1000 people walking the trail. Putting the trail together takes many hours of work and again, would not be possible without the dedicated team of volunteers and Scarecrow makers (who spend time and money on making them). Huge thanks have to go to Melanie Walton, Non Van den Braak, Carol Clammer, Sarah Lewis, Susan Riordan and the staff of Lifestyle Express.

## SCHOOL WORK

TUTSHILL CoE PRIMARY SCHOOL still attend St. Luke's church every other week to worship. 220 children aged 4-12yrs pile into church (mostly sitting on the floor) and listen to the word of God. Up until September I ran these sessions on a Friday morning, but due to my change of hours, Nicki, David and I take it in turns to run these sessions on a Thursday morning.

Tutshill CoE School also had a SIAMS [Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools] Inspection in which, amongst many other things, parents were asked to reflect and comment on the relationship between the school and local Church. I was interviewed by the Inspector which was quite an interesting experience. The school received an 'outstanding' award which is no mean feat and a positive reflection on the school's partnership with St. Luke's church.

OFFA'S MEAD ACADEMY- We were invited to lead a few assemblies during 2023 but not as many as in 2022 . This year we were invited to go in and lead an assembly on Harvest, make Christingles with the children and lead a Christingle service. The school also asked Revd David to lead a Christmas Carol service in St. Luke's church for key stage 2 and their parents. Praise God for all these opportunities to interact with the children, and hopefully we will be able to build a stronger partnership between the school and TPC.

ST JOHN'S, DEAN CLOSE- continue to worship intermittently at St. Luke's church with Fiona Gardiner liaising between the Church and school (Thank you Fiona).

The Special occasion services are always well attended by parents. This year we prepared over 600 Christingle oranges, thanks again to volunteers it wasn't too arduous and more importantly, they were used as vehicles to present God to many children and their parents that wouldn't usually attend church. Money well spent!! Thank you to Tesco who gifted us 100 oranges.

## CONCLUSION

Overall, it was a very busy year with its valleys and mountaintops. The challenge is to keep my eyes focused on God and not on the next task in front of me. Some areas of the CYFM role need praying about and reflecting on, but overall, I thank God for the many volunteers who enable and encourage me and minister freely allowing all that has been written about, to take place. Thank you also to the PCC for all of the 'hidden' work that they do and for all of their support.

*Emma Durbin, Children, Youth and Families Missioner*



# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Parish Scarecrow Trail 2023

For the past fourteen years Tidenham Scarecrow Trail has been a much-loved Easter holiday fixture in the parish.

The Easter 2023 Scarecrow Trail was once again a huge success with 496 quiz sheets being sold and over 2000 people participating in the trail, which lasted for 3 weeks and followed its usual route from the Lifestyle Express Shop in Beachley Road, round the village and ending at St. Luke's Church, Tutshill.

The theme this year was Musicals. It was lovely to see families (of all ages!) coming together over the Easter holiday period - to have fun walking around our streets and enjoying themselves, exercising and talking about the good quality of the 37 scarecrows created by volunteers and located at various gardens and public places throughout the village.

This year £1507.20 was collected in total: - £ 936 in cash and £542 from the new church card reader which we put in Lifestyle Express for the 3 weeks. A special thank you to Robin Riordan for sourcing and setting up the card reader at short notice. It really did make a difference, helped in the shop and meant there was less cash to handle. 10% of the takings was given to each of two local charities as decided by the organising team: Forest of Dean Dementia Action Alliance and Breathe Youth Mentoring, with the remainder going to the building maintenance fund for Tidenham Parish Churches.

We are hugely indebted to all those in the local community who put in time and money when creating the Scarecrows, plus the volunteers who helped to make it all run smoothly. Without them, this event could not happen.

We owe a big debt of gratitude to the 2023 organising team that consisted of Carol and Richard Clammer, Sarah Lewis, Emma Durbin, Susan and Robin Riordan, Non van den Braak and Melanie Walton, and to all the staff at The Lifestyle Express Shop Tutshill who sold the maps and sheets.

*Melanie Walton, on behalf of the organising team*





**I Sing Pop held at St. Luke's Church**

In 2022, Tutshill CofE Primary School merged with Woolaston Community School to become the Forest Edge Federation, with Woolaston school values updated to a similar theme to those of Tutshill.

In 2023, under the Federation, the Executive Headteacher, Miss Lane, was leading both schools on a day-to-day basis, and staff and pupils continued to experience school life within their current school. However, both schools were better able to cooperate and co-ordinate activities, such as staff training, other events and focusing on each school's improvement priorities.

