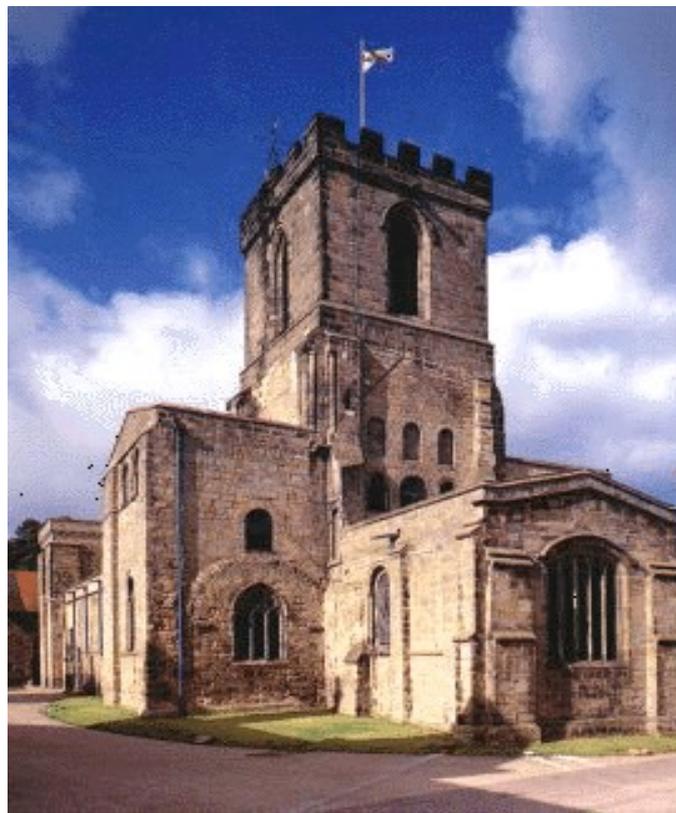


**MELBOURNE PARISH CHURCH**

**Annual Parochial  
Church Meeting**



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018**

**Reports for 2017**

## **Rector's Introduction APCM Reports 2018**

*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10.24-25).*

Some members of our congregations will already have heard me quote Bishop Lindsey Urwin (a former Bishop Administrator of the Walsingham Shrine) when he preached that 'heaven is all about company.' Another great bishop, the late Michael Perham, described worship as 'grasping the heel of heaven' a phrase he would often use.

So from two bishops (and a little help from the Letter to the Hebrews), you have a picture of the vocation of the church – gathering for worship, worship that will serve us a slice of heaven in the here and now and prepare us both for mission and for eternity.

Church life always places itself in the context of our eternal home, the Kingdom we try to build year in, year out; in season and out of season. Our reports here enclosed speak of the life we share in God and with each other and I warmly commend them to you.

I am very grateful to Kate Landenberger for compiling these reports for us, thank you, Kate.

My very grateful thanks also go to everyone who enables God's church here in Melbourne to not just be maintained but also to reach out in mission to the parish we exist to serve.

Over the past calendar year, we have been blessed with the ministry of 3 churchwardens – Linda Latchford, Joanna Hocknell and Cliff Warner. I am most grateful for all they have given in the service of Christ's church.

As a benefice, we are also very fortunate indeed to have the ministry team that we do – my thanks to retired priest colleagues Sandra Chantry, Margaret Jacques, Tony Barnard, Michael Rogers and, as time allows, Neil Roberts, Chaplain of Repton School; and to Reader colleagues, David Edwards and Nick Gravestock.

It has also been another very busy year for our choir and our thanks must also go to Simon Collins and all involved in our ministry of music.

It was a joy at Christmas to hear our bells on Radio Derby (even though they didn't broadcast the interview with me!) which was a wonderful endorsement of all the sterling work that Nigel Coupe and all our ringers undertake week in, week out.

We also commended to God's keeping this last year so many stalwarts of our church as we continue to give thanks for Edna Brame, Erica Stewart, Sidney Gregson, Jean Brookbanks, Anne Haines and Wendie Moore - may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Just as those who have gone before us were encouraged and 'provoked to love and good deeds' so must we continue to be over this next year and beyond. A real sign of this has been the emerging ministry of Angels' Delight meeting in the church (even in colder weather!) on the first and third Wednesday mornings in term time. For me, it has been and continues to be a wonderful picture of the Kingdom seeing toddlers and their parents, grandparents and carers gathering for play, worship and crafts not forgetting the all-important snacks, too. The team leading this initiative richly deserve our thanks for all they give so wonderfully.

As a former youth worker myself, having spent 9 years of my life working with parishes and deaneries to encourage children and teenagers in the life of the church, I am obviously thrilled to see what has been taking place in our midst. This continues and builds upon the ministry of Junior Church and also Messy Church, too. My thanks also to our Junior Church leaders who continue to provide a fabulous array of activities for our young people.

Here in Melbourne and across our benefice, we have huge opportunities across the age range but particularly where families and young children are concerned. It is often said that children are the church of tomorrow which is true whilst not forgetting that they are also the church of today. Jesus was very clear in the priorities he gave children, placing a child in the midst of his disciples (Matthew 18.2). I very much look forward to exploring how we continue to reach out and serve young people of all ages and building our church for today, tomorrow and always.

Yours in Christ's service,

*Steve*

## Church Warden's Report

This has been an exciting year for the church with a new Rector, Steve Short, and his family: Rachel, Sophie and Benjamin. Further development of the links with the local schools and wider community have led to an increase in the number of Baptisms and the commencement of Angels' Delight which continues to be well attended. There have been a number of highly enjoyable concerts in church and once again the church and Rectory were a focal point of the Melbourne Festival.

