

The Parish of Tidenham

with Beachley and Lancaut



"where the river flows everything will live"

Annual Report 2020



TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

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TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Legal and Administrative Information

Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

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

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

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

Registered charity number: 1158940

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

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex officio members:

<i>Incumbent</i>	Revd David Treharne	Chair
<i>Curate</i>	Revd Janice Hamilton	
<i>Curate</i>	Revd Nicki Bullivant (from 19 September 2020)	
<i>Churchwarden</i>	Mr David Burr (until APCM 11 October 2020)	Vice chair
<i>Churchwarden</i>	Prof Brian Duerden CBE (from APCM 11 October 2020)	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 (from 11 October 2020)
Elected lay members:	Mr Ewen Hamilton	Treasurer
	Mr Iain Gardiner (Co-opted in 2018, elected at APCM on 11 October 2020)	Secretary
	Mrs Nicki Bullivant (until 19 September 2020)	Deanery synod representative
	Mrs Margaret Coombs (until APCM 11 October 2020)	Deanery synod representative
	Dr Emma Phillips	Deanery synod representative
	Prof Brian Duerden CBE (until APCM 11 October 2020)	
	Ms Marilyn Henderson	
	Mr Peter Jones	
	Mr Colin Lee (resigned 25 March 2020)	
	Mr Roger Martin (until APCM 11 October 2020)	
	Mr Andrew Palmer	
	Mr Robin Riordan (from APCM 11 October 2020)	
	Mrs Melanie Walton (from APCM 11 October 2020)	
	Mrs Tanya White (until APCM 11 October 2020)	
	Miss Chantelle Wynn (from APCM 11 October 2020)	
	Mr Steven Shaw (until APCM 11 October 2020)	
Co-opted	Mr John-Ross Henderson (from APCM 11 October 2020)	
	Mrs Molly Mayo (from APCM 11 October 2020)	Deanery synod representative

Independent examiner: Douglas Elliott LLB, FCA

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

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Tidenham Parochial Church Council (hereafter the PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England. All PCCs are governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation, called Measures:

- the Parochial Church Measure (1956) as amended and
- the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended). They were revised in 2011 and completely rewritten in 2019, coming into effect on 1st January 2020.

Organisational structure

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In Tidenham Parish the membership of the PCC consists of the Vicar, two Churchwardens, two Readers and the Curates, all of whom are ex officio members. In addition, ten ordinary PCC members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) by those members of the congregation who are on the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish. The APCM must be well advertised and held by 31 May each year using a standard agenda. Due to COVID-19, the Bishop of Gloucester authorised parishes to delay holding the 2020 annual church meeting until 31 October, and it was duly held on Sunday 11 October in Tidenham church. PCC members are elected for a three-year term, with a third of members elected each year. The PCC may co-opt up-to-two additional members as necessary.

All those who attend services in the Parish are encouraged to register on the Church Electoral Roll, which is reviewed each year by the PCC prior to the APCM. Every six years a brand new roll is created; and 2019 saw the creation of just such a roll. For more information see the Electoral Roll Review on page 9.

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

The full PCC met eleven times during 2020 (twice in person and 9 times via Zoom) with an average attendance of 71%. *Safeguarding and Health & Safety* and *Data Protection* are mandatory topics for the agenda. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees / teams, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These sub-committees/ teams, which include buildings, finance and charity giving, are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly, to enable the full PCC to discuss and confirm their recommendations. In addition the PCC has authorised certain church members to be responsible for particular areas of church activity, such as health and safety, safeguarding, pastoral visiting, liaison with the adjacent Tutshill Church of England primary school, visiting families to prepare for baptism and Care Home services. The members of these committees / teams and post holders are reviewed each year usually at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

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. Deanery Synod members were duly elected at the October 2020 APCM. Deanery Synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church. For more details see the section on page 47.

Paid Staff

During 2020 the PCC employed three part-time staff: Jane Penny as a lay worker to lead the ministry to children and families across the Parish, Ethan Richards as Youth Co-Ordinator to cater for the significant number of youth in the parish and Clare Presley, as administration assistant.

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

Volunteers

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

Risk Management

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

Safeguarding

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

No safeguarding incidents were recorded during 2020.

Insurance

In September 2019 the PCC renewed its 3-year insurance policies with Ecclesiastical Insurance covering both its church buildings and its activities. It uses Ecclesiastical's template documents to create comprehensive Health & Safety Policies. In November 2020 the PCC renewed its 5-year contract with Chubb to provide and maintain fire extinguishers in its buildings.

Data Protection

The PCC has always taken its responsibilities for data protection very seriously, and issued a privacy notice in January 2020 as part of its review of the church electoral roll. It believes it complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). No issues were recorded during 2020.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC's **Charitable Objectives** are primarily focused on the advancement of religion for the public benefit.

The scope of which is reflected in its **significant activities**: -

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

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

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Public benefit - Church Services

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 on page 3, includes two people from St Briavels and Hewelsfield - Revd David Rees, an Ordained Local Minister and Mandy Vaughan a reader.

Until the imposition of COVID lockdowns, all three of the churches in the parish held a public Christian worship service each Sunday with additional services at Tutshill and Tidenham during the week. There are also services at times of significance in the Christian calendar and at important times in people's lives e.g. birth, marriage and death. St Luke's Tutshill is usually open to the public each day for personal prayer, and access to the other churches can be provided on request to the Administration Assistant or churchwardens. The churches may be used for community purposes. Local Schools use the church for regular acts of worship during term time and for other services during the year.

COVID-19 Crisis

Revd Treharne created a small COVID working group to review how the PCC should comply with the COVID Regulations taking account of the extensive guidance provided centrally by the Church of England, supplemented by information and guidance from Gloucester Diocese. COVID significantly impacted every aspect of normal church life and activities from the first lockdown on 23 March right through to the end of the year. Church buildings were closed for many weeks, meeting fellow Christians was severely restricted or banned, church services moved online, and many church meetings were cancelled or held via Zoom.

We had to think of new ways of being relevant to the community: -

- staff quickly became proficient at being church online;
- Sunday services were on YouTube and Zoom was used for a virtual Sunday morning coffee and chat.
- Those with IT skills recorded up to fifty singers and musicians singing together and made available via YouTube.
- Hard copy of weekly briefings and sermons was mailed out to those without access to the internet
- Some people who had connections with the parish, but now lived far away, were able to join our online services which they had not previously been able to do.
- We had to cease all face to face services with schools and care homes
- Additional engagement took place via the Parish Facebook page and Zoom
- Worship Without Walls services were held when COVID-19 Regulations allowed

Tutshill church was closed from 23 March to 15 June when it reopened for private prayer, and for public worship from 13 September. Tidenham church reopened on Sunday 26 July for a weekly short communion service. Chase church reopened later in the year for private prayer. Everyone had to wear a mask on entering church and people had to prebook a seat due to the very limited seating. All churches were available when regulations allowed for weddings and funerals.

Churches closed for the second lockdown on 4 November. After it was lifted, live church services resumed on Sunday 6 December and lasted until Christmas Day when some live services were held outdoors and indoors. Although they were allowed under the third lockdown regulations, PCC decided to cancel all live services after Christmas due to the vulnerability of our congregations.

Public benefit - Engaging with the community

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

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The ordained ministers are assisted in pastoral work by a pastoral visiting team. Their usual activities, providing pastoral care in local hospitals and via home visits to the bereaved, sick, elderly and housebound, all had to stop due to COVID-19 restrictions, but in their place an expanded pastoral team of over 25 people maintained connections and offered support to church and community members. The monthly lunches at the local Woodcroft Christian Centre, which offer social activity for senior residents of the parish, all ceased, as did the fortnightly visits to a local care home.

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Online Activities were run for children and teenagers to help them explore Christianity in a fun and engaging way. We managed to hold regular virtual sessions for our Parish baby and toddlers groups. We also started a 'New Baby Support Group' that managed to meet just before Christmas.

This year's Scarecrow Trail was sadly postponed from its usual Easter break slot to the summer. From 22 August – 5 September, it provided a much needed activity for families (of all ages!) at the end of the school summer holidays. 44 scarecrows depicting Children's Books (a theme voted for by the community) were created by volunteers and located at various gardens and public places throughout the village. The Trail followed its usual route from the Lifestyle Express Shop in Beachley Road, round the village and ending at St. Luke's Church, Tutshill.

As we did not have a process for contactless or giving by text, we decided to offer the trail for free this year; the focus being on fun in the community, rather than raising funds. Predictably, donations were minimal compared to previous years, where £2000 was typically raised for church funds. 20% of donations now go to local charities as decided by the organising team.

As part of our engagement with the community our Parish Magazine '*The Link*' contains articles on general parish interest and the Christian faith. With a print run of 400 it was produced only twice in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, but online versions were produced along with some 20 copies for subscribers without internet access

Authorisation

This Annual Report for 2020 was approved by the PCC and signed by the Revd. David Treharne. It is made available to the general public via the notice boards of each church in the Parish and information on how to obtain one is available on the weekly Parish Notice Sheet / Briefing prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Electronic and a number of hard copies of the Report are made available.

Revd. David Treharne, Vicar

Financial Review 2020

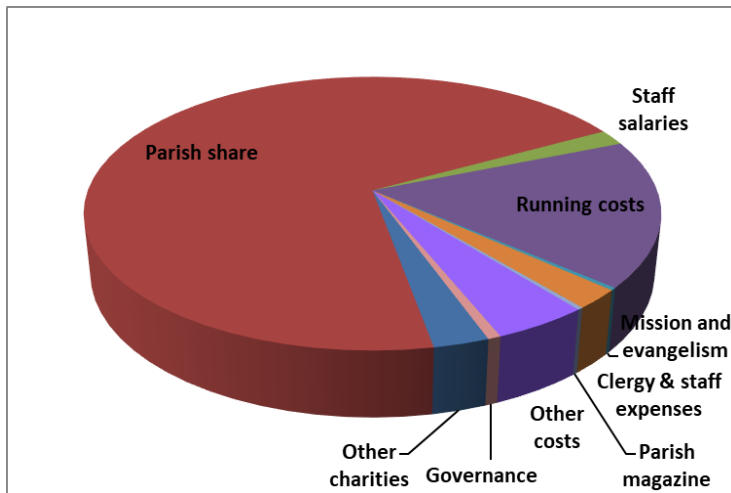


Chart 1: Where the General Fund income came from
Chart 2: How the General Fund income was spent

As for most other areas of church life, the finances also have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020. The limitation of church services for much of the year, along with the need to avoid handling cash, has reduced income from collections by £13,162 (78%), although a number of donors compensated by switching to bank standing orders or giving one-off donations instead, and income from these went up by a total of £8,221 (18%). Fee income from weddings and funerals was down by £2,407

(30%) from 2019, also affected by restrictions on gatherings. However, 2020 income did receive a boost of £5,500 from legacies. Some of the church running costs decreased year on year due to the enforced reduction in activities, but not enough to avoid calling on the PCC's reserves, which exist for just such a time as this.

Total receipts (i.e. income) on the General Fund were £86,698 (2019: £88,549), a 2% decrease year on year. Total General Fund voluntary receipts of £76,583 (2019: £77,119) decreased by 0.7%, but without the legacies in 2020 the decrease would have been £6,036 (7.8%). Income from recovery of Gift Aid was down by £1,974 (14%) at £12,441.

The amount spent from the General Fund to provide Christian ministry throughout the parish was £92,143 (2019: £88,812), an increase of 4% year on year. Before the pandemic, the PCC had already committed to increase by 6% its diocesan parish share, much of which pays indirectly for clergy stipends, pensions, housing and training, and it kept to its commitment of £64,427 (2019: £60,780). Church running costs were down 11% at £16,046 (2019: £17,956) including utilities of £4,999 (2019: £5,357) and insurance of £3,931 (2019: £3,854). Building repairs and improvements of £4,251 paid from the General Fund were to renovate St. Luke's Room after water damage, and were partly offset by an insurance claim.

The net result was that payments out of the General Fund exceeded receipts by £5,445, and the shortfall was made up out of reserves, bringing the balance on the General Fund to £29,600 (2019: £35,045). The PCC's reserves policy is to keep reserves of £35,000.

The restricted fund made up of grants and other voluntary income to support youth, children and families ministry stood at £57,210 (2019: £41,955) at the year end, thanks to the financial support of donors and particularly grant-making charities, from whom grants of £37,000 were received in the year.

During 2020 the restricted fund for the project to refurbish and develop the interior of St. Luke's Church, Tutshill paid out the retention of £3,744 on the first phase of works completed during 2019, and received a further £10,168 including donations and a grant towards the remaining works. At the end of the year the remaining balance on this fund was £24,168 (2019: £18,474).

The PCC also paid architects' fees of £4,732 in connection with Tidenham tower roof, which the last quinquennial report had highlighted as being in need of repairs. This cost was met by the restricted and designated funds for buildings maintenance and development. At the end of the year these funds stood at just £3,409 (2019: £3,463) restricted and £2,326 (2019: £3,335) designated.