Teachers were working together across the federation for joint INSETS which in turn allows all staff to receive up to date training they can then pass on to the pupils, leading to better outcomes in both schools. Staff were leading subjects across the federation and working to ensure an inspiring and exciting curriculum was being delivered.

The schools both performed well academically with pupils scoring above national averages in all areas.

Tutshill School had a SIAMS inspection in March 2023 and was graded "excellent", a higher rating than the "outstanding" awarded in 2015. Here is a quote from the report's findings, showing the close links between the parish and the school.

*"The vision of the school is expressed deeply through actions that change lives. This is fully entwined with Christian values and learning behaviours. The sacrificial impact of how the vision is lived out enriches understanding of what it truly means to 'love one another'."*

## TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Children, Families and Youth Minister Emma Durbin continues to have close links to Tutshill School and the Friday Collective Worship (held in St. Luke's church Tutshill continues to be a really important part of School and Church life.



Woolaston was inspected by Ofsted in May 2023. The school was graded good in all areas! As you can imagine the school and the community were very pleased with this outcome following all of the hard work to make improvements. The opening paragraph of the report says it all.

*"This is a happy, nurturing, and inclusive school. Pupils are friendly and polite. Relationships between pupils and staff are kind and respectful. Staff care for pupils and help them to learn well. One parent commented, 'The culture is nurturing, considerate and supportive to all.'"*

Foundation Governor links to the governing body of the Forest Edge Federation continued with Foundation Governor Nataline Bennett-Coleman. She was joined mid-year by Robin Riordan, appointed by the Diocese to replace the Reverend David Treharne as ex-Officio Foundation Governor. Robin is now co-Chair of Governors with Marion Evans.

*Robin Riordan, Foundation Governor and Chair of Governors*

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Life Groups (also known as Home Groups or Discipleship Groups)

The church community of Tidenham Parish is very fortunate in that a number of small groups meet across our area on different days of the week and at varying times of the day in a home or café setting. This means that there is almost certain to be a group that meets the needs of anyone who wants to meet fellow Christians in a non-threatening, non-church setting to grow in faith and support one another in living life together, or just to discuss the meaning of life etc!



Current details of all 'Life Groups' can be found in our weekly church news sheet, or in the *What's On* tab of our church website [Home](#)



[tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk](http://tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk).

Failing that please contact Annabelle our parish administration assistant via email or mobile phone:-

07553 779632 - [tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com)

## Pastoral Visiting Team

Tidenham Parish Pastoral Visiting Team is made up of members from the churches in the Parish. We are a small team that contacts and visits people in the Parish. This might be because they are unwell, unable to get to church or needing some support. Our hope is that people who are feeling disconnected due to their circumstances still 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.

Last Autumn our new team of visitors was commissioned in church. The team works alongside the team of licensed ministers, lay and ordained, in helping to provide pastoral support in the Parish. They are settling well into their role and their visits have been appreciated. Groups meeting in the churches as well as the Life Groups are encouraged to support one another, but to ask for additional support from the team if it would be helpful.

If you, or someone you know, would be helped by our support, then please do let us know. You can speak to Julia, Kathryn, Revd David, Revd Nicki, Polly or Peter. Please pray for all those engaged in pastoral care within the life of the church and our partners within the wider community, that we may bring the light of Christ to those in need.

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

*Julia Parsons, Tidenham Pastoral Visiting Team*

## Fairtrade in Tidenham Parish

### Good News



On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023  
Each of our three churches were approved as  
Fairtrade Churches in our Parish.

We have promised to serve  
Fairtrade Tea & Coffee with Fairtrade Sugar  
in church and in our meetings

We will support  
Fairtrade Fortnight activities and purchase  
Fairtrade products wherever possible

For any Fairtrade information  
or to join our group,  
please contact Tanya White,  
Julia Parsons, Cate Phillips, Marilyn  
Henderson

Fairtrade sales nationally continue to grow despite the current economic crisis. This is partly because Fairtrade products are produced in a way that is environmentally friendly, which more people want. We continue to support Fairtrade in the Parish as Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar are widely available in the supermarkets. This contributes to us as a Parish working sustainably for the good of this wonderful world that God has given us.



*Julia Parsons, Tanya White, Marilyn Henderson and Cate Phillips*



# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## The Link Parish Magazine

The Link Magazine was produced four times in 2023 with quarterly editions for:

- Spring (March, April, May),
- Summer (June, July, August),
- Autumn (September, October, November) and
- Winter (December, January, February).