We have seen further changes to our ministry team this year. Our curate, Angela, left in April to take up her incumbency in Newcastle. We have been delighted to welcome two retired priests, Revd. Margaret Jacques and Revd. Michael Rogers who are offering support to our service rota and we continue to be grateful to Revd. Canon Tony Barnard and our Readers, David Edwards and Nick Gravestock, for their contributions to the life and worship of the church. Sadly Revd. Sandra Chantry has been unable to preside at services since her fall in October but we are glad to have her worshipping with us on Thursdays and continue to wish her well in her recovery.

### **Maintenance and Repair of the Church.**

The following have been identified in the logbook as having been carried out as part of the routine maintenance and repair works required for the Church Building:

Tuning of organ

Service of clock on church tower

Asbestos Survey in bell tower and organ loft

Removal of asbestos from heating duct in vestry

Removal and replacement of stone in the vestry to allow for repairs to the heating flue

Repairs to the heating flue

Safety Equipment System test

Servicing of audio system

Repair of Induction Loop

Fire Protection Maintenance

Completion of the stonework repairs required by the Quinquennial survey of 2014

Cleaning of church carpets

Refurbishment of Noticeboard in Church Square

We are grateful to those who offer their time and skills to help maintain the fabric of the church, especially Brian Bolton, Steve Webster and Nigel Coupe, and the steeple keeper Christian Peckham.

I would like to thank my former fellow warden, Cliff Warner, who resigned earlier in the year but who has continued to offer help over the past few months.

Finally, as I end my term as Warden, I would like to thank all who have supported me and to pay tribute to the very many people who work hard to enable the church to flourish in its worship and witness.

*Joanna Hocknell*

## **Melbourne PCC Finance Report – Year ending 31 December 2017**

The annual accounts of Melbourne Parish Church for the year 1st January to 31st December 2017 have been monitored through the year and approved by the Parochial Church Council, have been independently examined and displayed on the notice board in church for the requisite period of time.

Donations of £400 each raised from the ever popular summer “Sunday Teas” were made to Melbourne Senior Citizens’ Centre, Derbyshire Hospitals’ Charity, Save the Children and the Christchurch Cathedral Restoration Fund in New Zealand. The collection of £486 from the Collation & Induction service was also sent to the Mission to Seafarers as nominated by the Rector.

Various additional special donations and payments that have been collected by the PCC as agency on behalf of other organizations and passed on to them through the year, and hence do not form part of the formal Receipts and Payments accounts below, have included:

Calcutta Cathedral Relief Services (from Lent Lunches)

£540

Bishop of Derby’s Harvest Appeal

£300

The Children’s Society (Christingle Service Collection)

£383

The Children’s Society (contents from individuals’ collecting boxes)

£488

Collections from Funerals (passed via Funeral Directors to various charities)

£1,273

Diocesan Fees for Weddings & Funerals (as prescribed)

£6,234

In order to cover payment of the full increase in the amount requested by the Diocese towards the “Common Fund”, the resulting operating deficit in the General Fund has been reduced to £1,559 by re-designation of the surplus FIT income from the PV Solar Panels (after payment of the Church Electricity bills) and donations received via the “organ pipe” (in line with the update to the associated notice) that were previously allocated to the Heritage Fund.

Funds from the Stafford legacy have again been used as intended to pay the balance of the cost of the Quinquennial repair works remaining after use of the specific grant monies received.

My thanks go once more to Terry Harrison and the team who have assisted him through the year with the counting and banking of the weekly cash receipts; to Steve Webster for dealing with administration of Gift Aid etc., and also to John Smallwood for taking over the onerous task of performing an independent inspection.

*Brian Bolton, Hon. Treasurer*

*[Detailed Financial pages are in the Appendices at the back of this document]*

## **PCC Secretary report 2018**

The PCC has met regularly during the past year and members have discussed a wide range of topics including Church matters and building maintenance, the crucial topic of Finance and also social and youth events. Since last April there have been some sad farewells in the Parish, some new arrivals and in recent weeks a very welcome restoration of the flag to the flagpole, all contributing to the topics of discussion.

One farewell that took place back in July was when the Melbourne and Repton Deanery met together for a final time before winding down and closing. Members have been introduced to the new Mercia Deanery; the Deanery has hosted consultation sessions introducing ideas for how our churches and congregations move forward.

Social activities have seen a new arrival in the form of Angels' Delight which has become a firm favourite introducing young children to play and stories in Church.

The Rectory garden and Church have again provided key places to enjoy social activities, with the Garden party in May, and Sunday Teas through the Summer. This year it was agreed that the teas would share 50% of the proceeds between four charities- Melbourne Senior Citizens, Derby Hospitals, Christchurch Cathedral Fund New Zealand and Save the Children.

Numerous visitors came to Festival activities in September. Steve and his family being in the centre of the action soon became hands-on members of the Festival weekend with enthusiasm to develop ideas for future events.

Our Rector Steve and his family have now completed their first year with us. In the year ahead we look forward to taking part in the life of the Church with them.

