



St Philip's Kelsall A Celebration of Church Life 2018 – 2019

Reports prepared for the
2019 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
To be held on Sunday
28 April 2019

Electoral Officer's report

This report consists of two reports. The first relates to the old roll 2018-19. The second report relates to the new roll which commences April 2019 and is operative for 6 years. Every 6 years the roll must be completely redone and 2019 is the year that this is due.

2018-19

At the start of the year there were 133 on the roll. During the year 3 people died, 2 people went into a care home and 2 people moved from the village. Two new people were enrolled so at the end of the year there were 128 on the roll.

The New Roll commencing April 2019

At the time of writing the report, the roll had not been completed. A number of people on the previous roll only come to church occasionally or are house-bound but would, I am sure, want to remain on the roll. It is a time-consuming process obtaining completed forms from them. Despite the fact that 12 new people are on the roll, I suspect that the final number is going to be very similar to the 128 that were on the last roll at the end due to some people not re-enrolling.

Please do your bit by welcoming newcomers to your street or local area and where appropriate, invite them to come to St. Philips. In addition, could you let either the Church Wardens or John Diggle know that new people have moved into a property as we have a welcoming pack for them.

Dr Cliff Nixey

Electoral Roll Officer

Church Wardens' report

The past year has seen our church reach a significant milestone as it achieved the grand old age of 150. We have also seen some important changes in the life of the church as Peter moved on to a new parish and we began the interregnum in November. At the same time many people have been working very hard to prepare for the search for a new Vicar, recruit a new Director of Music, plan and deliver services, maintain the day to day activities of the church, and also to work on the church modernisation project both in planning and obtaining faculties and fundraising, and to develop our links with the Methodist church.

The 150th Anniversary celebrations were a great success thanks to the hard work of the many people involved. It was great to see the poppy displays in the summer and for Remembrance Sunday in November attract so much attention and excitement. The concert series throughout the year was also a great success and gave an idea of how the church might be used following modernisation. Both the poppy-making and the calendar competition proved to be great ways of connecting with the village.

A faculty has now been obtained subject, to a 30-day consultation period at the time of writing, for the improvements to the inside of the church and a further faculty application is being prepared for the new audio-visual system that will be required. Designs are currently being considered for the new liturgical furniture. Fundraising will be launched on 3rd June with a garden party at Sandymere, the home of Sir John Timpson, however, thanks to very generous legacies and donations we have made considerable progress towards our £200,000 target.

The reredos which was removed from in front of the east window in 2015-16 is planned to be incorporated into the new kitchen/store area at the rear of the nave.

In May the Quinquennial inspection of the church took place. The major work required, particularly to the chancel floor, will be undertaken during the modernisation programme. Some other work such as overhauling the roof slates and pointing will be required and we are consulting the architect on the work needed.

Work to improve the Church Lounge was completed in 2017-18 and this year we have been able to begin hiring the room to a small number of groups which adds to our income and helps to keep us at the heart of our community.

The A Team led by Ted continue to maintain the churchyard and church to an excellent standard.

Visiting new houses and also new occupants of existing homes has continued this year to let them know about the church and we plan to continue this in the coming year. A number of new people have attended church as a direct result of this approach. We often hear that we are a friendly church and it has been great to see some new members of our congregation and thank you to everyone for making new people feel welcome.

Thank you to everyone for the work you do for St. Philips, particularly during the vacancy – sides people, church cleaners, brass cleaners, the A Team, flower arrangers, the choir and musicians, members of committees, the Readers and anyone who I may have forgotten to mention - it is much appreciated, we couldn't continue to function without everything you do. I would especially like to highlight the work of John Diggle in planning and leading services during the vacancy and Brian Rischmiller for his work on the Modernisation project. Thank you all.

Finally, we would like to say a personal thank you to everyone who has helped us during this past year, your advice, guidance and support have been invaluable and is very much appreciated.

VACANCY AND KMC DEVELOPMENTS

In the past six months a great deal of work has been done by a number of people to prepare for the task of finding a new Vicar. The first stage is to prepare the Parish Fact Sheet and the Parish Profile. The Parish Fact Sheet, as its name suggests, gives potential candidates factual information about Kelsall and St. Philip's, for example, the size and demographics of the village, the size of the congregation, type of services etc. The Parish Profile is the document which really explains to candidates what our church is like, what activities happen here, and what we are seeking in our new Vicar and our hopes and plans for the future. Both of these documents are now ready.