Editions were produced and published to Tidenham Parish Church website, and 350 copies were printed by **Parish Magazine Printing**. These were delivered to Tanya for sorting and then distribution through our great Distribution Team.

Currently we have about 22 local businesses advertising in the magazine, well co-ordinated by Roger Martin. Further to the advertisers' provision of financial contribution, we will continue to include their details in Link magazines as they are produced.

### Updated advertising costs:

- 1/8 page Increase from £35 to £40.00
- 1/3 page Increase from £75 to £80.00
- 1/2 page Increase from £80 to £87.00
- Full page Increase from £175 to £185.00

Costs to cover the **Financial year**

For the first time in several years the cost of an annual subscription to our Link Magazine has been increased to £6.00, or £1.75 for an individual copy.

We have 250 paying subscribers who pay £6 /year, plus further copies are distributed free of charge to Schools, Care Home, Doctors' Surgeries etc. Individual Link magazines are available in all our Parish Church buildings for visitors.



***I have edited the Link Magazine for 21 years, with a couple of times off, but I still enjoy making this practical contribution!***

***I hope that we can continue connecting together!***

***Thank you for your support.***

*Tanya White, Editor*

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Wellbeing Chaplain & Wellbeing Project

### ACTIVITIES

- Sedbury Space**

Bible Study / Evening Prayer	Carer Support Group monthly / Hibiscus Fund 2024
One Stop Café / Chaplaincy Chat Room weekly	Easter 2024: Messy church with 2 Rivers Housing community connectors / Working with young mums
Food poverty	Christmas Lunch / Party. Monthly Sunday Lunch
Referrals to CAP	Supporting domestic abuse client
Regular meetings with Sedbury Space Trustee	Helping with housing issues / Reaching out to local community “thank you for knocking on my door”

- Developing St Luke’s Church Tutshill as a Wellbeing Hub**

Weekly Pilates Group: numbers increasing	Monthly Coffee Morning: 40+ - and not just church folk! Lattés After Pilates
Mindfulness Course to restart in September	Using St Luke’s for one to one conversations / pastoral support / Interactive prayer spaces
Bereavement Support Group	NEW Little Larder - ‘ <i>unfortunately</i> ’ it’s very well used!

- Post Covid Recovery**

St David’s Hospice	Castleford – staff and residents - monthly communion service
Domestic Abuse	FoD Steering Committee Mental Health

- Working with Other Agencies / Building Relationships**

Parish Council	Local Police - PCSO / District Council wellbeing contacts
GPs Towngate + Sedbury	Beachley ARMY CAMP and Mears
CAP	Tesco Christmas slot donating food / toiletries for Little Larder

- Pastoral Support**

SARA + Army Camp	Two Rivers Housing
Home / hospital visits	One to one bereavement service
Independent listener at St John’s	Nursing home staff and residents and their families
Conflict resolution	Attending court with vulnerable person

- Signposting to Others**

CAP / St David’s hospice	GPs / District Council
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- Schools Work**

School assemblies St Luke’s / Offa’s Mead School harvest & Christingle	School curriculum – prayer spaces Assembly coordination with CYF Missioner
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# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## How am I making a Difference?

People **are** finding faith; practical bottlenecks are being sorted out; empowering people to help themselves

## Job Satisfaction Off the scale!

Seeing real change but there is a need to receive constructive feedback - ' **Thank you!**

## What went well?

- Working alongside non-Christian agencies, while maintaining a distinctly Christian ministry
- *God incidences* – people are networking together
- Raising the profile by word of mouth, social media and local Radio
- Mental health first aid

## CHALLENGES – Potential and Real!

- Working with volunteers
- Time management is getting better– when the need is almost limitless
- Managing people's expectations which sometimes are unrealistic
- Frustration with injustice – e.g. poor housing / bureaucracy

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Meeting a growing need arising from cost of living crisis
- Spreading the Wellbeing message beyond Tidenham Parish
- Addressing loneliness
- Raising the profile in GP Practices
- Building relationships with other agencies to improve community quality of life

## CONCLUSION

**This is the difference that you are allowing me to make across the Parish by supporting the Wellbeing Project and employing me as Wellbeing Chaplain.**



*Revd Nicki Bullivant, Curate and Wellbeing Chaplain*



# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Music Across Tidenham Parish

### St Luke's Church, Tutshill

In January 2023 Wendy Moppet finished leading the St Luke's Choir after years of wonderful service. Thank you Wendy. With Wendy's 'retirement' Vicar David took on the leading of the choir for the traditional celebration of Holy Communion once a month at St Luke's.