*Jo Glaze, PCC secretary.*

*[Minutes of last year's APCM are in the Appendices at the back of the document together with a list of PCC members]*

## **Churches Together in Melbourne**

CTIM United services were held to mark the week of prayer for Christian Unity and Christian Aid week, which was hosted by the Parish Church. A house to house collection was held in CA week. Christmas cards detailing services in Melbourne were distributed to households in Melbourne and Kings Newton. A stall at Melbourne Carnival featured a treasure hunt, a prayer tree and a retreat from the hurly burly of the showground. William Kerr was appointed chairman for 2017 2018

*Sheena Wilkins, Churches Together Rep*

## **Electoral Roll Officer Report**

At the last Annual General Meeting it was reported that we had a total of 185 names on the Electoral Roll.

The number of names on the Electoral Roll at 31 December 2018 was 178.

In March 2014 we were required to update a completely revised Electoral Roll, and in the manner prescribed by statute everyone was invited and given the opportunity to be included on the 'new' Roll.

In the interim, and in the normal way, names have been added and deleted as appropriate

I am pleased to report that there have been new names added, together with some deletions, since January 2017, which brings the total to 178 and that there may be further additions shortly, after the APCM.

It should be noted that the initial figure reported here refers to December 2017. The new Electoral Roll figures will be given orally at the APCM in April 2018 and amended in the year end report for 2018.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their assistance, during the year, in the updating of the Electoral Roll.

*Cliff Warner, Electoral Roll Officer*

## **Deanery Synod Report**

The new Mercia Deanery now seems to be settling in to a working routine after some initial problems and delays during the legal changes needed for the changeover.

As a Synod we were asked to identify our areas of concern so that future planning of meetings, speakers and courses can allow for these to be addressed. Youth and 'the elderly' were two prominent concerns along with the need for training courses. As a result of this presentations have been made to the Synod by various speakers involved in children's and young people's work. In addition a number of courses have been organised to meet a wide range of needs including safeguarding, first aid, help for treasurers, the role of PCCs.

A website has been created to improve communications within the much larger Deanery network and this holds a wealth of useful links. There is also a newsletter to help parishes share events.

One area of concern being addressed at Deanery level is the response to concerns for the future of our Church in the light of falling attendance and lower clergy numbers. This is an area that the Bishop of Repton, Bishop Jan, is spearheading and a

PowerPoint presentation was given to the clergy. At Deanery Synod we responded to the questions she has posed and these materials are available for discussions at PCC level.

The role of the new larger Deaneries is still being developed but good progress now seems to be underway.

*Ros Bell,  
Deanery rep*

## **Report for the APCM from The Friends of Melbourne Parish Church.**

The Friends have had an extremely satisfactory year. Their Annual General Meeting was held at The Dower House on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017, attended by some 26 people. In addition there have been 5 Executive Committee meetings in the year since the last APCM at which discussions about growth of Individual membership, the development of the Corporate and Business Membership scheme, the financial support that can be made available to the church and events to broaden membership outreach have been discussed as regular items on the agendas. There are currently 12 Members of the Executive all involved in all aspects of the work but some having specific areas of involvement as follows:

Gordon Hughes (Chairman)  
Malcolm Busfield  
Romey Cunnington  
Brian Dollamore  
Griselda Kerr (Secretary)  
William Kerr (Finance)  
Roger Kington (Business Sponsorship)  
Matthew Needham (Corporate Sponsorship)  
Professor Janet Spencer  
The Rev. Stephen Short (ex officio)  
Sarah Kington (Individual Membership)  
Steve Webster

Joanna Hocknell and Beryl Symonds both stepped down during the course of the year having served for a considerable number of years between them.

There are now in excess of 200 individual members (including 13 Family Members), a large proportion of whom participate in the events organized by the committee. In the last twelve months these events have included:

- the Philip King Concert with his Canadian Choir in church on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017,
- a lecture on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 by Max Craven on 'Lost Houses of Derbyshire', very well attended and also in the church,
- a Symposium on 'The Survival of Church Architecture' given by Professor

Janet Spencer at the Dower House on 30<sup>th</sup> September to a full house of some 35 people (lunch was included in the day's event)

- The very popular Choros Amici concert in the Church was also on 30<sup>th</sup> September
- and the extremely well received Jazz Concert on 14<sup>th</sup> October with the Dave Newton quartet which filled the church more or less to capacity.

This year the Executive Committee have the following events already in hand:

- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018:** The Accidental Anarchist – a film introduced by Carne Ross (7.30pm in the church). The evening's subject could not be more relevant: fake news, the new Cold War, conspiracy theories....We will be showing the short film *The Accidental Anarchist*, originally shown on the BBC, introduced by the subject of the film himself. Carne Ross was a career diplomat who believed western democracy could save us all. But after the Iraq war he became disillusioned and resigned. This film traces Carne's worldwide quest to find a better way of doing things - from a farming collective in Spain, to Occupy Wall Street to Rojava in war-torn Syria - as he makes the epic journey from government insider to anarchist. There will be an opportunity to put questions to Carne and to talk to him after the film. Tickets are £5 (£3 to Friends' members). To book: [ticketsatfmpc@gmail.com](mailto:ticketsatfmpc@gmail.com) or call 07837 592596
- **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018:** Horrockses Fashions in the 1940s and 1950s – an interactive talk by Dr. Christine Boydell (7.30pm in the church). We will be welcoming Dr. Christine Boydell, a Senior Honorary Research Fellow at De Montfort University and a design historian with a special interest in the history of twentieth century fashion and textiles. Horrockses Fashions was one of the most well respected ready-to-wear labels of the late 1940s and 1950s, concentrating on quality women's day and evening wear, beach clothes and housecoats, adding children's wear to the list in 1949/50. Horrockses Fashions could be purchased in most towns and cities in Britain, and were exported widely. With a price tag of between £4 to £7 for an off-the-peg cotton summer dress, they were considered expensive. For many young women this was a week's wages. By gaining a reputation for the successful combination of practicality, glamour and easy-care, Horrockses Fashions became sought after by women everywhere. The Audience is invited to bring along any Horrockses Fashions they own, and/or photographs of family members wearing their Horrockses in the 1940s and 1950s. Tickets will be £3 (no charge for Friends' members).
- **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018** The Annie Whitehead Jazz Quartet will give us more Jazz in church. Save the date: details to follow.