Including all restricted and unrestricted funds, the total receipts for the year were £145,042 (2019: £207,346) and total payments were £130,810 (2019: £319,840).

Total cash funds at the year-end were £130,581 (2019: £116,349) held with Lloyds Bank, Monmouthshire Building Society and CBF Church of England deposit funds.

Ewen Hamilton, Treasurer

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Electoral Roll Review 2020

The number of people on the church electoral roll of Tidenham Parish as at 31 December 2019 was 175, of which 134 lived in the parish and 41 lived outside the parish.

1. Planned Report to AGM 2020 scheduled for Monday 23 March 2020

The PCC reviewed the existing roll in March 2020, in advance of the APCM scheduled for 23 March and a list of all names on the new electoral roll was exhibited on all three church notice boards for 15 days. No errors were reported, so the new roll started on Sunday 22 March 2020.

The following 18 names were added to the roll: -

Laura Brewer	Rosemary Callow	Jean Carter
Diana Cave	Michael Cave	Pauline Civil
Sandra Hunt	Eleanor Kenyon	Peter Kenyon
Siphile Mtulawa	Mary Murphy	Millie Palmer
Ethan Richards	Jim Watson	Alan Wilson
Linda Wilson	Mark Wilson	Chantelle Wynn

The following 2 names were removed from the roll : -

Dearly departed - Terry Crossley June Tagg

At the time of the scheduled 2020 APCM on 23 March 2020 there were 191 people on the revised church electoral roll of Tidenham Parish, of which 147 live in the parish and 44 live outside the parish.

Iain Gardiner, Church Electoral Roll Officer, 22 March 2020

COVID-19 restrictions prevented the APCM taking place at its scheduled date and it was rearranged for 11 October.

2. Update to 11 October 2020, the date of the rescheduled APCM.

The following changes took place since the scheduled date of the 2020 AGM: -

- 2 names were added to the church electoral roll: - Kaylee and Nick May
- 2 names were removed from the church electoral roll: -
 - Jane Goatman passed away in July.
 - As she was ordained curate in Gloucester cathedral on 19 September, The Revd Nicki Bullivant is no longer eligible to be on the church electoral roll.

3. Further Update to 31 December 2020

- One name was added to the church electoral roll: - Malcolm Kilminster.
- 3 names were removed from the church electoral roll: -
 - Hubert Morse passed away on 26 December;
 - Rosemary Callow and Fiona Bowie moved away in the autumn.

Consequently, at 31 December 2020 there are 189 people on the church electoral roll of Tidenham Parish, of which 144 live in the parish and 45 live outside the parish.

A review of the church electoral roll is due to take place in advance of the Annual Meeting scheduled for 25 April 2021, when a full update of all the changes to the roll since the 2020 AGM will be given.

Iain Gardiner, Church Electoral Roll Officer, 12 February 2021

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Church Attendance and Statistics

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 01/01- 15/03	2020 02/08- 01/11	2020 06/12- 23/12
Electoral Roll	163	192	192	193	195	178	175	191	191
Easter Communicants (Parish)	186	163	167	179	186	201	0	-	-
Christmas Day Communicants (Parish)	66	60	75	68	44	80	-	-	18
Christmas Day Attendance (Parish)	191	205	195	183	160	181	-	-	56
Midnight Mass Communicants	75	74	71	65	76	80			46
Midnight Mass Attendance	90	80	82	82	83	100			47
Christmas Eve Family Service Attendance	152	140	223	222	192	192			84
Christingle Service Attendance	104	81	99	100	114	79	-	-	0
Ash Wednesday Attendance (Parish)	32	39	33	34	47	64	43	-	-
Good Friday Attendance (Parish)	77	105	114	124	125	89	0	-	-
Av Sunday Attendance all ages(Parish)	150	138	129	140	133	121	122	46	50
Av Sunday Attendance (Tidenham)	25	26	27	27	26	31	29	24	25
Av Sunday Attendance (Tutshill)	108	97	87	96	89	75	77	22	25
Av Sunday Attendance (Chase)	15	15	15	17	18	15	16	0	0
Back to Church Sunday attendance	186	96	134	141	115	125	-	0	-
Av Sunday attendance <16s (Parish)	23	19	17	18	18	20	15	3	3
Weddings	6	8	8	1	6	2	4	-	-
Funerals, burials, memorial services	30	25	33	25	23	25	29	-	-
Baptisms (& thanksgivings)	14	13	3	10	14	12	1	-	-
Confirmations	8	2	3	0	0	4	0	-	-
Admittance to Holy Communion	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	-	-

Live 'in person' services were severely disrupted by the COVID-19 restrictions, but in 2020 services were held at: -

- St Mary and St Peter Tidenham on 28 Sundays
- St Luke's Tutshill on 24 Sundays and
- St Michael and all Angels Chase on 11 Sundays.

There were 11 Sunday services at each church with Morning Services on Mondays at Tidenham, plus Ash Wednesday services at Tidenham and Tutshill before the first lockdown came into effect in March. Services at Chase Church began with the Epiphany Carol Service (39 attendees) until the suspension in March.

Live 'in person' services resumed, with limits on numbers, at Tidenham on August 2nd with 14 Sunday and Monday services up to November 1st, and at Tutshill on 13 September with 10 Sunday services up to November 1st. After a 4-week gap, another 3 Advent Sundays, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services were held at Tidenham and Tutshill before further suspension. There were no 'in person' services at Chase after 15 March except that the All Souls' service was recorded there on October 19th with 9 attendees.

The Parish YouTube Channel 'Tidenham Parish Online Church' lists the number of views for Sunday worship online. For most of lockdown there were well over 100 views, with major festivals, music and events reaching over 200 views although 1 view could constitute any length of time. The full extent of people's engagement with worship online is relatively unknown.

Brian Duerden and Nicholette Flatman, Churchwardens

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

CHARITABLE GIVING

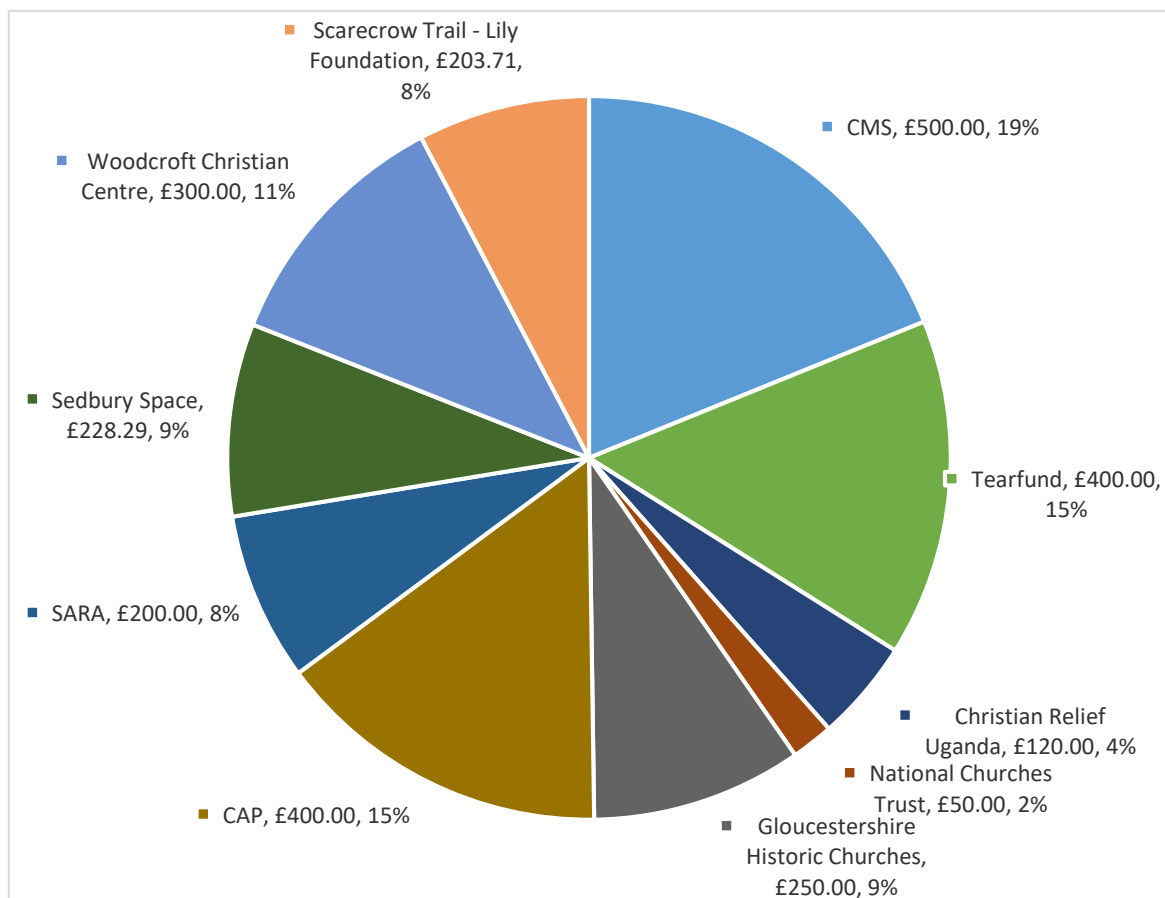
POLICY - The PCC authorised the Charity Giving Team to make grants totalling 10% of the surplus unrestricted income from the previous year i.e. 2019. There is a spread of charities size as well as a selection of local, regional, national and international beneficiaries.

HEADLINE - The PCC Charity Giving Team allocated £2,652 in 2020. This compares with £2,843 in 2019, £3,695 in 2018, £2,815 in 2017 and £3,492 in 2016.

DETAILS - The 2020 recipients are similar to those for 2019, but the PCC has taken responsibility for the Tutshill Sunday School's donations to Christian Relief Uganda, and 10% of the funds raised via the Scarecrow Trail were donated as part of the planned giving to the Lily Foundation.

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

Charity Giving Team



Christian Aid

This year, like so many charities, Christian Aid has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Normally there is a house-to-house collection during Christian Aid week and, in the past, people in Tidenham Parish have been extremely generous raising a considerable sum for the charity. However, in 2020 this was not possible. Christian Aid Week 2020 ran from 10-16 May and it may well be that some people sent their own donations direct to the charity. There were features about Christian Aid week online before and during Christian Aid week, beginning with a YouTube message from Dr Rowan Williams. At present there is no Area Co-ordinator for Christian Aid, but Churches Together will be addressing this issue when meetings begin again.

Church Copyright Licence Review

1. Licencing and Costs

We obtain annual licences from Church Copyright Licensing International (CCLI), a private company that manages the copyright of many songs, books and films. The costs of covering all legally required copyright licences for our parish churches during the past year were as follows: -

- **St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham** (church category A). Under normal circumstances, a PRS licence is required to cover musical performances for fund-raising concerts and other non-church musical events. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, a decision was taken in July 2020 to allow this licence to expire and to be reviewed if circumstances change. At time of writing, no licences are currently in place for this church venue.
- **St Michael's and All Angels, Tidenham Chase**: none required
- **St Luke's, Tutshill** (church category B). All regular licences were renewed in September 2020 at a total cost (including VAT) of £708.18, comprising:
 - Church Copyright Licence (CCL) to reproduce song words that are in copyright, on a service sheet, songbook or computer projection, cost £140.00
 - Music Reproduction Licence (MRL) to photocopy direct from music books or downloaded SongSelect data for use of the music group, cost £72.00
 - SongSelect to download worship music, chords or words sheets in digital electronic format to enable the music group to play modern worship songs where music books are unavailable or tablet/projector display is required, cost £104.00
 - PRS for Music Church Licence to perform non-music such as fund-raising concerts of classical and gospel choirs and the St Luke's Folk Club, cost £72.90
 - PPL Church Licence. The PPL and PRS together, allow audio recordings (CDs, etc.) to be played on the premises in addition to performing live music, cost £73.28
 - Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) to photocopy from non-music books such as study books, games and puzzle books, cost £78.00
 - Church Video Licence (CVL) to use clips of commercially available film which are authorised by the copyright holder for public display, £168.00

These licences expire in September 2021 and cover activities in regular use at St Luke's main services (in-church or on-line), off-site children's and schools ministries and other non-worship events. In addition, it was decided to purchase a streaming licence for live, internet-based services. This was purchased from CCLI in November 2020 at a cost of £56.00 (incl. VAT).

A printed copy of the full licence certificate is displayed in Tutshill church porch.

2. CCLI Reporting

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



Bill White, CCLI Administrator

Fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches of the Parish

1. INTRODUCTION

During March 2020, an Ecclesiastical Insurance (EIG) Risk Management quinquennial inspection was carried out for each of our three churches. Issues identified as Priority 1 & 2 requiring attention within weeks have been addressed by PCC.

PCC Buildings Committee has a prioritised list of all issues identified by, and proposed actions to address, the recommendations from this report and the December 2017 Quinquennial Inspection (QI) reports on our three churches.