David gathered together a willing and capable group of about 10 singers, including Wendy. Alongside some solid traditional hymns the choir sang some little 4 part pieces before the worship and during Holy Communion. The voices have gelled together wonderfully and it has been a joy for David to be able to exercise his musical side! A big thank you to the singers.

During the rest of the month St Luke's has been blessed to be able to draw upon a large pool of musical talent. The music is eclectic and varies from week to week. One Sunday even involved the local recorder group!

Mike Scott kindly took on the music rota from James Parsons when his father became ill.

There will need to be some development with the music over the coming year as the Mission Praise hymn books and St Luke's songbooks fall into disrepair and become more outdated.

Music extended beyond Sunday worship with the monthly Folk Club, the ISingPop Production with Tutshill School in February, the Coronation Concert in May in aid of Noah's Retreat, the Cantanti Concert in October, the visit of Filkin's Drift in October and the Christmas Concert from the Chepstow Chantelaines, Chepstow u3a and Recorder Group.

The Parish of Tidenham is truly blessed with musical talent!



*Revd David Treharne, Choir Leader*

### St Mary & St Peter Tidenham

Tidenham Church Choir has had a mixed year with choir members being away or on holiday, but we have provided a regular and solid lead to the congregation attending the Sunday 9 am Communion Service. We have held regular monthly practices where we learned new hymns introduced by choir members or our ever faithful organist Kathryn Payne. We are happy to hear that the congregation members are singing with great enthusiasm - which certainly bolsters the praise offered each week!

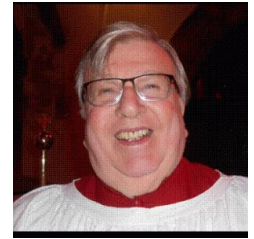
Whilst the Advent, Epiphany and Good Friday services are held at other churches in our parish, the Nine Lessons and Carols Service is scheduled to be held at the Parish Church of St Mary's, Tidenham. This year it included a choir of 18 voices drawn from our three churches. We were delighted that these included two children of choir members whose younger voices and confident solo added to the combined sound. Our plans were thrown into disarray by the serious road accident at Tidenham railway bridge, which resulted in the complete closure of the A48 for some four days until repairs were completed. This caused a last minute venue change to St Luke's church, Tutshill. What could so easily

## TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

have descended into disorder was saved by the efforts of our vicar, choir members and our organist for that service, Marjorie Duerden. The essence of the occasion was observed, although missing out on the completed Christmas Tree Exhibition in St Mary's, which would have added a sparkle to the occasion.

I would like to thank all regular choir members and organists, but would be pleased to welcome any new voices who would like to sing Church music. You can contact me on 627800 or send me an email on [rogermartin340@outlook.com](mailto:rogermartin340@outlook.com)

*Roger Martin, Choir Leader*



### **St Michael & All Angels Tidenham Chase**

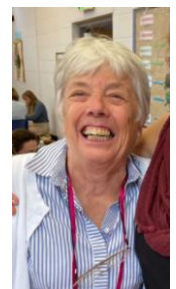
Tidenham Chase Church opens for Evening Services throughout the year every Sunday, apart from the two weeks before Christmas Morning Service and Epiphany.

“The Chase” has no regular choir, but offers two Evensongs per month with sung Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis, Responses and three hymns (and sometimes a sung psalm!). Holy Communion and Compline are the other two services, both with hymns (and a sung Gloria with the Holy Communion service). This year has also seen some special services\* including Summer Praise, and Harvest Praise to add to the traditional Advent and Epiphany Carol Services, where we have been able to gather together singers from across the Parish. They have also been supplemented by a small number of other regular church attendees who have been delighted to join us, due to their own churches/parishes not having Advent and Epiphany Carol Services. This year the “Chase Choir” for these “special” services has ranged between 14 and 18 in number, and when taking into account unavoidable absences (holidays, illness) we have probably seen around 24 individuals singing during the year. I am delighted that we have been able to produce 4-part vocal choir items in all these services.

Chase has also been the beneficiary of a new organ this year, which is a wonderful acquisition and allows an expansion of the music possibilities, and for which we are very grateful.

I am indebted to Susanna and Tom for their contributions to the Chase Music Rota (it is indeed a team effort!), and to all the singers who have gamely come along and put up with me – and produced some lovely music on minimal rehearsal time! Thank you so much. Thanks are also extended to Vicar David and all the clerical team who have been so supportive.