We have appointed our two Parish Representatives who will, along with others from the Diocese, interview the applicants and select the new Vicar. Sue Clifton and Mary Gaskarth have kindly agreed to take on these roles. Before advertising the post, we need to decide whether or not the Vicar will be appointed to both St. Philip's and KMC. Last year when Peter moved to his new parish in Wales both St. Philip's and KMC were without a minister so the possibility of sharing a vicar with KMC became an option for our future.

At the time of writing the decision to go ahead has not been made but our meetings with KMC and our Diocesan Ecumenical Officer to explore how this might work have continued apace. We are now addressing the specific content of the Covenant between the two churches and we hope that by the time you read this a decision will have been taken on our future together.

Our vision is one vicar and two separate churches. Both churches would maintain their individual identities, both church buildings would remain open and in use as now, and both churches would have a PCC or Church Council just as we do now. We would have a full-time vicar and we would pay for 75% of their time and KMC for 25% and we would generally share their work on that basis. The arrangement would initially be for 5 years and we can see how this evolves in the future as we develop together under the guidance of our new vicar.

Through this close link we will present a united Christian presence in the village which we hope will help to fulfil our aim of connecting our community with God. We can do things together that, like our children's work, are currently difficult to do apart. It would help to remove confusion that non-Christians express over why there are two different churches when we all worship one God and our mission to spread the gospel and show the love of Christ to our neighbours will be strengthened.

Finally, we would like to say a personal thank you to everyone who has helped us during this past year, your advice, guidance and support have been invaluable and is very much appreciated.

Geoff Roberts & Margaret Durbin

Report of PCC Secretary

It has been another very busy year for the PCC and Standing Committee as modernisation project preparations gather pace. A fundraising sub-committee, formed in late 2017 and who were working towards a fundraising launch in October 2018, had to put plans on hold with the news that we were to lose our vicar Peter at the end of October, but meetings resumed again in the New Year and a launch is now planned for June 2019. With Peter leaving St Philip's the process for finding a new vicar has begun and the PCC appointed two church members to be the parish representatives to prepare the job advertisement and eventually interview prospective applicants. Meetings between a small group of PCC members and KMC members have been held during the year to discuss the potential for getting closer together, indeed sharing one vicar. The PCC has appointed a curate who will start in July 2019. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item and all PCC members are required to undertake basic awareness training. These are exciting times for our Church, but hard work and commitment will be required from our PCC in 2019 and into 2020 to bring our plans to fruition.

Andrea Edwards

Mission Partnership

In 2018, one highlight was the visit to us in Kelsall of Israel, Charlene, and Miles Neale of **MAF**. They were on leave prior to redeployment to Papua New Guinea where, Israel explained, the political, flying and living situations all presented challenges. They also told us more about their work which they were sorry to leave in Arnhem Land, NE Australia.

Andrew Young, **CMS** (Nepal), has suffered ill health and have had to return to the UK. We hope to catch up with them before they return to Nepal.

We gave a small donation (£400) to Melita Church, Watamu, in Kenya. This is the church visited by Dot & Ted Wilkinson when they were in Kenya; and, again, when they visited this year. The money has been spent on equipping the church with loos and associated plumbing, none of which formerly existed.

We continued to support with a donation:

Open Doors, a well-known international organisation which supports persecuted Christians and refugees by encouraging contact, Bibles, and essential supplies.

Compassion, the agency supporting very deprived children in Africa, especially Pingwendé in Burkina Faso and, 9 year-old Anik Das in Bangladesh.

L'Arche, Flintshire –The project suffered a setback because of the death of a 'core member' around whom the housing project is designed. 2019 could be a key year which reveals whether or not the project will be set up.

Fleur Warenius, our new 'champion' has re-established contact with **Save the Family**, who continue to operate at Cotton Hall Farm. Fleur has ambitions to establish a small group of volunteers from St Philip's – contact her if potentially interested.

Another highlight, actually in Jan 2019, was the visit from Paul North, who leads **Chester Schools Christian Workers ("CSCW")**: Christian education in Chester area schools. He gave us an informative talk about CSCW's work bringing knowledge of our faith, and relationships education, to some of the 16,000 school-age young people in the Chester area, most of whom receive no other Christian education.