The Chaplain among Deaf People & Hard of Hearing People in the Diocese of Gloucester, Revd Steve Morris, visited our 3 churches on 27 July to review our sound systems. His report was considered by PCC and some further work is needed to follow up the issues identified.

2. FACULTIES

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

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

2.1 Archdeacon's written notices received in 2020:

St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham

Removal of a dangerous tree 16 November 2020. The removal of this tree is the responsibility of the parish council, as Tidenham Churchyard is designated as a 'closed churchyard'.

St Michael and all Angels, Tidenham Chase

Removal of a dead holly tree has been determined on 18 May 2020 as falling within 'List A' items – i.e. subject only to PCC decision. Wardens are seeking to carry out this work in 2021.

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 authorised were due to be completed by September 2020; as this proved impossible given current COVID-19 circumstances, an extension was applied for and was granted by the consistory court. The work must now be completed by September 2022.

2.3 Faculties under application and discussion in 2020

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

- An initial application has been made for a faculty to repair the tower roof and repoint the tower walls together with associated repairs to the fabric of the tower. Discussions with DAC on the detail of these proposals are ongoing.
- Initial application has been made for a faculty to reorder the church, including the provision of toilet, kitchen and parish office facilities. Discussions with DAC on these proposals are ongoing.
- Our Application for a faculty for the restoration of the Madocke Tomb was withdrawn in February 2021, due to the proposed work's excessive cost and minimal benefit.
- Further discussions have been held with DAC for our application for a faculty for a level pathway across the churchyard from the access established by Tidenham Friends in 2019.

3. MAINTENANCE OF THE FABRIC OF ALL THREE CHURCHES BUILDINGS

Normal maintenance of the three churches has continued throughout 2020, albeit within COVID-19 restrictions. A considerable amount of major work is still required to bring all our churches up to a satisfactory 21st century standard.

Issues that concern all our churches: -

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

PAT testing and fixed wiring inspections was not required in 2020 as both were carried out in January 2017. PAT testing and fixed wiring inspections are next required in 2022.

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- **Asbestos Registers**

The Asbestos Registers for each church were reviewed on 25 October 2020.

- **Gutter & Window Cleaning**

The gutters were thoroughly cleaned, and all windows cleaned both internally and externally in February / March 2019. This work was not carried out in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, but is scheduled for spring 2021.

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

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

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

This was carried out at each church on 20 August 2020 with acceptable results.

- **Terrier (i.e. the full inventory of the goods and chattels at each church) and**

- **Log Book (i.e. details of work carried out at each church)**

These documents were revised to reflect the work carried out at our churches during 2020, and inspected by PCC members.

4. SPECIFIC ISSUES AT EACH CHURCH

4.1 Tidenham

- 1 The tower clock is maintained by Cumbria Clock Company. It has kept good time apart from a couple of occasions when we suffered a power cut. This caused the winding mechanism, and the clock, to stop. No maintenance was carried out in 2020 due to Covid, but this will be carried out hopefully in the first half of 2021.
- 2 The QI reports of 2012 and 2017 recommended that major work on the Tower roof be undertaken, but lack of funds prevented this. The Tower was inspected in November 2018 which concluded that it remained safe for public use. The Friends of Tidenham commissioned our church architect to produce a design and specification to address the issues. The estimated cost of the work, which included a new roof, was £100,000, but when we applied for a Faculty in 2020 the DAC asked us to seek the view of a conservation engineer to see if the roof could be repaired, due to its historically significant design. Pat Ruddock from Mann Williams made a site visit in November, and we received his draft report in February 2021. We still hold a grant of £3000 from the Headley Trust (one of Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts), towards this work.



4.2 Tutshill

1. The reordering of Tutshill church is covered elsewhere in this Report.
2. Chappell piano no 74809 was declared redundant and made available to Tutshill CoE Primary School, who will make good use of it.
3. In September 2019, a leaking roof caused damage to St Luke's room ceiling, walls and carpet and a claim was lodged with Ecclesiastical. The roof was not finally repaired until 29 October 2019. St Luke's room was out of action for the remainder of 2019 while it dried out. Ecclesiastical settled our claim and after a delay due to COVID-19, the following work was carried out at St Luke's room in summer /autumn 2020: -
 - The floor was screeded and new underlay and carpet was laid.



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- The walls have been washed down to remove the mould and re-painted.
 - The wood work has been re-painted.
 - The rear external fire exit door has been replaced and includes a push bar; the frame for this door was rotten and has also been replaced.
 - Two new modern, programmable radiators have been installed.
 - A new fire door incorporating glass has been installed at the kitchen entrance, allowing the corridor to be flooded with light.
4. A Key safe was installed for the main door and St Luke's room to avoid the need to transfer keys.
 5. Slight water ingress into the vestry would appear to be coming from around the existing chimney, though recent storms have not seen any ingress as it seems dependant on wind and rain direction. Work will need to be carried out to rectify this.

4.3 Tidenham Chase

- 1 The PA system failed in November 2018, leaving only the radio mike and lectern mike active. PCC decided in 2019 that this was acceptable, as the cost of repairs - £594 to repair the broken cable or £1734 for a completely new system to replace the existing antique one - could not be justified. Further failure has occurred during 2020 and will need attention in 2021.
- 2 A Key safe was installed at Chase shed to ease access and avoid the need to transfer keys.
- 3 The West wall is still very damp during the winter rains; this needs further investigation



5 CHURCHYARDS

1. The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the closed churchyards of Tidenham and Tutshill.
2. *Greengrafters* have tidied up the edges of Chase churchyard and the area where ashes are buried. The mowing regimen has been changed, in discussion with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT), to allow growth of wild flowers and improve the habitat for wildlife with positive results
3. PCC has agreed, in cooperation with neighbours and GWT, that the debris and rubble should be removed from Chase churchyard in summer 2021.
4. Churchwardens are currently looking at further work to improve access to Chase churchyard.

6 GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

1. The goods and ornaments in all three churches are generally in a satisfactory condition.
2. A new electric piano/keyboard has been donated for St Mary and St Peter Church but has yet to be brought into use because of Covid restrictions.

Nicholette Flatman and Brian Duerden, Churchwardens

Our Parish Vision

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

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

1. **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
- Corporate Prayer
- Various corporate acts of worship that provide opportunities to connect with God
- Opportunities to receive ministry e.g. prayer for healing

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

We commit ourselves to this through:

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

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

We commit ourselves to this through:

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

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

We commit ourselves to this through:

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

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

We commit ourselves to this through:

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

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

PCC. 21/2/17

The Parish of Tidenham during 2020: a year of worship through a global pandemic and lockdown. What happened?



Candlemas 2020 at Tidenham Chase

There was no electricity that evening but we decided to continue the service with no heating or electric lighting.

The end of the Christmas season

Every effort was made to try and take down the Emmanuel banner, however the little chain could not be untangled and the banner, perhaps prophetically, remained. Emmanuel 'God with us' cannot be removed! His presence with us through this dark and difficult year has been comfort, hope, light and life.



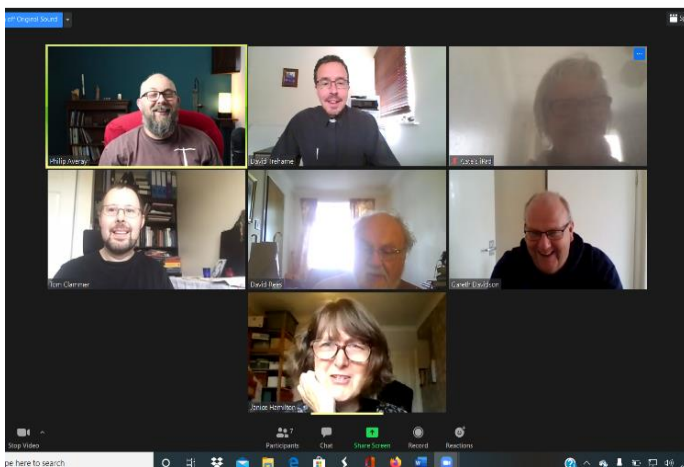
Twitter browser tabs and URL: vitter.com/bishgloucester/status/1234171657314619392



Visit of Bishop Rachel

Bishop Rachel visited the Parish on St David's Day, just a few weeks before the first lockdown. She visited and preached at all 3 churches, whilst also engaging in a very interesting Q & A session following lunch together. Questions were posed to Bishop Rachel from people across the Parish, including some really challenging questions from the young people.

The following day the Bishop visited some members of the church in their workplaces and encouraged them in their Monday-Saturday mission and discipleship.



Morning Prayer

At the beginning of the year the pattern for corporate Morning Prayer was:

- Mon: St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham
- Tues: Sedbury Space
- Wed: St Luke's, Tutshill
- Thursday: St Mary the Virgin, St Briavels

With the coming of lockdown Morning Prayer moved onto Zoom... a Cytun venture, and something that happened at 9am Monday – Thursday for much of 2020.

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The Tidenham Cross



As lockdown began a wicker cross was erected in the car park at Tidenham. Its presence spoke into the pain of the Pandemic, but it was also a reminder that life and hope spring out of death and despair.

Sunday Worship Before and During the Covid Pandemic

Prior to lockdown in March 2020 the pattern of Sunday worship in the Parish was as follows:

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

- In addition there was a once a month 10.15am healing Eucharist with anointing.
- The Parish continued to follow the liturgical seasons and used the Lectionary for the Bible readings. Seasonal Eucharist booklets are used.

During lockdown worship moved online with the Parish setting up a YouTube Channel, 'Tidenham Parish Online Church.' Facebook and Zoom were also used for various services such as the midweek Eucharist and the Easter Vigil.

When 'in person' worship restarted after lockdown 1, the advent of social distancing meant that numbers were greatly restricted. St Mary & St Peter's Church Tidenham came into its own as a big airy space, and the building enabled gatherings of about 50 people. St Luke's Church, Tutshill could not take more than about 30 people (with some bubbles). With Tidenham Chase unable to take more than 17 people socially distanced, and only having one entrance and less ventilation, the decision was taken to temporarily suspend Sunday worship, whilst still allowing small gatherings for funerals or weddings.

With many people worried about the safety of gathering together, 'in person' numbers remained pretty low for the remainder of 2020.

Online worship continued to be made available from March to the end of the year, to enable as many people as possible to stay connected to the church and engage in some kind of corporate worship. With a grant to purchase some necessary tech equipment online worship provision through YouTube should still be offered beyond the Covid Pandemic.

Before 23 March, 2020, it was part of our worshipping culture to involve many people in the worshipping life of the Parish: those who read the lessons, administered the chalice, led our prayers of intercession and provided welcome, guidance and information. Those who carried out Warden and sidespersons duties, cleaned and decorated and worked for the upkeep of our church buildings with love and diligence, operated our PA and heating systems, mended things, opened and closed our churches, put out bins,

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joyfully rang our church bells, prepared refreshments and washed up afterwards; worked with our babies, toddlers, children and young people, served at the altar, produced altar linen, served our community, volunteered for charity and diligently counted, banked and managed money, fundraising and policy matters.

Once lockdown hit there was a radical readjustment in our life together as the church community was totally disrupted. However, the response was remarkable and whilst certain individuals drew back from volunteering there was an extraordinary effort on the part of many people to keep the Parish running; attending to our church buildings when they were empty and then re-opened, keeping the buildings clean and safe, management of the Parish and community life, contributing to the online and 'in person' worship, offering pastoral care and support, and much more...

A big thank you to all who enabled the church here to function in and out of lockdown! Thank you!!

The Tent of Meeting: Weekly Wednesday Eucharists in the Vicarage Marquee

With people reluctant to go into buildings because of safety fears a marquee was erected in the Vicarage garden to enable small groups to gather safely under cover for Holy Communion. The Vicar put on between 2 and 4 celebrations of the Eucharist on the hour back to back on most Wednesdays during the summer until the end of September when, due to the weather changing, the small Wednesday Holy Communion gatherings moved safely into St Luke's Church and continued to the end of the year.



It was a special time of gathering which may well be revisited in 2021!

WWW... 'Worship Without Walls.'



Something else that arose out of the Pandemic is the Worship Without Walls gathering once a month outside St Luke's Church. With staying still, face coverings and socially distancing not really conducive to families with children, the freedom of outdoor worship emerged. It enabled children and parents to gather safely and freely, but the creative outdoor worship attracted others feeling the constraints of the church building and the indoor restrictions.



This provision turned into an unexpected 'Fresh Expression' of worship and church, connecting well with some different people. This too is planned to continue in 2021 and beyond the Covid Pandemic.