\*I would also like to include thanks to everyone who contributed to the special Coronation Service in May which was held at Tidenham Church, though in the unavoidable absence of Roger. As pointed out (above) many of our Parish singers contribute to the choral singing in all three of our churches throughout the Church Year with its seasonal services - which is both encouraging and very gratifying. If you are interested, please contact Roger or myself!



*Marjorie Duerden*

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## St Luke's Reordering Report

This reordering subcommittee comprised James Parsons (lead), Revd David Treharne, Nicholette Flatman, Brian Duerden and Tanya White.

During 2023 Phase 1 works were completed as follows:

- The PA desk was completed with no snags to report.
- It was proposed (and agreed by PCC) that the provision of glass doors to the inside of the porch, in front of the existing solid wooden door (that must be retained as part of the original Faculty permissions), would not be pursued.
- A new digital piano, with height adjustable piano bench, was purchased and has been in use since about April. It is a Kawai CA701 Digital Piano, with a range of piano sounds as well as some organ sounds.



To mark the completion of these aspects of the reordering, during one of the summer Sunday services the servery, PA desk and piano were blessed.

Phase 2 works are still to be completed. The main elements are storage (not just in the Vestry!) and new Audio-Visual Equipment (e.g., wall mounted monitors). During the early part of 2024 the St Luke's Room has been repurposed as the possible main storage space, e.g., for Baby & Toddlers (BATs) equipment, and this already shows the potential for a more accessible Vestry.



*James Parsons*

## The Parish Folk Club 2023

The St Luke's Folk Club meetings continued during 2023, hosted and run by Bill and Tanya White (who originally met in 1977 when Bill was playing at the University of Kent Folk Club on the Canterbury campus). The music and poetry is a varied mix of Gospel and other Christian songs, classical guitar, British and American folk songs, together with acoustic covers of more modern music genres and self-penned compositions. Although the church venue is excellent for acoustic music, we use a basic PA setup to enhance vocals and instruments as necessary.

Attendance is around 15-20 and includes young and old with varying degrees of experience and ability. It provides a safe, uncritical platform for trying out new skills in playing, singing and song-writing. We provide teas, coffees and often a glass or two of wine or beer, but generally folks bring their own drinks and snacks. Previous regulars, including most of the 'Barnstormers' barn-dance band who have moved away, occasionally make the return trip to join us for the evening.

Performing live, secular music is covered by St Lukes PRS-for-music licence and costs for the use of the church (recently increased to £41.50) are paid for up-front by the organisers. Those attending are usually generous in their donations which helps to cover these expenses.



A highlight this year was the Filkin's Drift concert which was held at St Luke's on the suggestion of one of our regular members, as they could not find a suitable venue in Chepstow to mark the end of their walking tour around the 870 mile coastal path of Wales. Many thanks to the Rev. Ed Pruen who hosted the evening with the church full to capacity, making for a very memorable event.

*Bill & Tanya White, January 2024*

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Bell Ringing at Tidenham Church.

**Tidenham Tower** is the name of the group of people who meet at Tidenham to ring the Church bells.

**Bellringing at Tidenham church** continues to flourish with between 8 to 12 ringers at each practice night which is on Tuesdays from 7.30pm to 9pm. There is a wide range of ages from octogenarians to teenagers and bellringers come from a number of other towers to join in our practice sessions.

We ring most Sundays for the 9am Holy Communion service. We also ring for services such as Nine Lessons and Carols as well as for weddings and other special occasions. Every year at Tidenham we have one evening of Branch Ringing whereby ringers from all other towers in the Forest South Branch join us for a time of bellringing.

### Jack Hoskins

On a sad note, our friend and bellringer, Jack Hoskins, died in October 2023. Although he was based at St Mary's Chepstow, he rang with us at practice evenings and was always available to ring whenever needed for services and weddings. He did a tremendous amount of work in maintaining the good overall condition of Tidenham bells, mending and replacing ropes, replacing broken stays and generally sorting out any problems we had. His knowledge of bells and bellringing was extensive, and he taught many of our group how to ring bells. He was a quiet, kind, patient and lovely man and will be missed by all his bellringing friends.

From time to time, we have requests from groups of ringers, some local and a number from further afield, to ring the Tidenham bells and we are happy to accommodate them. They invariably comment on how well the bells feel and sound.

If anyone, whatever their age, would like to learn the art of church bellringing, they are most welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings between 7.30pm-9pm. If you are interested, contact Cate on 01291 624260.