Perhaps the most significant achievement of the Friends in the last year has been the widening of the Friends field of influence in the community. The Friends now has its full quota of **4 Corporate Members** Amalfi White, Crane & Walton LLP Solicitors, J

P Springthorpe and Alan Staley Building Contractors. The Friends also have **32 Business Members** with a number of other companies currently considering membership based on the beneficial effect that the Church has to tourism in the town. A list of the all the current members is attached to this report.

We are very grateful to all our supporters – Individual, Business and Corporate, who make a significant contribution to the aims of the Friends – to preserve Melbourne Church, enhance and develop its facilities and encourage the broadest connection between the Parish Church and the community.

All who are interested in our wonderful building whether they be worshippers or not are urged to join the Friends to gain the satisfaction of supporting such a very worthy cause.

### **Corporate Sponsors**

Amalfi White,  
Crane & Walton LLP Solicitors,  
J P Springthorpe  
Alan Staley Building Contractors.

### **Business Sponsors**

Alexander Bruce Estates  
Alma  
Bay Tree Restaurant  
Birds Confectioners  
Bluebell  
Chickadee Childcare  
Chip and Pin Micropub  
Dove's Garage Ltd  
East Midlands Airport  
East Midlands Storage  
Edward Hands & Lewis  
Forteys  
Harpurs  
Helen Bond  
Helen Burrell Jewellery  
Marlow Gallery  
Melbourne Deli

Melbourne Florist  
Melbourne Garage  
Melbourne Tea Rooms  
Melbourne News  
Melbourne Tackle & Gun  
National Forest Spring Water  
Newton Fallowell  
Pierre Hourlier Wines  
Quill International  
Royal British Legion  
Staunton Harold Estates  
Tori and ben's Butchers  
W R Spiers  
White Swan  
Zeerah

*Griselda Kerr, Friends Secretary*

## **Safeguarding report**

Safeguarding has become a much highlighted topic due to the high profile cases that we have been hearing about in the news. Here at Melbourne we have been responding to the changes which The Church of England and, of course Derby Diocese, are putting in place.

As well as Children's Issues we now have to give greater consideration to the needs of Vulnerable Adults and Risk Assessments. New training courses have been set up but as yet there are insufficient places for the number of people who are expected to undertake this training. We did however host one C1 course for the Deanery and secured a few places on this and I have completed a C2 course.

The new directives recommend that a parish of our size should have two Parish Safeguarding Officers and Nigel Coupe volunteered to undertake this role. We have completed the the initial checks for the new Parish Safeguarding Audit and are now following this up.

New applications and renewals of DBS certificates is now completed on line and these should be more portable than the previous system.

*Ros Bell*

*Parish Safeguarding Officer*

## **Melbourne Mothers Union**

2017 had a very sad ending for our branch with the deaths of three very dedicated members, Edna Brame, Erica Stewart and Jean Brookbanks. However we continue to be active within the parish and the wider MU family.

We have had a range of speakers on such subjects as 'Modern Day Slavery', 'Heroines of the Bible', and 'The Children's Society'. During Lent and Advent we held special services as well as marking 'Women's World Day of Prayer', 'Lady Day' and Deanery and Archdeaconary MU Festivals.

Sadly our June Coffee evening to raise funds for the overseas fund was hit by torrential rain but we have enjoyed a number of social events with lunches out.

Within the parish we continue to help with the Summer Garden Party and Christmas Fair. We also arrange to send Baptismal Anniversary cards out but we have had to cease our Thursday morning monthly Church clean as it was no longer possible for our members to safely take on this task. We continue to support MU charities and 'Safe and Sound'.

*Ros Bell,*

*MU leader*

## **Junior Church**

I took over the leadership of Junior Church at the end of the year and can report that the activities are enjoyed by the children who attend. My sincere thanks go to Lisa Gilchrist for all her work running the team for many years and her last activity - organising the nativity tableau on Christmas Eve. It's a great team and Bronwen, Martha, Mary, Rachel (Hill), Ruth, Vicky and Kit deserve our appreciation too for the excellent ministry they have done. New members to the team are welcome. Our next team meeting is at 7:30pm on Thursday 6th September so that we can be ready for a Junior Church 're-launch', which will probably take place on Sunday 7th November.

*Rachel Coupe, Junior Church Leader*

## **Bright Lights event**

There was only one Bright Lights event in 2017. The INSET Day event was moved to June to fit in with Melbourne Primary Schools. Phil Crathorne brought his usual energetic team, bouncy castle and large screen computer games, adding the additional attractions of remote control cars and 'wild science' experiments to illustrate biblical principles. There was a good turnout of children enjoyed Bible stories, active songs, games, craft and collecting fragments of paper from the windy 'power tank'. Great fun was had by all!

*Rachel Coupe, Junior Church Leader*

## **Angels' Delight**

Angels' Delight is a group of children aged 0-5, with their carers who meet in church between 9am and 11am on the first and third Wednesdays in the month during term time. The sessions include free playtime, using the wonderful array of toys donated by members of the congregation and others, songs, a story and prayer, snacks and craft activities. The cost of snacks and craft materials is covered by voluntary contributions from the carers. Since the group was set up in September 2017, the number of children attending has averaged about 15. The team of helpers (15 again) feel that this is a very worthwhile enterprise.