Thanks are due to our charity 'champions' – the individuals who keep contact with each partner, arrange visits periodically, write articles, and pray regularly. We are always seeking to increase the number of 'champions' for each charity. Please speak to me or anyone involved if you might be interested in joining the group.

John Diggle

A Team

Having Four good working mowers, Five keen and healthy volunteers and experiencing an early 'Spring Season' which is comparatively dry, although cold, on Mondays; has meant that we have had a good start to the 2019 Season. All the areas of the graveyard have been mowed, sinkage has been attended to in several areas, strimming has been extensive, and a start has been made on the trimming of the west wall hedges. The trees and shrubs are showing new growth, and all should be well and in good order for Easter Tide. Discussions at 'coffee-time' have yet failed to produce any semblance of a solution to the "Brexit Problem", but we do have one or two ideas of what to do with Politicians, which might help in the long run. Providing the weather continues good we look forward to a successful season.

Ted Wilkinson

Deanery Synod

Meetings have been held on the 24th May 2018 at St. Peter's Plemstall, 16th July 2018 here at St. Philip's and 12th November 2018 at St. Peter's at the Cross, Chester. Each meeting begins with a short service of Evening Prayer, followed by a welcome from the Parish in which the meeting is being held including a brief synopsis of the church and parish, plus Deanery business, then one or more speakers on topics of interest to parishes. Speakers have included Revd. Canon Ron Iveson speaking about the 'Believe in Birkenhead' Deanery Mission which involved the Archbishop of York, 'Season of Invitation' with speaker Andy Stinson, "Places of Welcome" with speaker Wendy Robertson from 'Transforming Lives together', Bishop Peter's paper on Diocesan Mission Strategy, Emily Allen, Church Buildings Development Officer, Diocese of Chester on the support available for parishes and churchwardens with maintenance tasks by providing a network of recommendations for contractors and the recently established 'Maintenance Booker' system for routine jobs such as gutter cleaning, lightning conductor checks, tree surgery, asbestos removal, and Paul Barbar speaking about alcoholism and how the church assisted recovery.

The Rural Dean noted that the Communications Unit for the Church of England is re-aligning the 'A Church near You' website in order for parishes to use this as a template for their own websites which is worth looking at. We were unable to attend the September 30th Deanery Eucharist Service as it clashed with Harvest.

Kath Roberts and Paul Coney

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORK

Holiday Club

Last summer St Philip's and Kelsall Methodist Churches worked together once again to put on a holiday club for primary age children in Kelsall and surrounding villages. Dawn and

Beth organised and co-ordinated the holiday club, and inspired the team into action, with the resulting successful Jungle Jamboree Holiday Club. The club ran for 5 days with 40+ children. All the songs, bible dramas, puppet shows, crafts, decoration, games, and Watt family dramas were organised, performed and run by members of St Philips and the KMC. The Sunday Celebration Service on the last day included the congregation in the holiday club activities as they were happening! After the service, as has become tradition over the last few years, we then congregated on the Green for the annual holiday club barbecue, which was up and running at the end of the service.

Splash general

After the Summer break we recommenced our normal Sunday morning Splash sessions using Roots material. Additionally, we continue to support our sponsored children, Pingwende and Anik. This is organised and co-ordinated by Val Poyser and is continuing even though the children's work has now been taken over by the Methodist' church.

Extra Activities

Alongside our normal Splash mornings, we also engaged the children in special activities, for example: making special cards for Mothering Sunday and helping to make up Christingle packs, for our Christingle service.

Moving On

After many years' service the Splash team, namely Val Poyser, Jane Knight and Gemma Rogerson felt that it was time to move into retirement from children's work. The three ladies have been the mainstay of the Splash Team since long before I took over from Fiona Enticott and Suzanne Goodier in 2009/10, and have invested a huge amount of time, effort and skill in helping with the running of all of the children's activities.

As a result of their decision, junior church has now successfully joined forces with the Methodist Church.

I would like to record my gratitude to everyone who has given their time to supporting St Philip's children's work, over the last, personally difficult, couple of years, but, in particular, feel that the lifetime achievement award and special mention should go to Val, Jane and Gemma.