*Cate Phillips*



# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Thursday Parish Lunch

The monthly Parish Lunch came into being on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009, so this year we will reach our 15th Birthday. Our first lunch had 16 Guests and 4 Helpers; at our February 2024 Lunch we had 42 Guests and 6 Helpers!

The Parish lunch 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 have Guests from all over the Parish. It provides a real opportunity for the older members of our community to gather together for a chat and share a meal.

We have continued to cook the meal on the day. The meal consists of a Main Course, a Sweet followed by Tea Coffee and Chocolates.

There are always fresh flowers on the tables and at the end a Guest on each table receives them as a memento. The payment when we started in 2009 was just £2 and today it is still only £3! The Helpers have remained loyal throughout and most of all we thank Kate and Gareth for giving us the use of the Woodcroft Christian Centre without charge. As time goes by so the faces have changed but the love remains the same.

Please contact Beryl or George on 01291 625551 [georgechealey@gmail.com](mailto:georgechealey@gmail.com)

*Beryl and George Healey*



# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Forest South (FS) Deanery Synod

### What is a Deanery Synod?

Deaneries are groups of Anglican parishes in a geographical area. The size of the area and the number of parishes varies widely. Led by an Area Dean, Deaneries have a crucial role in linking our worshipping communities together and integrating us all into the wider diocese, of which we are a part. Deanery Synods are formal meetings for conversation, discussion and decision making on matters relating to mission and ministry, not just in the local area, but also diocesan-wide. They can raise or support motions which can be taken to the Diocesan Synod for consideration in the life of the whole diocese. Deanery Synods (DS) exist to serve the witness and mission of the wider church and so need to be able to take strategic decisions to advance mission and ministry in the deanery and diocese.

- DS usually meets three or four times a year
- It is important that the synod reflects the diversity of the congregations, in gender, ethnic origin, age and experience
- In Gloucester Diocese, each Deanery is given a corporate budget for its parish shares. Each parish is then requested to meet its financial obligation (its parish share) based on, among other things, the size of its church electoral roll, its usual Sunday service attendance and the number of its paid staff. This basis is being reviewed for 2025.
- James Parsons became the Deanery Synod Treasurer during the summer of 2021.

### Who are on the Deanery Synods and How are they Elected?

The size of a deanery synod depends on the size of the deanery, but will vary between 50 and 150 people. All licensed clergy in the deanery are automatically members of the deanery synod. Every three years, lay members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). These meetings are open to all members on the church electoral roll. The number of people elected in each parish is determined by size of the church electoral roll. Tidenham Parish has three places.

### Forest South Deanery Synod includes the following parishes: -

Bream	Lydney	Newnham with Awre and Blakeney
Christ Church Forest of Dean with English Bicknor		Parkend and Viney Hill
Cinderford with Littledean		St Briavels with Hewelsfield
Coleford, Staunton, Newland, Redbrook and Clearwell		Tidenham with Beachley and Lancout
Drybrook, Lydbrook and Ruardean		Woolaston with Alvington and Aylburton

In 2023 two lay members of Tidenham Parish were elected for 3 years to FS Deanery Synod: -

Molly Mayo                      James Parsons

### New Area Dean roles

On 28 November Archdeacon Hilary commissioned Revd Bea Erskine, Revd David Gardiner and Revd Mike Barnsley to share in the ministry of Area Dean in the Forest Deanery.

Archdeacon Hilary outlined their roles:

**Bea:** Communications, Deanery representation at College Green, licencing, Deanery Synod and vacancies.

**David:** Legal and technical questions

**Mike:** Pastoral/wellbeing of clergy and their families

**Parish Share** A new model for Parish Share will be proposed during 2024, with a proposed start date of 1 January 2025

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## Deanery Strategic Plan (DSP)

The Deanery (as are all Deaneries in our Diocese) has prepared a working document which proposes a plan to meet the needs of the people and communities which the church in our deanery serves.

### **Why has a Strategic Plan been drawn up?**

The Diocese and Deanery want to plan how we can best serve this diocese for the next ten years and beyond. For example, are the current boundaries, buildings, staffing and lay leadership suitable for the next decade and beyond? This process strengthens the role of our deaneries in planning creatively and strategically for our future as a varied and sustainable church across the diocese of Gloucester.

The Diocese cannot continue 'getting by' on its reserves and carrying on as we are. All Deaneries are therefore being encouraged to think creatively about whether they are meeting the needs of their communities.