*Alison Gregory*

## **Caring Hands**

Up to 30 people meet each Monday afternoon in the Honner Room between 2 and 3.30 pm to knit! Items made include:

- . baby clothes and blankets for distribution by the Special Care Baby Unit.
- . childrens' clothes for refugee camps and other needy communities.
- . 'traffic light hats for the Derby Royal maternity unit.
- . novelty Christmas and Easter items to be sold in aid of treats at Pool Cottage.

There has been a hiccup in finding agencies to transport the childrens' clothing. Two carloads were sent before Christmas to a centre in Romania and we have now found

two further outlets – one to a centre in Albania and the other a regular police convoy to Syria.

This is a self-funding group. Members make a voluntary contribution each week which covers the cost of wool, tea and biscuits, postage and the cost of heating and lighting the room. As well as generating a staggering quantity of knitted items, the group acts as a much appreciated meeting-place for members of all the churches (and none) in Melbourne, Ticknall and Stanton.

*Alison Gregory*

## **Environment report**

Across the world every possible indicator of climate change is far exceeding even the worst case projections of just ten years ago. It is even possible that the Arctic will be free of ice this summer, or if not this year, then in 2019 or 20: something not previously expected to happen until 2050 at the earliest. As a result of this and interconnected changes across the globe, extreme weather is becoming more frequent and dramatic - and noticeable even here in Melbourne.

At the same time, the immense problem of plastic (oil) pollution across the whole environment is finally dawning on popular consciousness (in between worries about Brexit or Xfactor or the like). Yet, because there are more humans alive today than have ever lived, every resource from oil to soil continues to be consumed at ever faster rates. Today's rapid plummet in biodiversity (75% of insect biomass gone in the last 27 years for example, not to mention totem creatures like the Great Northern Rhinoceros) signals the sixth great extinction in the history of the earth.

The cataclysmic effects of humans on environmental systems, to anyone who bothers to consider them, are an existential threat to human existence within the next few years. Our response is to do what little we can within the comfort of the generally still insulated lives that we lead at the moment. Melbourne Parish Church remains committed to the pioneering Whistlewood Common project within the parish and individuals within the congregation are involved in initiatives as diverse as preserving habitats for toads and ensuring that the Derby dioceses commits to the principles of an eco-diocese.

The Anthropocene is under way: our actions now can make little difference to the outcome.

*Graham Truscott*

## **Website**

The website is kept up to date with the Bulletin added week by week. We had a major change at the start of the year when details of the Rector were added after he took office. The website is viewed by many people from across the world evidenced by the various offers we receive from entrepreneurs in India to improve our "business"! Suggestions from closer to home on how the site could be improved are always welcome.

*Terry Harrison*

## **Report on the activities of St Michael's Players**

We had full houses on each of our three-nights of Star Wars, a self-written mash up of Star Trek and Star Wars, with the usual multiple local references to Melbourne, King's Newton, the Sporting Partnership and the dreaded Swarkestone Bridge. Melbourne Churches Together also featured and was closely examined by Darth Vader who declared himself a little baffled.

The show was very well received and the money raised was shared with the Assembly Rooms (MARs) to further improve the facilities there for acting and drama – this time acoustic improvements to our rehearsal room and a contribution towards the cost of a new, state-of-the-art projector.

We are currently working on plans for this year, albeit temporarily without our long-time leader, Tom Mills, who is at present recovering in hospital after a stroke. We are missing him, but assume he is putting his convalescence to good use, gathering plenty of material for future sketches.

*Gordon Hughes*

*March 2018*

## **Report of the Social Committee for 2017**

The Social Committee had a very busy year in 2017. Amongst other things the Committee took the lead in organising the catering for Revd Steve Short's induction and Revd Angela Plummer's departure.

A small sub-committee led by Sheena Wilkins and Margaret Brackenbury and a band of helpers organised the Lent Lunches for the benefit of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Services. These were very popular once again.

Sunday Teas were also very popular with 50% of the profits going to Charity again and 50% to the church. We were particularly busy on Festival weekend. Thanks go to Carolyn Tasker for organising the rota and preparing the Honner Room week by week.

The Spring Fair held on the Rectory lawn and Autumn Bazaar, held in MARS, were also organised by the Social Committee and were well attended. The money raised goes to church funds.

Our thanks go to all who helped in any way with events and to those who don't have time to be on the Committee but who regularly help us out by providing cakes to sell, food for events, putting up gazebos and manning stalls – we couldn't do without you.

Please look out for future events advertised in the Bulletin.

*Kate Landenberger*

## **Wedding Administration**

A successful well attended pre - wedding seminar was held in January. The majority of couples getting married in 2018 across the benefice, were able to attend and take part in an interactive session of service planning, spiritual guidance, and special day practicalities. As ever the “wedding team” made everyone feel welcome and provided expert guidance on music, bell ringing, flowers, organisation of the church and service, as well as prayers, readings, and the most important elements of vows and promises. Feedback from the couples indicates the session was not only usefully informative, but delivered at the right pitch so as not to be overwhelming or solemn. Following a light lunch incorporating a few jokes and funny stories from the pulpit, our couples went on their way. We look forward to seeing them as each get married in our benefice churches. Bookings for 2019 are in progress and of course there is still time for bookings for the latter half of 2018. If you know anyone contemplating Christian marriage, do please ask them to get in contact for an initial conversation.