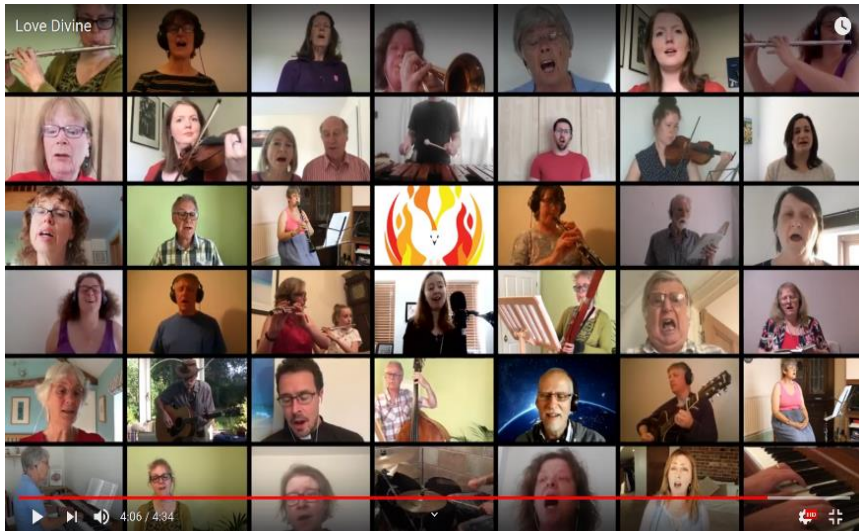
Creativity in Worship... in what was a 'year of worship' for the Parish

Despite being banished from our church buildings and thrown online the church continued to worship, and the lockdown and challenges of 2020 saw some wonderful creativity in worship.

The time was a massive learning curve with people having to learn how to use previously unknown features of their computers, tablets and mobiles, whilst purchasing microphones, earphones and video software and learning how to use the likes of Zoom, Facebook and YouTube.

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Despite the challenges and limitations every effort was made to try and engage as many people as possible; something that had been an important feature of our gathered worship prior to lockdown.



Love Divine on the Tidenham Parish YouTube Channel, one of the fantastic worship offerings compiled by Alex White with input from Tidenham, St Briavels and Hewelsfield & Brockweir congregations.

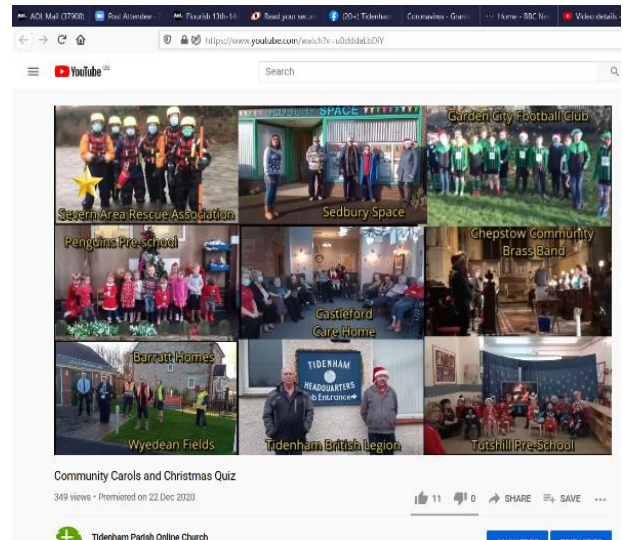
Alex's tech abilities were invaluable to the Parish throughout the year.

Alex's musical abilities were rather handy too! A big thank you to him and all the musicians who facilitated worship during the year under extraordinary trying conditions.

Ascension Day



The 2020 Ascension Day breakfast on Zoom (left) with one person in particular enjoying an enormous breakfast! Who might that be?



Community Carols

The innovative Community Carols and Christmas Quiz (right) in December on YouTube involved and engaged with organisations and households across the Parish.



Clapping for Carers

Clapping for Carers outside our homes on Thursday evenings during the first lockdown. We should not forget the burden of responsibility some have held and continue to hold within our communities, and to pray for them. Some of them are in our church family living out their faith day to day in very challenging circumstances. Thank you Lord for them!

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The 'Called to be' Sunday Sermon Series

In Ordinary Time (the period after Trinity Sunday) we ran a 'called to be' series over many Sundays to help us reflect on who God calls us to be... an apt topic given that our doing was severely limited.

CALLED TO BE

The topics included:

Called to be holy and in relationship with God
Called to be the church scattered
Called to be worshipful 1
Called to be free
Called to be alive
Called to be authentic
Called to be a witness
Called to be in union with Christ
Called to be fruitful 2
Called to be committed / dedicated

Called to be ordained
Called to be the church gathered
Called to be worshipful 2
Called to be exultant
Called to be transformed
Called to be mature
Called to be faithful
Called to be fruitful 1
Called to be whole
Called to be ready



Life Events and Occasional Offices

2020 was a particularly tough year for those getting married, celebrating big birthdays and anniversaries, having babies, moving house, changing job, beginning retirement, moving school, facing health problems and going through bereavement.

A lot of people experienced challenge and heartbreak. Bereavement was particularly brutal during 2020 as many families were denied the opportunity to visit and hug loved ones before they died, or were denied the funeral they desired and needed. The physical distancing in these circumstances was horrible.

A personal sadness for the church community here was the death and funerals of some of our members in 2020 including:

Doreen Wootton, June Tagg, Rose McKenna, Geoff Mead, Jane Goatman, Terry Crossley and Hubert Morse.



There was also only one baptism at the beginning of the year before lockdown, when we welcomed little Beatrix into the family of God at Tidenham Church on Sunday 23 February.

Thankfully the summer of 2020 did afford some wonderful moments including 5 weddings (apologies to Abigail and Peter... the photo alongside their names is a second lovely photo of Rosie and Pearce).

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**Rosalind & Matthew
18th July 2020**



**Rosalind & Pearce
22nd August 2020**



**Abigail & Peter
25th August 2020**



**Katherine & George
29th August 2020**



**Bethan & Alfred
5th September 2020**

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Many people had special birthdays and anniversaries. Congratulations to you all!

(Can you recognise the couple on the right?)



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Pastoral Care

For some the stress levels of 2020 were too much and it was heartbreaking to know people were going through trauma detached from social and physical contact. As a Parish we endeavoured to do what we could to support those in the church and in our community going through trials of various kinds:

- The Pastoral Care team so lovingly co-ordinated by Julia Parsons was expanded so that church members were receiving some kind of contact from someone in the church on a regular basis.
- Every effort was made to reach as many people as possible with the provision of online worship, outdoor worship, safe in person worship, website materials, emails, a weekly briefing, Zoom calls, telephone calls, cards through the door, a Christmas Card to every household, regular Facebook posts and more.



THE PARISH OF TIDENHAM
(& St Briavels and Hewelsfield & Brockweir)
WEEKLY PARISH BRIEFING
Sunday 13th December 2020

Sunday Worship Coming Up...

Following the national lockdown public worship was able to resume from Wed 2 December.

A big thank you to everyone involved in pastoral care during 2020. There are so many of you to name!!

Flourish

During 2020 the Parish began engagement with the Gloucester Diocesan Flourish initiative. The initiative is a partnership between CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society), LICC (London Institute of Contemporary Christianity) and Gloucester Diocese.

Flourish is aimed at helping worshipping communities to be more confident in their whole life discipleship. One face to face gathering was possible in February after which everything moved onto Zoom. Nicholette Flatman, Emma Phillips, Emma Durbin, Revd Janice Hamilton, Fiona Gardiner, James Parsons, Revd Nicki Bullivant, Revd David Rees and Vicar David Treharne have been involved and worked with other parishes.



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Life Groups

Parish Life Groups continued to meet in 2020 with some Groups such as the Toast Wednesday morning Life Group pausing along with the Deanery Xsite and Branch initiatives.

LIFE GROUP	DAY and TIME	NAME	DETAILS OF GROUP
Meeting for Men!	SUNDAY Evening 7.30pm	James Parsons	Men's Group
Life Group Meeting At St Luke's	TUES Afternoon 12.45pm start at 1.00pm	Julia Parsons and Beryl Healey	Meet for Prayer, Bible Study and encouragement
Food for Thought At Toast Tutshill	WED Morning 10.30am	Revd David Treharne	Light and informal discussion about life and faith
SEDBURY SPACE	WED Evening 7.30-9.00 pm	Janice Hamilton	Exploring faith and providing mutual support
REFRESHMENT ROOM	WED Evening 7.30pm for 8.00pm start	Fiona Gardiner Elm House Woodcroft	We will aim to go deeper with God, to support one another in prayer and in practice and to have fun.
WELCOME at St Luke's	THUR 1.00-2.30pm	Jane Penny	Exploring faith through worship, prayer and discussion. Spirit-led, Bible based time of fellowship
Distraction	As and when	Steven Shaw / David Treharne	Informal gathering for children to meet and play and parents to talk about life and faith

Youth, Children and Families

The Youth, Children and Families Ministry Project moved into its third year funded by grants from the Gloucester Diocesan Life Development Fund, the Joseph Rank Trust, Sylvanus Lysons Charity and the fantastic support of Church members. Thank you! Jane Penny (3 days a week), Ethan Richards (10 hours a week) and Clare Presley (10 hours a week) all received funding through the Project and continued working hard through the whole year, adapting their work to great effect during the lockdown periods. There is more about this work later in this Report.

Scarecrows and Pioneering and Schools

This Report also gives us details on the Scarecrow Trail, delayed by Covid until later in the year; the work carried out in Sedbury through Revd Janice and the Pioneer Project; and the continuing ministry to our schools in the area.

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Ordinations



Due to Covid 19 the 2020 ordinations were delayed by a few months. This meant that Nicki Bullivant's curacy began at the end of June not with ordination but with a unique commissioning in the Vicarage marquee. Nicki then had to wait until September before actually being ordained a deacon.

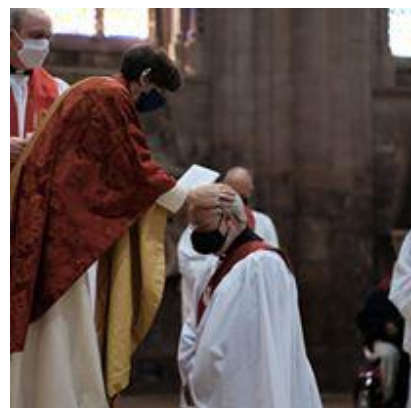
Nicki was eventually

ordained deacon on Saturday 19 September 2021 at Gloucester Cathedral and will serve as a self supporting curate in the Parishes of Tidenham and St Briavels with Hewelsfield and Brockweir.

On Sunday 20 September 2021, David Rees was ordained priest at Gloucester Cathedral and will continue serving as a locally ordained minister in St Briavels with Hewelsfield and Brockweir, together with Tidenham Parish.



It is a testimony to the spiritual vitality of the parishes that so many vocations, lay and ordained have emerged in the parishes over the years.



The ordinations were so very special, and gave a very joyful moment of small gathering in the midst of a challenging year.

Parish Leadership Day

Little did we know that our Parish Leadership Day on 5 March 2020 would be one of our last gatherings before the national lockdown. The Day was the first of two planned days to consider our future as a Parish and envision our next steps together. The Diocese had agreed to support us by bringing in Milly Sinclair, a leadership facilitator and spiritual director, to work with us. We had come a long way since 2012 but the Parish was at a stage of needing some fresh reshaping asking questions such as... where have we come from and are we now on our journey together? Where are we going and where might we want to go? How will we get there?

The Day itself was a very helpful start in beginning to consider next steps together. Amongst other things there was a recognition that there was perhaps too much going on and an unsustainable level of ministerial workload, particularly for the Vicar, but also certain other members of the church. Milly introduced us to the U curve with a model of change that resonates with us as Christians... the death and resurrection of Christ... a process of change that defines and redefines our lives. Little did we know that lockdown would thrust us straight into change as everything stopped



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almost overnight. There was an immediate need to adapt to lockdown in order to worship and minister and function as a church and the second Parish Day will await us in the future.

As 2020 ended we are still very much affected by the Pandemic. Once some kind of societal normality resumes we will have to discern what has shifted in our communities, our Parish and in our lives and discern wise responses.



Wellbeing

Prior to lockdown, table tennis was proving a rather popular way for people to get together and unwind.

The picture (right) of Anthony Parsons and Nick Bulliant is blurred because both of them were moving so fast. Indeed even the table itself is blurred due to their speed!

Many people across the Parish will have had their mental wellbeing tested during 2020 and ahead of us lies a big need for healing and recovery.



Governance

Due to the Covid lockdown the Annual General Meeting was postponed from its usual March date, and instead took place on Sunday 11 October after the morning Eucharist in St Mary & St Peter Tidenham, where the ability to gather socially distanced was best.

David Burr retired as churchwarden after over 7 years service. At the AGM the meeting stood to their feet to thank David for his selfless service which has taken place almost since Vicar David arrived in the Parish. Professor Brian Duerden was newly elected to the office of Churchwarden and will serve alongside Nicholette Flatman who continued as Churchwarden.

We have been blessed to have such dedicated servants in this important churchwarden ministry ably assisted by deputy wardens Brian Duerden (until election as churchwarden), Cate Phillips, Iain Gardiner, James Parsons, Peter Jones, Steven Shaw, Emma Phillips and Andrew Palmer. This Report wishes to acknowledge the vital, often behind the scenes, role these people played and thank them all heartily for their service to Christ and His Church.