### **Progress in 2023**

The Deanery Synod has focussed on the DSP this year. The DSP was presented to College Green on 14<sup>th</sup> November and again, with other Deaneries, at an awayday a week later. The awayday included members of the Deanery Strategic Planning teams, College Green Support teams, Bishop Rachel, Bishop Robert and Archdeacons Hilary and Phil. The aim was to seek to build a common understanding of the shared priorities and challenges facing parishes across the diocese and exploring initial plans for addressing them.

**Six common themes** appear to have emerged from this process and there were short presentations on each of them. There is no silver bullet(!) but there does seem to be a real willingness at College Green to help and listen: -

**Development of Collaborative Ministry** – with a suggested idea of more modular training, for people where they are. By ministry, this would include anything from learning how to read the bible, to role of a church officer, reader, worship leader training. Looking to meet people where they are in their faith journey.

**Growing Faith** – Ministry with children, young people, and families. Thinking around: family hubs, supporting the local church, reimagining our spaces for young people, where are the gaps, Sportily, Grace Network, Youth Connectors, and where we can make connections that enable the discipleship and faith journeys of young people.

**Church Buildings** – long term care, maintenance and sustainability and daily use as vehicles for mission. A strategic buildings group has been established and College Green has taken on, with the help of a grant, a specific person to look the issues around maintaining our churches and reimagining our spaces. This role is for the next two years.

**Administration and Governance** – providing some common platforms that support administrative aspects of parishes and benefices.

**Finance** – including reviewing the Parish Share Model to improve clarity and transparency and supporting the Generous Giving element of discipleship.

**New Housing Developments** – Looking to clarify a strategic approach to build upon locally, depending on the size of these developments.

**Next Steps:** To be discussed at Deanery Synod, but perhaps a suggestion might be focusing on the two areas that have bubbled up through these conversations, namely, young people (for example – via our secondary schools and college) and Focal Ministry.

*James Parsons and Molly Mayo, Deanery Synod representatives*



# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

## 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 and as such produces its own annual report and accounts which are available from the secretary: [secretary.friends@icloud.com](mailto:secretary.friends@icloud.com) or from the Charity Commission.

The Friends continue to work towards the reordering of the North Aisle with the Faculty being granted by the DAC in October 2023. Final details are now being worked on and grants are being applied for to supplement the generous donation from the Tony James Legacy. It is hoped to commence work in September 2024.

The Friends are close to purchasing the building just outside the Lych Gate; the land ownership has turned out to be a more complex issue than anticipated but the lawyers at last seem to be getting there. Planning permission has been granted and so once we have ownership work can be commenced.

We will be looking to organise fund raising events together with asking for volunteers to assist with some of the general works.

*Sarah-Jane Gilchrist, Secretary Tidenham Friends*

## Churches Together

The Covid 19 pandemic changed the work and role of Churches Together in Chepstow. During the Pandemic there were no official Churches Together meetings, yet fruitful joint working between churches and Christians continued on the ground.

During 2023 Chepstow Churches Together met just once and therefore took the decision to distribute all its existing funds rather than hold on to them in a Bank Account. The funds were distributed to Foodbank and CAP, both of which involve Christians from different local worshipping communities.

Going forward there may be the occasional 'official meeting' of the Churches whilst church leaders, representatives and congregations will continue to work together organically through Foodbank, CAP, Prayer Meetings, youth provision and other ways that may arise.

*Revd David Treharne, Vicar*



We remain committed to our LIFE vision

**Leadership**

*Committed to transformation*

**imagination**

*Opening new paths to faith*

**faith**

*Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ*

**engagement**

*Living out Christ's love and hope*

With the spotlight now shining on these five LIFE vision commitments:



**And finally... from the Vicar for the final time!**

## **Me**

2023 presented personal challenges, not least with another dose of the Covid virus which left me struggling with brain fog and struggling to communicate. My apologies for anyone on the end of my Easter 2023 sermon which was a painful preach! Thankfully one October night the brain fog suddenly lifted which was quite a relief!

I was in my 30's when I arrived in the Parish back in 2012. I turned 50 in June and it was so lovely to be able to celebrate with my church family. Thank you for all your good wishes and lovely gifts!

## **The World**

Aside from my own personal health in 2023 the world has been facing numerous more painful challenges with the Ukraine/Russia and Israeli/Palestinian calamities together with plenty of other world conflicts. There are perhaps greater concerns over our climate, and the cost-of-living crisis and increasing cases of poor mental health have impacted lives and livelihoods.