Many thanks

Jacquie Macaulay

Whatever Group

Over the past year, as we have continued to take our young people up to meet those at the Methodist, we have been delighted to have young people from both churches coming along regularly. We have around 14 young members, which means that we a good-sized group each time we meet. Through a range of activities, games, videos, music and drawing on the Roots materials, we seek to facilitate discussions about life issues and enable these young people to learn about God.

Keren Coney

Youth Club

Led by Bethany Spray, the youth club continues to provide a fun and safe environment for young people in Kelsall and beyond to meet together. Held fortnightly on Friday evenings in the Community Centre, the young people engage in activities such as pudding parties, barbecues and playing sports including badminton, pool and air hockey. We are always short of adult volunteers, so any help (however infrequently) would be gratefully received!

Keren Coney

CHOIR & MUSIC GROUP

Choir

This year has been a time of change with Jo Mackriell leaving her post as Musical Director in November. The choir, though not having had regular rehearsals for quite a while, was involved in the Easter services last year and Jo lead the Choir for the Harvest Festival. We

also had a Choir for both the Memorial and Remembrance Sunday services. At Christmas we had a substantial choir who rehearsed and took part in the Carol Service, which was a lovely event. The choir items included the 'Advent Carol' composed by Elaine's friend Jane Jarvis, and had a descant played beautifully on the flute by Dawn. This can now be heard on Youtube! Sue Clifton has been a 'star' and taken on the role of choosing the hymns and songs for our regular Sunday acts of worship and has also been listing the music for copyright and licensing purposes. A big job! Thanks Sue. We now do have a choir to help lead the worship and singing at our weekly services as well as on Ash Wednesday and over the coming Easter weekend. Do join us if you can! We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead, musically, and for more involvement from anyone willing to come and "sing joyfully to the Lord!"

Music Group

Although we have not led the Informal Worship as much recently, we have still played different instruments during some services eg on piano, guitar, flute & violin. We did so at the Duke of Edinburgh Awards' service in January, the Folk Festival service at St Philip's last May, as well as on other occasions. We hope to be doing more together in the future and it would be good to involve some of our talented young people in this. We want to encourage a close encounter with God through our music and worship, and for music to enhance, and not detract from, our experience of meeting with God and each other every week.

On another note.... sadly, we lost Dot Baker this year, a very loyal member of the church choir. It was an honour for us to sing at Dot's funeral in February and she will be very much missed, not only for her singing, but also her companionship and sense of humour.

Elaine Shakspeare

GROWTH GROUPS

Beckett's Croft

Our growth group of 11 people meets about fortnightly on Monday evenings from Sept to June. Until April, we completed our 20-session study of the Gospel of Matthew, using a commentary by Tom Wright 'Matthew for Everyone' to provoke discussion. From September, we have studied the life of Moses, reading from his birth to death – from a basket in the Nile, to crossing the Red Sea, to just before the crossing of the Jordan; from the beginning to the end of the time the Israelites' spent in the deserts. We have wondered at God's power, at Moses' humanity and failings, as well as his eventual unshakeable faith. Moses was unique amongst humans in speaking to God face-to-face. We have remembered several old stories that we had forgotten, and we have learned much that is new to us, or which we now see in a fresh light. We have had a lot of satisfaction and fun doing it.

Come and join us as we learn to appreciate (some of) the Psalms.

John Diggle

No.1 Ladies

As a group we joined in once a month with Peter's prayer workshops in which we looked at the book Naked Spirituality by Brian McLaren. McLaren picked up on twelve words which helped us get to the heart of prayer and to grow in our practice of prayer. The twelve words were grouped into seasons - simplicity, complexity, perplexity and harmony. On the alternative fortnightly Wednesdays, we met together as our home group and Andrea Gray lead the evenings by picking up and elaborating on the corresponding chapter from Naked Spirituality which had been discussed at the workshop.

We finished the book last month and we have now returned to our regular fortnightly meetings with Andrea Gray leading us in our next book J John's 'TEN' - living the Ten Commandments in the 21st century - Revd Canon J. John is a renowned international Christian speaker. His much-loved art of storytelling helps people to discover spiritual meaning in a way that makes sense of everyday life.