In 2020 Colin Lee, Margaret Coombs, Roger Martin, Tanya White and Steven Shaw all ended their time as members of the PCC. The Parish has been blessed by their tremendous service which adding together the years amounted to a very long time. Their contributions were/are greatly appreciated, and this was

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acknowledged at the AGM. It was a hopeful and healthy sign that new members, Molly Mayo, Chantelle Wynn, Melanie Walton, Robin Riordan and shortly following the AGM, John-Ross Henderson, were recruited to the PCC.

The PCC met regularly to conduct business and oversee the mission and ministry of the Parish, moving to Zoom meetings from April. The PCC continued to pay attention to latest policy developments, particularly in the areas of GDPR, Health and Safety and Safeguarding, with significant work carried out by Marilyn Henderson, Marion Andrews Evans, Iain Gardiner and Steven Shaw.

With limited time at PCC meetings and the need to remain strategic, the PCC authorised individuals and teams with task and finish duties to report back to PCC, something that was not always easy or possible in 2020. Generally in 2020 the groups were as follows:

Group/Team	Members / Elected Reps	Lead (Convener)	Main Reporter to PCC
Finance	Nicholette Flatman, Revd David Treharne; David Burr then Brian Duerden; and Ewen Hamilton		Ewen
Charity Giving	Nicholette Flatman, Revd David Treharne, Emma Phillips, Cate Phillips, David Burr then Brian Duerden as Warden.	Nicholette	Nicholette
Stewardship	James Parsons, Nicholette Flatman, Andrew Palmer, Revd David Treharne	James	Revd David
Children, Youth & Families	Jane Penny (Co-ordinator), <i>Children and Families' Minister</i> , Ethan Richards, Youth Co-ordinator, Marilyn Henderson, Leonie Jones, Andrew Palmer, Nick Tyldesley, Revd David Treharne	Jane	Revd David
Quinquennial Review Team and Buildings Oversight	James Parsons, David Burr then Brian Duerden, Peter Gilchrist, Nicholette Flatman, Iain Gardiner, Revd David Treharne		Various
Re-ordering of St Luke's Church, Tutshill	Janice Hamilton, Ewen Hamilton, James Parsons & Tanya White. Plus Churchwardens and Vicar	Janice	Janice
Churches Together	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy
Deanery Synod	Margaret Coombs, Emma Phillips & Nicki Bullivant From October 2020... James Parsons, Emma Phillips and Molly Mayo		
School Governors	Dianna Cave, Revd David Treharne;	.	Revd David
Health and Safety	Steven Shaw until October 2020	Steven	Steven
Safeguarding	Marilyn Henderson, Dr Marion Evans, Revd David Treharne;	Revd David	Marilyn
Tidenham Friends. <i>Constituted as separate Charity. Registered charity in Dec 14</i>	Stephen Hall, Roger Martin, Anne Martin, Iain Gardiner, Peter Gilchrist, Sarah-Jane Gilchrist, Brian Duerden, Revd David Treharne.	Sarah-Jane	Roger
Churchwardens	David Burr (until Oct 2020) & Nicholette Flatman Brian Duerden (from Oct 2020) with Revd David Treharne		
Day to day staff team	Revd David Treharne (Vicar), Fiona Gardiner (Reader), Revd Janice Hamilton (Curate), Jane Penny (Children & Families Minister), Ethan Richards (Youth Co-ordinator), James Parsons (Reader), Clare Presley (Admin), Revd David Rees (Locally Ordained Minister), Revd Canon Dr Tom Clammer (Associate Priest) & Revd Nicki Bullivant (Curate)... in addition there are many other invaluable partners engaged in ministry within the life of the church and community.		

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

David Burr

In October 2020 David Burr stepped down as churchwarden after over 7 years in office. David has been a wonderful servant of God and the Parish carrying out his duties with diligence, faithfulness and commitment. It is just sad that due to the Covid restrictions David's time as churchwarden was unable to be marked more keenly.

Thank you David for all that you have done and continue to do in and for the Parish of Tidenham. With a thanks too for David's wife Joyce whose love and support contributed much in enabling David to carry out his role.



Stewardship

With the Covid Pandemic having prevented gatherings and collections during 2020 the annual income of the Parish dropped. A big thank you to those people who upped their giving or gave a donation to help cover the shortfall. Without your support the Parish would have been facing a very challenging deficit.

The Parish has a challenging time ahead with its finances. As well as meeting the annual cost of Parish Share (now over £64,000), the Parish faces the costs associated with the restoration of Tidenham Tower, together with the ongoing costs of ministry in and to the community, administration and the Youth, Children and Families Project which comes to an end in 2021.

Church members are asked to consider their financial giving afresh. Some people may now be facing a more difficult personal financial situation, however others may have the means to give more to the Parish's mission and ministry. The most helpful way to give financially is through a regular standing order set up with the bank. This way of giving provides the Parish with a known income each month and enables better planning. Giving can now also be made online and through text.

Highlights and lowlights of Lockdown and the Pandemic

Throughout the year the Parish tried to keep in touch with people and get a sense of where people were at. Conversations out and about, on the phone, over Zoom, Facebook or email gave an insight into people lives and wellbeing. In addition the Parish, led by James Parsons, undertook a survey using Survey Monkey, in July and August 2020. The data within the survey together with conversations gave an awareness of what's been going on within people's lives.

Negatives

- Being detached
- Missing those we saw every week
- Relationship with God has suffered
- Not being able to hug
- Not being able to receive communion
- Isolation, fear and bewilderment
- Missing feeling of church and togetherness
- A really testing and challenging time
- Health concerns not able to be dealt with
- Bereavement
- Disorientation and loss of routine
- Finding the online services a poor replacement
- Too many distractions at home
- Asking why God has not (is he unwilling?) to intervene and bring an end to this life threatening virus
- Lack of time

Positives

- Enjoyed the time to reflect
- Time to re-engage with God
- Strange time but also peaceful
- Creative time
- Enjoyed the garden and the good weather
- Benefited from enforced relaxation
- Extra time with the family
- Glad to have a break from volunteering
- Lack of traffic and quietness
- A chance to re-evaluate everything
- Space to be still, pray and read
- Loved online worship
- Heartened by the kindness of others
- Appreciation of what we had/have
- Learnt to rely on God
- Fresh appreciation of NHS and other workers

Revd. David Treharne

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding remains a top priority for the PCC, who assess all Parish activities with children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and PCC endeavour to ensure all staff and volunteers carry out the required level of training for their position; and adhere to the two Parish Safeguarding policies. It is important to keep up to date with training as legislation changes frequently.

In 2007, the Church of England commissioned a *Past Case Review*, which sought to look at the handling by the Church of child protection cases over many years and entailed an independent scrutiny of the files of clergy and church officers to identify any concerns raised that had not been acted on appropriately.

In late 2019, the House of Bishops wanted to ensure that our churches and church-related activities are as safe as possible for children and vulnerable adults, and all Dioceses were therefore asked to undertake a further review. This review process took place in January and is called the *Past Case Review 2 (PCR2)*.

Revd David tasked me to examine our files to enable him to complete the PCR2 forms. I consulted with my predecessor James Parsons and reviewed our Parish files and concluded that: -

- there was no evidence that any events had been reported to the PSO that required a report to be submitted to the relevant authorities
- there were no victims and
- all current risks had been assessed and mitigated as far as is reasonably possible.

Revd David duly completed the Bishop's proformae to that effect on 21st January 2020, well in advance of the 28 February 2020 deadline.

This year, the world was confronted by COVID-19, a pandemic that changed our physical interaction with one another. It meant we were all locked down and when lesser restrictions allowed we could meet up, but mostly we stayed safe at home with our families. Face to face training was put on hold by the Diocese and replaced by online tuition via the newly created Church of England Safeguarding online training hub.

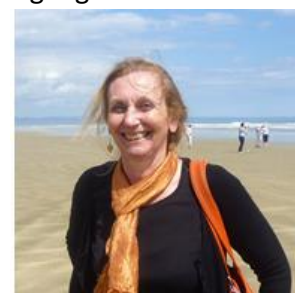
Zoom meetings, unknown to many beforehand, quickly became the norm, and the 'new normal' way to engage with each other for meetings or activities. Our Church events, activities and services were number restricted or socially distanced.

Our Parish policies were therefore revised to account for all the COVID-19 regulations with their many implications and issues (see Children's Safeguarding policy Appendix 2). PCC reconfirmed its acceptance of the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy: '*Promoting a Safer Church*' and the National Safeguarding Parish Handbook. New protocols were introduced to ensure safety and security online. E-safety rules are: -

- Follow the official Zoom links to meetings
- Ensure invites are sent out by the Chair or similar to ensure there are no gatecrashers
- Always have more than one adult on a Zoom call if working with children (parents should accompany young children)
- Be appropriately dressed and be in an appropriate setting or background
- No inappropriate photos, painting, slogans or pictures
- Remember you are on screen (and can go viral if the meeting is being recorded)
- Remember to go on "mute" when advised to, as everything can be heard by the whole meeting
- Remember text messaging and phone calls also apply to the use of appropriate language

The Child and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding policies are displayed on the noticeboards of all three churches. These policies are reviewed annually by the PSO and by Dr Marion Evans the *Deputy Safeguarding Officer*.

Please contact me if you have any queries on any aspect of Safeguarding and e-safety. As your PSO, I am a point of contact and support about concerns you may have for an individual (this support includes Clergy & Pastoral Team). Together, we can refer anyone for help to the appropriate organisations confidentially.



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

Marilyn Henderson, Parish Safeguarding Officer

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Health & Safety Report

Health and Safety is a mandatory item at every PCC meeting. There were no accidents during the year. The following items were noteworthy in 2020: -

1. Tidenham Chase RCD2 failed on 31st December 2019, but was repaired on 2nd January 2020. RCD1 failed on 16th February, but was repaired on 18th February.
2. Tutshill church yellow phase electric supply discovered to be not working on Saturday 11th January. Western Power replaced a defective contactor on Tuesday 14th January.
3. Tidenham Floodlights restored to full working order on 31st January.
4. On 31 January Steven Shaw and James Parsons created a safe system of work for stacking and moving the new chairs in St Luke's church.
5. In March, Steven Shaw created Church Evacuation Plans for each church building, having consulted with the churchwardens and Iain Gardiner. In the event of a fire at Tutshill church, the evacuation point is Riverside Nursery Car Park.
6. In March Steven Shaw used Ecclesiastical's templates to review and reissue Health & Safety Policies and Fire Risk assessments for each of our churches.
7. Ecclesiastical met warden David Burr on 3rd March for their quinquennial review of our three church buildings. Their reports discovered a number of minor issues, all of which have been addressed.
8. Risk assessments were undertaken on a number of occasions during the year to assess the risks of and implement mitigation measures against coronavirus spreading during church services. including an assessment of maximum numbers who can attend while maintaining social distancing, and included a one way system.
9. During COVID-19 closures, our three churches were checked each week by wardens and other nominated people.
10. Contract with local certified Pest Control company started in July following problems at Tutshill church with a family of grey squirrels.
11. Two-yearly lightning conductor tests for each church were carried out on 20th August. No follow up action required.
12. Asbestos registers have been updated 25th October by Peter Jones.
13. Trench at rear of st Luke's room dug in 2019 for the new gas supply made safe. Working parties took place on 14th March and 6th & 7th November after COVID-19 restrictions allowed.
14. As they were 5 years old, Chubb replaced all their fire extinguishers at our 3 churches on 25th November, under a new 5-year contract.

Steven Shaw, Health & Safety Advisor

Youth Children & Families' Ministry 2020

A Year in Pictures



Children's Society Box Opening & Coffee morning in February



Henry & Poppy in May

Lucas in September, 3 weeks early... the church family provide meals for those 3 weeks.



Niah & family move to Cyprus, now attending Splash via Zoom



October: Tutshill becomes an 'honorary Quidditch Town' Catherine and James learn to fly!



Toddler groups meet online for singing, with Whirlkidz visits as restrictions allow.

Schools: Harvest & Christmas online assemblies. Virtual 'Moving On' session with year 6 pupils.



A small group meet weekly to pray for this ministry. Everyone welcome



Worship Without Walls begins in August and continues in all weathers!

Splash goes online, but we managed to meet in St Luke's in October 😊



Socially distanced Super heroes worship God!

Thank you for your continued support this year: through prayer, finances and the gift of time. Special thanks and blessing to all the faithful volunteers, many of whom are on 'furlough'

Jane Penny, Children & Families Minister

YOUTH REPORT 2020

Youth Work over lockdown

While being brand new to everyone, the lockdown was actually a chance deepen relationships with both the youth and the families, plus a chance to support them through the difficult time.

Through our Online Youth Zoom meetings, we had 13 young people engage from March - August.