Since February and on the second Tuesday of each month there is now a Parish Office Open evening (at Melbourne) from 18.30 to 19.30 specifically for wedding enquiries and preparation applicable across the benefice. Known as the WOOP session for short! the church itself is used for this purpose and so far each Tuesday has been well attended, sometimes just for paying fees and sometimes for a more involved conversation. It is only positive that the church building is used in this less formal way, ever accessible and hopefully encouraging to more visitors.

Let's look forward to the positive development of our wedding offering over the next 12 months. A focus on marketing including a new brochure is in progress.

Do please get in contact if you have any constructive ideas and /or suggestions.

*Karen Grewcock, Wedding Co-Ordinator*

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC'S REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017.**

It has been another extremely busy, but rewarding, year for our Church Choir with the usual round of services plus the many extras for the Festivals and seasons of the Church's Year. Over the year the Choir has learnt many new items alongside its already large repertoire of music for all seasons of the Church's year. One of the first big services of the year was at the end of January as our new Rector Steve Short was inducted and collated to the Benefice. We were pleased to welcome the choir from Barlborough, Steve's previous parish, to sing with us at this service. On Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day it was our pleasure to return to St. George's, Ticknall and to join with their Choir to lead the services in the church's lovely acoustics and for me to play their fine organ. Again the choir played a full part in the Triduum, singing at services on Maundy Thursday at St. Michael's, Stanton by Bridge and, for the first time, at the Good Friday “last hour” which was a particularly moving service and a real privilege for us to be part of. At the invitation of William and

Griselda Kerr, we were very pleased to return to The Dower House at Christmas to sing Carols in aid of Charity. I would like to record my thanks to all members of the Choir and their families, for the support, encouragement and hospitality offered over the past year.

In July the Choir embarked on its eleventh weekend residency where it has the privilege and responsibility of singing all the weekend services in the Cathedral tradition whilst the resident choir is on holiday. This time it was at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, said to be the 5<sup>th</sup> largest Cathedral in the world. Again, our choir rose to the challenge and acquitted themselves very well in such a vast building with a very generous acoustic! As usual there were several daytrips and in 2018 these will be to Tewkesbury Abbey, Southwell, Worcester, St Albans and Peterborough Cathedrals and an August weekend residency at Chichester Cathedral. All of our trips are becoming increasingly popular and the Choir much appreciates the support and company it receives away from home and thanks those who do so, at their own expense.

During 2017 regular membership of the Choir held steady at 16 but we must keep working to secure its future for the years ahead. I re-iterate that our Choir is worth belonging to and has an excellent reputation both locally and, due to our Cathedral visits, nationally. Every time we sing at a Cathedral we are asked to return on a future occasion and, following visits to Lincoln in both 2013 and 2016, we were delighted to receive an extremely complimentary letter from a Residentiary Canon, proclaiming the choir as one of the best visiting choirs to sing there! We had a similar letter from the Dean of Durham Cathedral in 2010 following our weekend there. The very reason that people comment on the quality of our singing particularly when we are away from home is because the standard is consistently high but the Melbourne acoustic does not make that apparent! Even when we go to sing at Ticknall, people say we sound like a different Choir! We must keep attracting new members from our Congregation and Community if the Choir is to continue to enrich our worship – something which people say they value here. 16 is still a small number and a larger Choir would make working in a very difficult acoustic easier all round. I want to dispel the myth that may make some think that the Choir sounds beyond their capability: basically if you can hold a tune there is no reason at all why you wouldn't enjoy being a member. There are people in the Choir to learn from and be supported by so, please, be on the lookout for potential new members for OUR Church Choir or consider it yourself as no-one else but us can help to maintain and strengthen it - it is up to us all to ensure that this important and valued ministry is kept alive in Melbourne Parish Church.

The policy of Instrumental music before the services in Lent and Passiontide continued and this has proved popular. We had some new people offer to provide this and would encourage others to come forward in the future – there's room for everyone! The Pipe Organ was tuned and maintained quarterly and the pianos in Church and in Church House six-monthly.

I would like to conclude with words of thanks: to my predecessor of 27 years Laurence Rogers who is a tremendous support to me in so many ways not least through singing and playing on a regular basis; to Henry Wilkins who also covers my absence particularly at non-choral services. Also to the many members of the Congregation who encourage and support the music in this Parish - it is greatly appreciated. Finally, particular thanks are due to the Rector for his tremendous support during his first year and to the Church Wardens and the Ministry Team for their continuing encouragement of the musical tradition of this parish church.

*Simon Collins, Director of Music*

## **Archivist Report**

Our archive material is progressively being moved into Church House and we shall shortly embark on a major cataloguing effort.

We have received a flow of new material during the year and would encourage everyone to let either Roger Kington or me know if any matters of church interest over the years come to light.

*Roy Dunncliffe, Archivist*

## **Handbells report**

A good year, we welcomed Christine Thompson & Alison Gregory as new members, Christine did not continue, Alison has become a regular band member. We rang at the Bellringers Carol Service but had to cancel ringing at the Hollybush, Breedon due to icy weather [another request by Smisby W.I. was on the same date!]

The Community Care Auction of promises has led to Heather who made a successful bid for a handbell lesson & will be coming along soon, we have been in contact before Christmas.

No financial incomings or outgoings.

Thanks as always to the band for coming to practices especially during the Winter months.

*Pam Starkey, Handbells Leader*

## **Tower Captain's Report for 2017**

This year we have rung for 11 weddings, one more than 2016. This year we rang for four funerals as well.