## **Good News**

One can quite easily say the world needs salvation, which is exactly what we find in the Good News of the Gospel. In the person of Jesus Christ we find salvation and the possibilities of New Life. In Jesus Christ there is hope, peace, joy, light and love, even in the bleakest situation. Indeed, as that quote states, "Resurrection means that the worst thing (and there are plenty of contenders) is never the last thing." Therefore, we do not lose heart!

In the midst of challenge and trauma it has been a joy to see the Good News manifested in our worshipping community and our local communities. Jesus' disciples in this Parish of Tidenham living out their faith day to day has had a positive impact in ordinary everyday situations and I want to commend you in this and encourage you to continue following Christ Jesus and to not lose heart if and when things get tough!

This Annual Report is Good News. It is so encouraging and a cause for thanksgiving!

## **Thank You**

Thank you to every person who has played their part in God's mission over the last year whether that has been at work, at home, with neighbours, at school or walking down the road. Thank you! Keep making the connections between everyday life and faith no matter what you do and where you are and who you meet day to day. You are the church scattered and you may be the person God wants to use to bring Good News in any given situation. Listen to the stories of others and share your story... "You are the light of the world" (John 5:14).

And thank you to each person who has played their part in the Body of Christ, the church gathered, especially those who have taken responsibility! Moving forward, what part is the Lord asking you to play in his Church? May you be open to his call upon your life and his calling upon the lives of others.

## **And finally,**

As I write this final section of the Annual Report, I am now aware that this will be the last time I write this section. In the summer of 2024, after nearly 12 years in post, I will be leaving my post as Vicar of Tidenham and Priest in Charge of St Briavels with Hewelsfield and Brockweir. I therefore want to leave you with some words:-

# TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

**Relationship, Relationship, Relationship!** I'm sure you could have guessed this would feature.

As I leave and you go into vacancy and work towards appointing a new Vicar, please make every effort to do relationship well! May the Lord always be the relationship above all relationships! With him all things are possible. Pray! Seek the Lord and let HIM reign! Be open to the leading of His Spirit and obedient to his will. Watch out for spiritual apathy, spiritual ignorance and spiritual forgetfulness. Love and support and listen to one another. Work together and do not give up meeting together (Heb 10:25). Be wise and discerning, slow to react and quick to forgive. Remember mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:13) and if we Christians have no love, we're nothing (1 Cor 13:1-3)! Ensure that our worshipping communities build bridges not walls with the community and with those who are seeking the Lord and asking questions, and to those who are new or returning to faith and church.

**Responsibility.** We live in a Teflon era where many people do not want to hold responsibility. It's no wonder when people are so quick to criticise. What does the Lord require of you? If the Lord has need of you and his Body has need of you, are you willing give time, talents and finances. Will you take on responsibility and support others who do so? Do not be afraid to follow his call.

**Wellbeing.** Look out for one another and look after one another. Our individual and corporate wellbeing really matters to the Lord, and it should really matter to the church.

**Awareness.** Be aware if someone is new – don't ignore them! Be aware if someone has no-one to talk to – don't ignore them! Be aware if someone is hurting – don't ignore them! Be aware if there are gaps or mistakes and don't criticise... be a solution finder rather than a fault finder! Be aware of what the Spirit is saying to you and to the Church.

Finally, as the Parish(es) go through the process of appointing a new Vicar, celebrate what the Lord has done and is doing amongst you and don't feel you have to be something you're not, or hide the challenging things! And when the new Vicar is appointed make sure there is an amazing welcome. Invite him or her and their family for food and drink. If they are in the current Vicarage offer them help with the garden! Try not to compare them to previous clergy! Don't put them on a pedestal. Make sure they have their holidays and days off and try not to make them feel guilty! Be open and prepared to do things differently. Pray for them and ask them to pray for you!!!

As for me, I will really miss you but I will always give thanks to the Lord with all my heart for my time here, as will Kathy and Roseanna: for the kindness, love and prayers that I/we have received; for all that I have learnt from you; for all the times we have encountered the Lord together; for all the situations, gatherings, events and projects we have lived through together; for inviting us into your lives; for the support, the friendship and collegiality; for all the mistakes you have overlooked and forgiven in me; for all the challenges we have faced and the tears we have shed together; and for all the laughter, joy and fun we have shared together. Thank you for ministering to me/us and allowing me to minister to you. Thank you for being the Body of Christ and for living life in the flow of God's love with us!

Be joyful, keep the faith and keep doing the little things!  
The Lord bless you and keep you,  
David, Kathy, Roseanna and Leo.