Additionally, we started a Wednesday night Bible study from May with 5 young people coming weekly. We managed to study Ephesians through to Colossians.

Youth-Led Service

We as a youth ministry have been given the option to organise, plan and put together a worship service for the wider church. We

have the date of January 31st for this service. Meeting with Rev. Janice Hamilton, we have been working with her in December to put together the service, giving as much space possible for the young people to share their ideas and creativity and help shape this service.

Youth Serving

The young people have helped serve the church community this year. An example was Christmas, where they were involved in singing, reading, playing and praying for the service. Over 7 were involved.

Schools Work

Up until lockdown, we were doing some really positive work within Wyedean School. It is still on hold.

Monday Chill Space

We had two group alternating weeks, for year 10 - 11 and 7 - 9.

In the year 10 - 11 group we had 15 - 20 weekly but over 30 come at one point. Year 7 - 9 we had about 10 weekly, with around 15 - 18 come and join us.

The purpose of this group was to build relationships and create a safe place for the pupils to hang out.

Year 6 transition work

Ethan and the Children and Families worker (Jane Penny) were able to offer both Tutshill and Office Mead Primary school, 'It's your move' books to help their move to secondary school.

They were also able to call the class via Google Meet to share a session with the year 6 Office Mead class about transition.

School Opportunities

In Wyedean, there was a plan to meet after Easter with the Head of Sixth Form to see how we could support them. Either in a group for them or experience in helping with a CU within the school.

Also, there is the opportunity to get involved with offering the School mentoring.

Christmas Social

We as a youth ministry enjoyed a Christmas Social together, where Ethan was able to deliver some Gingerbread men that the youth were challenged to design. The turn out was good with 11 youth attending and was a very fun evening.



YOUTH REPORT 2020



MESSAGE OFF A PARENT ON OUR PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE

Thank you so much to Jane Penny and Ethan Richards for being such an amazing support to me and my girls this lock down. You are both thoughtful and selfless and we are very blessed to have you in our lives. God bless.* -

Youth Parent shared on our Parish Facebook page.

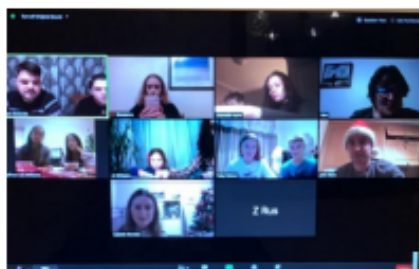
Visiting youth over lockdown

Ethan was able to visit our youth with a printed, 'thinking of you' card with a scriptural encouragement and some chocolate to just see how the youth and families are doing.

For the year 11 youth, which we had 4, we brought them a Bible each to say well done for their GCSE results (No matter how much some enjoyed it, it isn't their fault they couldn't take them!)

Parent and Youth Feedback

We are looking to gather some information and feedback from both the parents and the young people. This to make sure we have their input in creating a youth provision that best helps and serves them. Their input is very important and valuable to us, so it is important to be able to create that space for them.



Zoom call with Rhona Marshall about Christian Relief Uganda

We were able to have 4 youth join us to meet with Rhona and discuss all the work Christian Relief does over in Uganda. It was great to hear her amazing stories and inspire the youth about what an impact the charity makes.

Joint Youth Social

We met up with three other churches based in the Forest of Dean for two joint youth socials over Zoom. Both were Kahoot (Quiz) nights that we were able to take part in. Ethan was able to put together and run the first Kahoot social. It was positive for young people to feel connected to the wider body of Christ in our area.

Working with other Youth Groups and Organisations.

We are hoping to connect with other voices and youth organisations to help input into our young people in 2021. To connect with and have their input is valuable to us, as it gives our young people another voice but also helps them look out to the wider body of Christ and the world.

One example of this is looking to have members of our congregation speak to our youth over a variety of topics such as: Budgeting, Cooking, Prayer, Connecting with God

Also, looking to connect with organisations such as Open Doors UK to deliver their sessions with us.

Ethan Richards, Youth Co-ordinator

Parish Scarecrow Trail

For the past eleven years The Scarecrow Trail has been a much-loved Easter holiday fixture in the parish. Revd Janice Hamilton originally started it as a fund raising community event for a new roof for Tutshill church, but it quickly became a fun thing for many families to complete during the Easter holidays.

This year's Scarecrow Trail was sadly postponed from its usual Easter break slot to the summer. From 22nd August – 5th September, it provided a much needed activity for families (of all ages!) at the end of the school summer holidays. 44 scarecrows depicting Children's Books (a theme voted for by the community) were created by volunteers and located at various gardens and public places throughout the village. The Trail followed its usual route from the Lifestyle Express Shop in Beachley Road, round the village and ending at St. Luke's Church, Tutshill.



We had a good number of community groups participate this year: Chepstow Baptist Church Sunday School, Tidenham Parish Toddler Groups, PATA at Penguins Pre School, Riverside Nursery, Scouts, Sedbury Rainbows, St John's on the Hill School, Tutshill Community Pre School, Tutshill School and Tutshill WI.

As always, our thanks go to all the imaginative scarecrow creators and the hosts without whom this event would not happen.



When asked why they gave their time to this annual event, every single one of the organising team mentioned the positive community experience and how wonderful it was to have something that appeals to all ages. Although paper copies of the quiz sheet and map were available for a donation, on-line sheets and answers were provided and awards given for the favourite scarecrow as voted by the public. There were guidelines on the maps to remind everyone of the need to be COVID-safe.

As we did not have a process for contactless or giving by text, we decided to offer the trail for free this year; the focus being on fun in the community, rather than raising funds, which has always been a happy by-product for the team. Predictably, donations were minimal compared to previous years, where £2000 was typically raised for church funds. 20% of donations now go to local charities as decided by the organising team.

We owe a big debt of gratitude to the 2020 organising team that consisted of Carol & Richard Clammer, Sarah Lewis, Liz McBride, Jane Penny, Hannah Ransom, Susan Riordan and Melanie Walton. Liz and Hannah have decided to step down this year, so we want to say a big thank you to Liz for her faithful service helping to organise the Scarecrow trail, marking all the answer sheets amongst other jobs, and producing numerous very creative scarecrows; and to Hannah for her technical prowess and support making fantastic professional posters and trail maps, often adapting these at short notice. Hannah and husband Dave have also made some amazing scarecrows!

Jane Penny, Children and Families Minister

Foundation Governor links to Tutshill CoE Primary School

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

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

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

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

The church has 3 foundation governor spaces. Vicar David is one, and Diana Cave was appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education in April 2020. There is now one vacancy.

Revd David Treharne

Diana writes :-

I had the privilege of becoming a Foundation Governor in the spring of 2020. However, this has been a somewhat surreal experience as I have not yet been able to visit the school and see the children participating in education and activities. Fortunately, I have had a tour around the empty school and was able to watch the children in action for the 2019 Nativity Play.

Thanks to technology I have met most of the teaching staff and my fellow Governors during the Full Governing Body Committee of the school and other committees. Office Outlook and the school’s website provide up to date information, my grandchildren give me their perspective of events and the small prayer group keeps me well informed.

I look forward to the future and pray that it is not too long before the church is able to operate normally and that the children can have their weekly Friday assemblies at St Luke’s church again, and that we can meet together in person.

Diana Cave

Pastoral Visiting Team

Tidenham Pastoral Visiting Team is made up of members from the churches in the Parish. We are a small team that visits people in the Parish who, for various reasons, are unable to get to church. Our aim is to enable those confined to home to feel part of the church. For those in hospital, we are also able to arrange visits from the hospital Chaplains who visit on our behalf.

Since March the country has been in lockdown due to COVID-19, so the team have not been able to visit in person. We have been keeping in touch with those needing pastoral support by phone, and we have continued to be able to refer to the Chaplains those who were admitted to hospital during the year.

If you, or someone you know, would be helped by our support, then please do let us know. You can speak to Julia, Kathryn or Revd David. Please pray for the Team, and the Pastoral Assistants who work with us, that we may bring the light of God to those we phone and visit.

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

Julia Parsons, Tidenham Pastoral Visiting Team



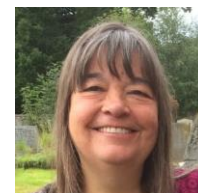
Life Group Reports (Also known as Home Groups or Discipleship Groups)

Life Group, Elm House, Woodcroft Close

March 2020 saw us all discovering the delights of Zoom meetings, with lots of cries of 'Can you see me yet?' and 'Margaret, you are still muted!'. The up side of online contact cannot be underestimated as we have kept in touch with each other (bar one member whose laptop refuses to Zoom) and it's been a real blessing for one who has been shielding since March. For a short time in the summer months we were able to meet up outside in the garden to talk, pray and laugh together. Wendy and James have taken turns to lead the group with me over the weeks: I am very grateful for their wisdom, insight and help.

We've discussed the Pandemic and the sermons on line. Our recurring theme has been 'HOPE' as we've talked about having hope, finding new hope, being hope for others and looking forward with hope. We have valued time to pray together on Zoom, but we are also a supportive network, day to day, for prayer requests and crises. We share things that encourage us as well as sadnesses and worries. We are HOPEFUL that because of vaccination roll-out and easing of restrictions it will not be too long before we can meet again in person.

We are THANKFUL that God is with us and sustains us. We are PRAYERFUL for those who are really suffering as a result of Covid. We are OVERWHELMED by the dedication of our NHS, key workers and scientists.



Fiona Gardiner

Tuesday Life Group

The Tuesday Life group has grown over the last year to 9 members, despite COVID-19. We have continued to meet online via Facebook during lockdown and in St Luke's church with masks last summer when churches were able to open. We meet to start at 1pm each Tuesday.

Through the year we have looked at Ephesians, read the Hiding Place together and are now studying some of the psalms and then plan to move onto some parables. In each session we generally read the scriptures then share together what it means for us, and pray for each other. Talk to Julia or Beryl if you would like to join us or to find out more.



Julia Parsons

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

2020 began with us continuing to meet on a Wednesday morning at Toast in Tutshill from 10.30am-12noon to 'chew the fat' and talk life and faith (except 1st Wednesdays in the month). Lockdown saw the group move onto Zoom, however the essence of gathering face to face over a coffee and snack was missing and the numbers dwindled over time and the decision was made to stop meeting in July. We did however have some fruitful prayer times, a chance to catch up and looked at 2 books... God on Mute by Pete Greig and How to Pray by John Pritchard. We look forward to the time we can meet up again.



Revd David Treharne.

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Sedbury Space Life Group. Wednesday evening

During much of 2020, after a short break due to the pandemic and joining the Lent course, this group was able to restructure and move online using Zoom. Sadly, many of the original members were unable to engage but a few new ones joined so the group was still viable. Over the course of 2021 we have discussed life and faith, sometimes using short videos on difficult questions from Christianity Explored and sometimes reflecting on the sermon of the previous Sunday, seeking to apply it to daily life.



Revd Janice Hamilton

Thursday Afternoon Life Group

We met weekly in a home, via Zoom or in person at St Luke's Church as the COVID-19 restrictions allowed. The group consists of ladies in their 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th decades of life! We are a relaxed, informal group, relying on Holy Spirit to lead our times together.

During the year, amongst other things, we read 'Where is God in a Coronavirus World' by John Lennox as well as various parts of the Bible. We spent time exploring prayer, especially listening to God and did some listening! In the summer weather it was a joy to meet outside and enjoy God's amazing creation.



We support and pray for one another in our discipleship journeys, sharing tough times and rejoicing together in better times.

We give God praise and glory and are thankful to Him for our times together.

New members are always welcome: Please contact me on 07856679387 or cfmtidenham@btinternet.com

Jane Penny

Life Group for Men

A "Life Group for Men" was started in summer 2020. I was keen that a group just for men was started and looked around for what support may be for churches in reaching men. I came across Christian Vision for Men (CVM) - they help churches across the country reach out to and encourage men, both those in their congregations and those outside. CVM's vision is for men to be gripped and excited by Jesus and to be confident in sharing the Christian faith with other men. I thought this was a pretty good place to start!

Since June four of us have met most weeks, on Sunday evenings and entirely via Zoom; we are looking forward to getting together in person. Initially we watched the Sunday evening live streamed event put on by Christian Vision for Men (CVM) then went onto Zoom to discuss what struck us by what we'd seen. Now we watch the CVM event during the week and then have a longer period of time on Sunday sharing what we've been up to, what struck us from the CVM event, and where we're at with our own journey with Jesus, and so on.

One feature of the CVM programme is a weekly catchup with one of UK's strongest man contestants (his arms are like my thighs!) – it's been interesting to reflect on comparisons between training for physical fitness and strength and training for spiritual fitness and strength – both require persistence, a healthy diet, rest, encouragement from others, and so on. We're also half way through a short study on "Making good sense of the Bible" that we'll get back to one day.