One peal was rung on the bells in 2017, which was Simon Melen's 1000th peal and his first ringing two bells. We also had 16 quarter peals, up from 14 the previous year. This included quarters to welcome Revd Steve Short, for Christian Aid week, to mark the end of the Festival and a half-muffled quarter peal for Remembrance Day.

The first event of the year was the Melbourne village quiz, and once again we entered two teams, the "Four Tenors" and "The Muffled Clangers". Both teams reached the second round, but sadly lost to some tough draws in the second round.

Ruth organised another successful trip to Lundy, and this year they were able to ring the bells as well as enjoy the usual activities on the island.

We had our curry night at Zeerah's again in Melbourne, kindly organised by Lucy and Duncan. Another great success and we all had a very enjoyable evening.

We entered four teams again in the DDA striking contest this year, with one team reaching the final, but sadly did not bring home the trophy.

The Festival Weekend provided the opportunity for us again to open our doors once more to the community and demonstrate the joys of bell ringing. The Wombel made a welcome return and on the Sunday we had our largest crowd, about 150, though to be fair, the sudden rain storm did help a little!

Christian and Jenny organised a successful ringing outing in October, this time it was to towers around the Birmingham area, and as you'd expect from Christian, it was a "train and ring". The day ended with a pleasant meal at Zeerah's back in Melbourne.

Duncan and Lucy took up the mantle of organising our Christmas meal at the Melbourne Tea Rooms. A good time was had by all and the evening was rounded off with a quiz.

This year we lost one of our long standing, enthusiastic and supportive ringers, Erica Stewart. She will be dearly missed and her dedication to ringing was unquestionable. She supported not only Melbourne, but other towers in the area. It was a fitting tribute that we were able to ring for her funeral which was appreciated by her family.

The Tuesday practice nights have continued to be well attended this year, by both our own team and also with regular visitors. The band have rung a mixture of methods and benefited from Christian providing some theory lessons and other tuition.

We have rung the bells for all the main Sunday morning and evening services and on most occasions, we have had 10 or 12 ringers. It has been good to see our youngsters Jenny and Katie ringing more for Sunday services as well.

On Christmas Eve, Radio Derby came and broadcast our ringing as part of the Christmas Festivities. After the ringing, we all went over to the Blue Bell for a splendid breakfast.

Eight ringers, together with family and friends, gathered to ring out the old year and ring in the new.

We have lost three members this year, but gained two new members plus regular support from the Chamberlain family who ring at Aston on Trent but support our Tuesday practice night and Sunday evening service ringing.

We continue to hold a practice for the youngsters at Chellaston on a Friday evening. The bells are lighter and easier to ring for our young members. This has helped them have more confidence to ring at Melbourne. It is a good that we have this link with Chellaston and we have rung there for Weddings as well as Christmas Day.

The handbell ringers continued to meet in the vestry on a Tuesday evening at 6:30pm and have given several performances, including one at the District Bell Ringers carol service a Ticknall.

Thank you to all the officers who have supported me this year and the band for ringing for the services each Sunday and other the special occasions.

*Nigel Coupe, Tower Captain*

## **Steeple Keeper's Report 2017**

Despite the plans to do lots of work this year, I have unfortunately failed miserably to do very much at all. There has been one stay broken and replaced, a couple of ropes switched around, adjustment to the rope hoist, and a few other routine checks of stays and ropes. Otherwise the report from last year stands. There is nothing urgent, but a number of routine replacements required. I will try to get some of this work moving during 2018.

**Ropes.** As reported last year we currently have no new spares. We still have four or five decent recycled spares and a couple more that are usable but a bit rough. Hopefully I will arrange for some new ropes to be purchased this year.

**Stays.** We currently have plenty of spares in the chest.

**Other work required.** The clappers on 6,7,10 are reported by Taylors as requiring

re-bushing. The treble also requires a new clapper joint pin and re-bushing. The ground pulleys on bells 2,4,6,7 and 8 require attention. Taylors advise we should monitor the grease creep through the bearing on the 10th. This doesn't appear to be a problem, but I will continue to review.

**Flag.** The flag rope broke at the start of the year. Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to refit this yet. We did look at lowering the pole, but for safety reasons we decided not to do this ourselves. The fire brigade came to look at it to see if they could help, but also declined.

**Thanks.** Thank you to Duncan Saunders for standing in when I haven't been there and for others who have helped fitting and removing muffles.

*Christian Peckham, Steeple Keeper*

*[Photos are in the Appendices at the back of the document]*

## APPENDICES

### **The Parish Church of St Michael with St Mary, Melbourne. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Thursday 27th April 2017 at 7.30 in the Honner Room.**

The Rector was in the Chair.

1) Apologies were received from:

Romey Cunnington, Christine Franks, Sandra Chantry, Gordon Hughes, Kate Landenberger, Len Johnson, Rachel Coupe, Andrew and Heather Bolton.

2) Approval of the minutes of the annual meeting of parishioners held on 10th April 2016, was proposed by Cliff Warner, seconded by Steve Webster.

3) Election of Church Wardens.

Linda Latchford has completed an extra year as Warden and will now be standing down after 5 years service; many thanks were expressed for all her work during these 5 years.

Joanna Hocknell was duly elected to continue as Church Warden.

Nomination received from floor for Cliff Warner to fill the Church Warden vacancy, Cliff asked for time to consider the position and also asked whether anyone else would like to come forward. No other nominations were received.

### **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Thursday 27th April 2017 in the Honner Room.**

The Rector was in the Chair.