The group is open to anyone (if you are a man!). If you are interested, please contact me – *James Parsons*

Reordering of St Luke's Church

The faculty for St Luke's re-ordering had a completion date of September 2020, but due to a hold up initially in communication from the Deputy Chancellor following submission of further documents to meet conditions, as well as to lack of funds and latterly, COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to complete it all in time. David Burr has been in contact with the Diocesan Registrar and we have been given an extension until September 2022.

The working party (including Revd David and Church Warden Nicholette) was keen to progress the works and move to the next phase of installing a servery, with the final phase comprising sound desk, new internal glazed door and presentation equipment to follow soon after.

We secured a further grant of £4,900 from Barnwood Trust towards the servery and have received a few private donations so by the end of the year we had the funds to proceed with the servery phase and have obtained quotations for the work which we anticipate will take place during the Spring 2021.

Revd Janice Hamilton

Fairtrade in Tidenham Parish

Fairtrade in Tidenham Parish in 2020

Tidenham Parish is a Fairtrade Parish and as such serve Fairtrade refreshments after services and at other meetings and events. Since March though, many services have been cancelled due to COVID-19, and when we have met in church we have not served refreshments or had stalls selling Fairtrade produce, to reduce the risk of contact infection. However, in the Autumn, Traidcraft catalogues were safely distributed in order to enable members and neighbours to buy Fairtrade gifts for family and friends. All orders were entered into a prize draw which was drawn on 5th December. Clare Presley won a Fairtrade hamper and Jan Lock won a runner-up small hamper. We will continue as a Fairtrade Parish doing what we can to ensure producers can earn an income during, and beyond, this pandemic.



Julia Parsons, Tanya White, Marilyn Henderson and Cate Phillips

The Link Parish Magazine



As in previous years, we had 400 Link Magazines printed in February and March 2020. However, things nationally changed with the COVID-19 pandemic.

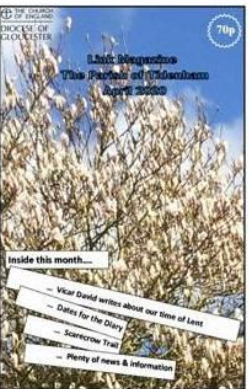
The Link April edition was produced, but was not printed as we were unable to distribute it. The April edition was, however, published on the Tidenham Parish church website and 40 copies were printed by Tanya for distribution to people with no internet access.

A further Autumn Link edition was produced; this was once more published to Tidenham Parish church website and 40 copies were again printed by Tanya for those with no internet access.



We have about 31 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.

Despite limited Link editions, I have been producing a weekly Wordsearch puzzle for publishing to Tidenham Parish church website, with printed copies for those needing this. So far 38 puzzles have been compiled.



Tanya's Great Special Blue Puzzle

I hope that you are well and that you may welcome another Wordsearch puzzle. There are 36 words to locate here. See what you can find. Once you have completed this, gather the remaining letters in order to spell out the answer to the puzzle, please send this to me: Tanya White, at Rockymead, Coleford Road, Tubbill, NP15 7BU (e-mail: tanya.rockymead@gmail.com)

F	R	H	Y	A	C	I	N	T	H	G	Y	K	S
C	O	R	N	F	L	O	W	E	R	E	E	P	E
R	R	R	C	O	A	T	I	Y	S	N	A	P	O
M	E	I	G	T	O	O	T	H	I	T	D	C	L
U	P	R	N	E	W	G	I	R	R	I	E	N	U
I	M	I	A	S	T	B	A	E	K	A	Y	A	P
N	E	S	V	A	E	M	H	L	N	N	E	E	I
I	L	E	Y	L	N	S	E	L	O	P	A	L	N
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BELLS	FORGET ME NOT	
BERRY	GENTIAN	
BOTTLE	HYACINTH	
CHINA	HYDRANGEA	
CHIP	IRIS	
COAT	JAY	
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- > Sometimes the listed word follows BLUE, like a BLUE CHIP company or a communication device like BLUE TOOTH.
- > Sometimes the words listed are BLUE like CORNFLOWER, CHINA or NAVY.
- > I hope that searching goes well even if you only have a go once in a BLUE MOON!



I hope that we can continue connecting together!

Thank you for your support.

Tanya White, Editor

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Here is the list of our loyal Link Parish Magazine advertisers

Please do mention that you saw their advert in the Link Parish Magazine!

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Green Grafter: Garden and Tree Services	Personal Services
	Childcare: Hedgehogs Nursery, St John's
Food Services	Foot Health Professional: Ceri Crossland
Butcher: A. & H. Jones	Foot Care: Hallux
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	Hairdresser: Di the Hair



PIONEER PROJECT

Pioneer Curacy

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

In 2020 Janice entered her final year of curacy and her focus was on succession planning and preparation for taking on a role of responsibility elsewhere. In February she spent five weeks on placement in Patchway, experiencing ministry on a new housing estate, one of the potential options for future ministry.

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

Before leaving on placement, Janice had started the recruitment process to appoint a part time **centre manager** for Sedbury Space who would be employed by FVAF (Forest Voluntary Action Forum). The new worker would take on a lot of the administration and management of the premises and volunteers. On her return, interviews took place and Susan Riordan, a member of our congregations, was appointed.



Before Susan was able to start the job we entered the **National Lockdown** and all Sedbury Space activities ceased. She still took up her new duties, albeit on reduced hours, and began to familiarise herself with Sedbury Space policies and protocols and to make connections with agencies and members via online platforms. Through the year her hours have increased to the full quota of 15 hours a week and she has facilitated the weekly exercise classes and occasional coffee mornings on zoom, initiated FareShare - the distribution of supermarket leftovers to those in need - kept in contact with our users and supporters by newsletter and telephone, as well as having a big sort out of admin records and storage cupboards.

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Janice has continued to serve as **Chair** of the Committee and Board of Directors and Trustees of Sedbury Space. During lockdown, this has been an important role in keeping the team together and motivated. At the Zoom AGM in May, we said a sad farewell to Trustees, Andy Royle and Caroline Sutherland, thanking them both for their outstanding contribution to the set up of Sedbury Space, and in their place welcomed two new Trustees, Mike Fierro as Company Secretary and Karen Maggs as Treasurer.

Community Minister

The 'third hat' that Janice has worn in her role of Community Minister, is essentially as a chaplain. This involves leading the Well, the monthly fresh expression of church in Sedbury Space, and serving as Chaplain to many of the activities that operate out of the centre and the wider community.

Sadly, along with Sedbury Space activities, the Well has been on hold since March 2020. Janice tried to host it online, but its drop-in style and hourly worship didn't transfer well to this context. Many of the attendees were already integrated into traditional church and Janice has kept occasional pastoral contact with others. She has hosted a couple of prayer events online during the year instead.

A new venture in November 2020 with Revd Nicki Bullivant, was to introduce a Chaplaincy Chatroom at Sedbury Space on a Thursday afternoon. This is another drop-in style activity where people can turn up for company, a listening ear, faith conversations and prayer. It was launched just before the November lockdown was announced but was able to continue with Janice and Nicki sitting outside on the pavement for the first few weeks! Over the last two months of the year we welcomed ten different people, all otherwise unconnected to church, who valued the prayerful space and support.

Conversations about the future of this Chaplaincy role began at the end of the year with a view to discerning a way to cover this aspect of her work once Janice finishes her curacy in June 2021.

Revd Janice Hamilton

Castleford Care Home Services

Introduction

Following discussions with the management of the home, services at Castleford were suspended in March, shortly before the lockdown. As just a couple of services were held before that time, this report is thus much shorter than usual. Unfortunately, it is not possible at the current time to say when we shall be able to resume visits, but we hope that it will be in the not-too-distant future.

Days And Times

Normally, a service is held on the premises at 2.15 p.m. on the third Monday of every month. Only two services, as a result, took place this year, the first on 20th January and the second on 17th February.

Aims

The aim of the visit is to meet together in fellowship; to sing favourite, well-loved hymns; to share memories through discussion and the exploration of experiences; and to meet the spiritual needs of the residents. Services are so planned that these aims can be pursued in full. A copy of last February's service is attached as an example.

Attendance

On average, attendance consists of 12-15 people.

Team Members

Members of the team comprise Tanya, Jan, Sue, Leonie, Ann, Janet, Julia and Dianne, whose loyal support is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated. Each participates in the service by presenting readings from the Bible, leading prayers and providing visual aids to stimulate interest and prompt discussions. Singing is greatly enhanced by Julia's accompaniment and Sue's competent use of the CD player. It is very much hoped that Margaret will have sufficiently recovered to be able to join us when we meet again.

Services

Beth, the home's caseworker, has compiled a bank of favourite hymns, for use as required, and greatly assists by always ensuring that services run smoothly and efficiently.

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Topics: - “New Year” in January and “Love” in February.

Special Occasions

Plans for 2020 included further links with Tutshill Primary School, visits to St. Luke’s Church and programmes involving visiting musicians and speakers. Implementation had to be delayed because of the coronavirus situation.

Links With Dementia Singing

Prior to the lockdown, Beth and some helpers accompanied a few residents to the church, and links with this group were steadily developing.

XXXXXXXXXX

Service Theme – Love

Monday, 17th February 2020, at Castleford

Welcome

First Hymn

Morning Has Broken like the First Morning.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we come to praise you, knowing that you are a loving God, a God who cares for us each day of our lives. Be with us now and with our family and friends, wherever they may be. Lord, may your love hold us, heal us and renew us, now and always. Amen.

Visual Aids

- Cards and items associated with St. Valentine’s Day.
- Photographs of family and friends.

Talk about the life of St. Valentine and the origins of the day of remembrance. Use the photographs to illustrate love towards others.

Second Hymn

The King of Love my Shepherd is (CD3: Track 6).

Bible Verses

1 Corinthians, ch. 13, vv. 4-8

Love is patient: love is kind: love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way: it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

John, ch. 3, v.16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life.

Third Hymn

Count Your Blessings (CD3: Track 16)

Talk

Our theme this morning is love: love of each other and love of God. The Ten Commandments are in two parts: firstly, love of God and, secondly, love of each other – our family, friends and neighbours. It is sometimes easier to think about those around us and to forget how much God loves each one of us, wants us to be close to Him and to be held firmly by Him. Do we sometimes wander away, being so busy with other things that we forget to stay close? He wants us to feel the warmth of that love, to trust Him and to know that He is with us each minute of every day.

Prayer

Just close your eyes and open your heart,
And feel your cares and worries depart.
Just yield yourself to the Father above,
And let Him hold you, secure in His love.

Lord, let us go into the coming weeks, knowing that your love and your peace will always be with us.

Fourth Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (CD2: Track 6).

The Lord’s Prayer

followed by the Blessing.

Request for a Favourite Hymn

Eirwen Griffiths

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

ST LUKE'S CHURCH CHOIR – TUTSHILL

As with much else, the COVID-19 pandemic severely limited the choir's input during 2020.

It began well when we were joined by choir members from Tidenham Church for a joyful celebration of Epiphany at Chase church. Then from mid-March onwards there were some live recorded services at which the choir sang but, as regulations tightened, these were short lived.

Other than that, we have enjoyed being part of joint video ventures e.g. *Nine Lessons and Carols* led by Roger Martin and the *Advent Carol Service*. We've had fun joining with dozens of parish voices singing individually from home and so brilliantly put together by Alex White on Tidenham Parish Church's You Tube channel.

So, a different year and we look forward with hope towards whatever 2021 brings forth.

Wendy Mopett, Choir Leader

TIDENHAM CHURCH CHOIR

Tidenham church choir has been radically restricted by the Coronavirus this last year, but we are now looking forward to being able to return to leading our services within the next 2 months. I would like to thank our stalwart regular choir members and organists, but would be very pleased to welcome any new voices of members who would like to sing church music, noting that, should we be able to attract new voices, it will enable us to sing and perform a wider range of music than our service formats have permitted.

Please would anyone interested contact Roger Martin – either by phone on 627800 – or on e/mail: rogermartin340@outlook.com

Roger Martin, Choir Leader

Tidenham Wives and Friends

Tidenham Wives and Friends is a small and friendly group of eighteen members. We usually meet in St. Luke's Room on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

When Tidenham and Friends met in February 2020 they little realised that it would be the last time for a long time. We met in Sedbury Village Hall and enjoyed an excellent talk and slides by Mr. Colin Eliot on wild life in The Wye Valley and Monmouthshire, which made us realise that we are lucky to have access to such marvellous countryside.

Unfortunately due to restrictions we have not been able to meet as a group. During the summer last year Pauline our Chairman held a small gathering at her home which we much enjoyed. This was of course when meeting numbers allowed were higher than now. Pauline very kindly emails news from the church with some words of encouragement to members and also delivers to members who are not on line. With restrictions starting to lift we are hoping we shall be able to meet later on in the year.

Though small we are a friendly group and when things get back to normal we would welcome visitors.

Poppy Moss, Secretary. February 2021

The Parish Folk Club



No Folk Club meetings have taken place since February 2020 just before lock-down began and as such there is nothing to report.

It is hoped that we can start meeting together again in St Luke's church once the pandemic has subsided and lock-down restrictions lifted.

Bill and Tanya White

BELL RINGING AT TIDENHAM CHURCH

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

Sadly, like most activities and meetings, there has not been a great deal of bellringing this year. All Tuesday evening practices have ceased although there has been some Sunday ringing. When churches were opened again for Sunday services in July, we did ring four of the bells. This ensured that that we were socially distanced from each other.

To keep ringers in contact with each other, the Forest Branch, to which Tidenham Tower is affiliated, has set up a Virtual Ringing Room (online) on Sunday evenings. This may seem strange for an activity which is essentially physical, but it enables Forest bellringers to keep in touch with one another as well as practising their method ringing knowledge. At our practice sessions we ring methods which entails changing the order of bells rung. Some of the Tidenham bellringers have taken part in these virtual sessions and a few are regular attendees.

Cate Phillips

THE SEWING GROUP – TIDENHAM PARISH

Not a lot happening in the sewing group this year, but earlier in the year we repaired: -

- The White Veil at Tutshill church that the mice ate for their dinner and
- The Fall at the Chase Church - and it looks so much better

We also made 4 Green Falls for Tidenham church, which have not been put in place yet, and Linda made a beautiful new Stole for Revd Nicki Bullivant.

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

Judith Wells, Linda Harrison and Susanna Jacks

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

THE MAN THING

Looking back the only gathering of Man Thing in 2020 was memorable for a number of reasons. Having agreed a program of events for 2020 it was clear that a regular Table Tennis evening would prove popular not least for the fact that we were able to use the superb facility more commonly known as the reordered St Luke's space! Plenty of room, a solid floor, cosy, well-lit and with plenty of room for those heavily disguised top spin lobs. Secondly we unwittingly were 2 to 3 days ahead of the very first lockdown, frantically cleaning bats and applying sanitisers whilst awkwardly apologising to each other for assuming the other may be infected by this strange new virus.

Still a friendly and a times competitive evening ensued with some very good match ups and a format that lends itself to 4 or 5 games per player; excellent for light exercise and quick enough for everyone to be involved. As the night wore on the first upset saw previous multiple grand slam winner Revd David fall at the semi-final stage, while Palmer Snr defeated Palmer Jnr in the other to set up a final against crowd favourite Healey. Rolling back the years George won a competitive final and there endeth Man Thing for 2020; needless to say we will be back!



Contact: Andy Palmer for details.

Thursday Parish Lunch

From its humble beginning in October 2009, when just 12 guests attended, by 2019 the Thursday Parish Lunch was greeting more than 40 guests every month at Woodcroft Christian Centre. This event is not confined to churchgoers or church members, but is open to anyone over 50 years of age, with a connection to Tidenham parish.

After celebrating our 10th Birthday in 2019 we were sadly unable to hold any parish lunches in 2020, but we are keen to restart once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. We have been in contact with our regular clientele, but sadly two of our members passed away during the year – Jane Goatman and Audrey Vaughan



Since the start of lockdown on 23 March 2020, our hosts, Woodcroft Christian Centre, were unable to welcome any guests – i.e. they have had no income. We have been able to make a small gift from Parish Lunch funds, as without their kindness there wouldn't be a Parish Lunch! People can make their own individual contributions via Woodcroft Christian Centre website.

Please contact Beryl or George on 01291 625551 georgechealey@gmail.com

Beryl and George Healey

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. 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. The deanery synod 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, though due to COVID-19, FS DS only met once in 2020. 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.

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

The size of a deanery synod will depend 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. However, every three years, lay members (those that are not clergy) 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.

A Snapshot of the Forest South Deanery Synod - which includes the following parishes: -

Bream	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 Lancut
Drybrook, Lydbrook and Ruardean	Woolaston with Alvington and Aylburton
Lydney	

Aside from the clergy, the Tidenham Parish Deanery Synod members (elected for 3 years) are:

Molly Mayo

James Parsons

Emma Phillips

Deanery Strategic LIFE Plan?

The deanery is preparing a map which describes the life of the deanery, and a working document which proposes a scheme for meeting the needs of the people and communities which the church in your deanery serves. The work is being facilitated by the Revd Dana Delap from the North Cotswolds Deanery.

Why is a Strategic Plan being drawn up?

The Diocese and Deanery want to plan how we can best serve this diocese in 10 years time. 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. Therefore deaneries are being encouraged to think creatively about whether they are meeting the needs of their communities. The suggestion is that we consider starting new worshipping communities, creating festival churches, and financing new ministries in chaplaincy, pioneering, sports ministry, children and youth work and administration in the deanery.

TIDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

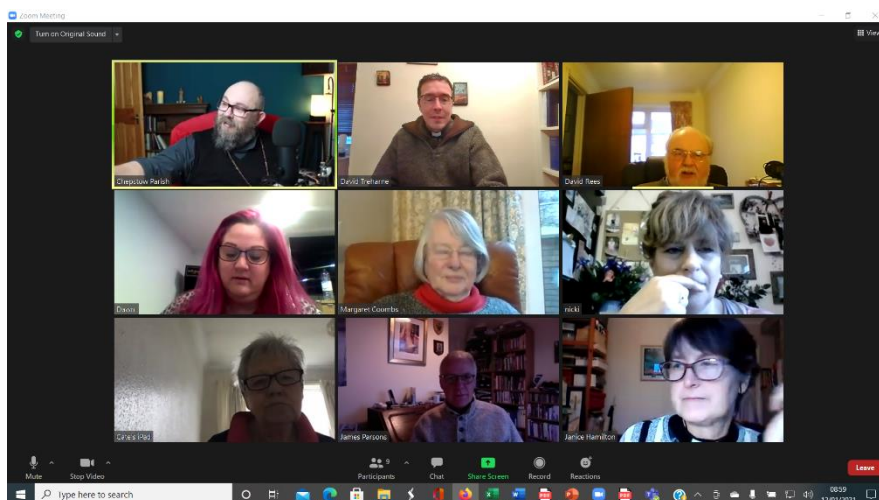
Parish Share 2021

As approved at Diocesan Synod on 1st July 2020, there will be no increase in the budget for parish share for 2021. The Diocesan budget for 2021 is a “standstill budget.”

This means that for our Deanery, there will be no increase in the Parish Share request for 2021. Deaneries are able and are encouraged to ensure local flexibility and mutual support between benefices and parishes depending on specific circumstances.

Churches Together (Cytun)

Nine Churches or Parishes are members of Cytûn and all but two of them, (Tidenham Parish and Stroat Evangelical Church) are in Wales. Cytûn suspended business meetings during COVID-19. However, the Food Bank and CAP services continued to operate, albeit in altered format, meeting the needs of many in our district. There was also a regular provision of morning prayer via Zoom during the lockdowns to which all were welcome.



Food Bank

Chepstow Food Bank continues to operate from both The Bridge and Baptist Churches on a weekly basis, with a dedicated team of volunteers at each. The volunteers continue to sort, date and store all donations, before making up food parcels to be collected by clients or referral agents. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions there were no face-to-face listening, signposting or prayer services operating. The need for Foodbank did not diminish and the numbers of people utilising Food Bank remained steady over the year. There was no increase in the number of people being referred to the Food Bank in the last year, possibly because there were other food initiatives that had been operating to help support people in need. There was a decrease in the number of families using the Food Bank, which may also have been due to the free school meal payments families were receiving.

Nicholette Flatman

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

CAP continued to operate through the Coronavirus Pandemic, helping 7 clients become debt free in 2020. As of January 2021, Debt Centre Manager David Price, is helping 8 clients across the NP16, NP26 and GL15 postcodes with debt counselling, in person support and prayer. Over Christmas with support from Chepstow Foodbank, hampers and vouchers were gifted to all clients to much positive feedback. The steering group continues to meet online and can report a healthy budget.

Steven Shaw, Chepstow CAP Steering Group

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



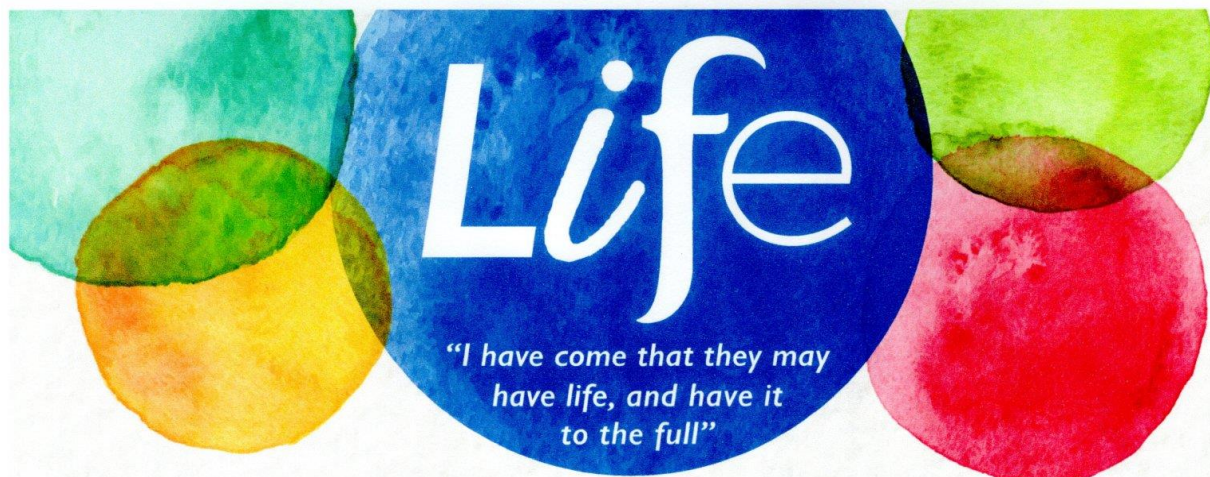
Set up in 2014 to support St Mary & St Peter Tidenham, The Friends of Tidenham Parish Church is an independent charity in its own right and as such produces its own annual report and accounts which are available from the secretary: secretary.friends@icloud.com or from the Charity Commission.

Sadly the COVID-19 Pandemic has put a temporary halt to fundraising and volunteer activities over the past year. The Friends held their AGM in Tidenham Church on Thursday 12th March 2020, which for many of us was our last activity prior to the first “Lockdown” which came into place on Monday 16th March 2020.

Work has continued behind the scenes on the plans for the reordering, putting together the details required for the necessary faculty and responding to queries raised not only by the DAC, but also such bodies as The Victorian Society, The Ancient Monuments Society and Historic England. We are very grateful to the Tidenham Historic Society for all their assistance in this work.



Sarah-Jane Gilchrist, Secretary Tidenham Friends



Leadership

Committed to transformation

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

imagination

Opening new paths to faith

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



Find out more visit
gloucester.anglican.org

faith

Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ

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

engagement

Living out Christ's love and hope

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



And finally... from the Vicar

The year 2020 has been a year like no other. My word for the year 2020 at its start was 'reorientation.' Little did I/we know that we would be thrust into a world of disorientation with the coming of Covid 19.



What will 2021 bring? We don't know... but God does! Whatever lies ahead and whatever happens we are once again invited and challenged to entrust ourselves to His unfailing and unending love.

¹ "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging"

¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Verses from Psalm 46)

Will things in the church and our community go back to how they were before Covid 19? I'm sure many things will return to how they were, and when they do I pray they will be accompanied by a greater awareness and renewed appreciation of our communal life together. Yet certain aspects of our life together may not return to how they were, or return at all, and that will be hard for some of us. However new things have been borne out during the year such as Zoom meetings, Worship Without Walls, a weekly Eucharist and streaming worship. If it had not been for Covid 19 these things may not have happened, yet they are now likely to be part of our future life together in the Parish in some shape or form.

I have been asked and have asked myself and God, 'are things going to change in the Parish?' The answer is actually... things have already changed. The year we have just lived through will have changed us all, if not individually then at least communally. The dust will now settle over time (I'm thinking of one of those snow globes) and, as and when that happens, we will then be able to see and discern the landscape and ready ourselves to take the next steps in the journey forwards what God has planned for us.

We know that some significant challenges and changes are on the horizon: Janice will be finishing her curacy in 2021 whilst Nicki will be priested; the Youth, Children and Families Ministry Project ends its 3-year funding in 2021, and we know we have to tackle the restoration of Tidenham Tower. However, perhaps our biggest challenge and change will be coming back together; to gather once again. **We have been scattered and detached from one another for much of the year and when we come back together we must have eyes to see and ears to hear one another; to notice who is not among us, who is new and who is hurting, and notice where God is at work. I hope that much of that coming back together will be a joy, but I think it will also be a challenge to discern and learn to be God's people once again.**

Finally, 2 things. Firstly, my **heartfelt gratitude** for the part each of you plays in the Body of Christ here. Seen or unseen, known or unknown thank you! Secondly, at times we have wondered whether our vision '**living life together in the flow of God's love**' was still relevant. To my mind it is more relevant than ever and presents us with God's call for 2021.

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

David Treharne (Electronically Signed) March 2021

Revd David Treharne

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