1) Approval of the minutes of the Meeting held on 10th April 2016 was proposed by Cliff Warner, seconded by Linda Latchford.

There were no matters arising.

2) **Reports-**

• **Rector's report-** Rev Steve Short looked back over the past year and thanked all who had worked so hard during the vacancy ensuring that everything ran smoothly. He recognised the hard work put in by Rev Angela Plummer as Curate, and thanked her in her absence.

He also thanked Rev Mark Powell and Helen Powell for their years spent here and their work in the parish.

• **Electoral Roll-** Cliff Warner reported and gave the latest Electoral Roll figures. At 31st December 2016 the Roll showed 182 names, since then some names have come off the Roll and new names added giving a final number of 187. When asked why numbers dropped about 5 years ago, Cliff told the meeting that some names had moved away and were no longer known, reducing the total by 30.

• **Treasurer's report-** Brian Bolton, Treasurer, provided information showing the financial position in 2016. A significant deficit in the General Account was noted, with bar chart comparisons showing income figures

lower than in previous year. It was agreed that this position must be looked at going forward, particularly as any increase in payments to the Common Fund will lead to a bigger deficit.

It was noted that it may be appropriate for the PCC to consider looking at possibility of accessing money that is currently considered to be ringfenced, i.e payments to and from the Heritage Fund.

PCC to adopt the accounts - proposed by Brian Bolton, seconded by Roger Kington.

All in favour.

• **Churchwarden's report-** Joanna Hocknell thanked Angela Plummer, Curate, and all associate Clergy and Readers who have provided such invaluable service during the past year. She also thanked Linda Latchford for her service as Church Warden; members of PCC and all who come forward to help in Church.

• **Deanery Synod-** Sheena Wilkins told the meeting about developments at Synod and referred to her report for 2016.

• **Annual Report booklet-** Kate Landenberger was thanked for her work in putting all the reports together, there were no further questions arising from the reports printed in the booklet.

### 3) **Election of PCC members proposed seconded**

Karen Grewcock Sheena Wilkins Kate Landenberger

Jo Glaze Joanna Hocknell Carolyn Tasker

Roger Kington Brian Bolton Len Johnson

Gordon Hughes Joanna Hocknell Sheena Wilkins

As Director of Music Simon Collins to be co-opted on to PCC.

Thanks were given to all those standing down.

### 4) **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives proposed seconded**

Ros Bell Joanna Hocknell Leighton Grimes

Allan Jacques Sarah Kington Margaret Brackenbury

Sheena Wilkins Mary Bolton Paul Fletcher-Read

Jane Perry Paul Fletcher-Read Simon Collins

Rachel Coupe Nigel Coupe Margaret Dobby

5) **Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts-** Grateful thanks were given to Mary Hirst, who is now stepping down after several years. It was agreed that she should be thanked with a gift to show our appreciation of her hard work; a restaurant voucher was suggested and agreed. It was noted that John Smallwood may take over the role.

### 6) **Any Other Business-**

**Benefice Church services-** Significant concerns were raised over the manner in which changes to services within the Benefice are being presented.

A proposal that instead of being held at Melbourne, the 10.30 service on Sunday 30 April may be held at Ticknall was met with numerous very strong

responses.

An assurance that adequate notice is provided was asked for to ensure that people do not turn up to Church unaware of service changes. Sheena Wilkins expressed concerns that these changes were being introduced without any discussion by PCC, it was agreed that any changes such as these should be fully discussed at PCC, and lack of discussion was not welcome.

It was felt that the current expectation that there will be Sunday services at 8.00, 10.30 and 6.30 at Melbourne is secure, as soon as there are some Sundays without an expected service there will be uncertainty, and it was felt consequent drop in attendance.

The suggestion that use of the Community Care bus may help some to go to services at Ticknall or Stanton was rejected, it was noted that when tried in the past it was not taken up by many and proved unsuccessful.

Simon Collins suggested bringing the Benefice together through social events.

**A.O.B as agenda item-** Roger Kington agreed that PCC discussion had been overlooked regarding the above matter and was also concerned by the omission of Any Other Business on PCC agendas. He said that not having A.O.B. was wrong, as it provides essential discussion opportunity.

Rev Steve Short said that he acknowledged these comments and would return to them with further discussion at future meetings.

**Friends Business Members-** Griselda Kerr was pleased to inform meeting that the number of Business members with The Friends has now increased from 13 → 19. She expressed gratitude to Roger Kington for enabling this.

No other matters were raised and the meeting closed.

#### **Minutes of PCC meeting held immediately after APCM**

The minutes for this meeting were circulated to PCC members and were accepted and signed at meeting on 18th May 2017.

## **Melbourne Parish Church**

### **PCC members April 2018**

#### **Church Warden**

Joanna Hocknell re-elected April 2017

### **PCC members elected 2015 until April 2018**

Romey Cunnington

Cliff Warner

Steve Webster

### **PCC members elected 2016 until April 2019**

Brian Bolton

Nigel Coupe

Griselda Kerr

Paul Fletcher-Read (leaving April 2018)

Janet Warner (elected 2016 until 2018)

### **PCC members elected 2017 until April 2020**

Jo Glaze

Karen Grewcock

Gordon Hughes

Roger Kington

### **Synod members until May 2020**

Ros Bell

Rachel Coupe

Linda Latchford

Allan Jacques

Jane Perry

Sheena Wilkins

### **Co-opted member**

Simon Collins - Director of Music

*Jo Glaze, PCC Secretary*