We continue to support and enjoy each other's company on our Christian journeys and organise a social gathering at Christmas and in the summer months.

Danielle Clarke

Former Vicarage

We are quite a small group who were meeting with Peter in the Vicarage, but we now have Lis Wye as our leader and we have been meeting at Lis's house. Maybe it is time for us to choose a new name. With Peter we studied several courses in the Pilgrim series, the most recent being The Ten Commandments and The Beatitudes. We then had a change and decided to look at The Bible Course where we explored the whole Bible in eight sessions. It was really interesting to see how all the books fitted into the big picture, asking what did this passage mean then and what does it mean for my life today? After such a broad study, we chose to look at just one book in more detail and we are now working through a Life Builder Study of Kings. We usually meet fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon and during our meetings we enjoy chat, a cup of tea or coffee, biscuits, study, music, prayer and fellowship, all in an hour and a half. Why not join us?

Heather Leather

Church Bank

This home group meets on Wednesdays, approximately every fortnight, to study the Bible, discuss Bible study questions and support each other in our walks with God. Over the past year, we have enjoyed studying the books of James and Ecclesiastes. We have been delighted to welcome some new members to the group and have had some fun social gatherings too!

Keren Coney

Tues night ladies

After struggling to meet last year we are having another go at trying to meet up once a month to encourage each other. There are 9 of us within the St Philips community who have children ranging from 2months old to nearly 18 who have been along to meetings. It is hard to find a time when we can all meet due to our work, family church and social commitments but we have had 3 small gatherings since Christmas. This year we have decided to try and do some bible studies looking at some of the women of the bible. The material "Joy for Life" is written by a lady called Sue Hurst whom Dawn and Andy Wisbey knew well when they lived in Hampshire. Her aim is to encourage women in their walk with God and help them to study the Bible more. They all include a short video which we have enjoyed watching and is an easy way for us to access this material. Personally, I find it a big encouragement to meet with other mothers to encourage and support one another in this role. We were also able to offer support to Graham and Sarah Bunting back in February after the arrival of young Charlie with some meals to help them through the tiring days of early parenthood. Please pray for us that we can find the time to meet, pray and offer encouragement to each other.

Dawn Wisbey

Care Group

During this year we have continued to meet bi-monthly to report on visits made to parishioners. There are a multiplicity of reasons for these visits such as long term sickness, immobility (and therefore not being able to get to church) and those who are in care homes as well as those in hospital. Visits have also been made to bereaved partners to remind them that we will always give support when it is needed.

Cards are sent to those who are ill, who have been bereaved and on the anniversary of a bereavement. We also send cards to people who are celebrating special events.

Lyn continues to organise thanksgiving services and baptism visits. We remember these babies on their anniversary until they are five.

Thanks are due to all the Care Team for the time they give to visits and to everyone who is a good neighbour. A special thank you to all sides people who fill in the register because it

enables us to check on someone who might disappear " under the radar", and many thanks to John for setting it all up

Norma Nixey

Church Flowers

Flowers for the altar are provided by Church members and friends on a weekly rota during the year. We would like to encourage more to this. When there is a wedding the family concerned usually arrange for the Church to be decorated and our Sunday congregations enjoy the results. There is an enthusiastic team who decorate for the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest, and their efforts are always appreciated. In July 2018, for our 150th Anniversary celebration weekend, St Philips was decorated with flowers, purchased with a generous donation following the closure of Kelsall Flower Club. Donations are asked for at Eastertide for the purchase of Easter Lilies and other flowers. The restricted Flower Fund is open to, and indeed receives, donations throughout the year. Thank you to all those who help with the flowers and to those who donate so generously.

Mary Diggle

Parish News

As in previous years, six issues of the Parish News were published annually, with the subscription remaining at £5 per year for 6 copies, in effect this means that one copy per year is free of charge as the cover price for individual copies in church is £1.

The team of 19 distributors deliver 185 copies between them, this is approximately 13 less than last year, mainly due to various deaths throughout the year and people moving, but the new occupiers not wishing to receive a copy. 10 of those copies are taken to Kelsall Methodist Church by Mary Diggle. We are indebted to all of them for their help and hard work. The co-ordination of the distribution team is done by Douglas and Barbara Walters and we are extremely grateful to them for organising this.

Copies are also left in Wally Dutton's Butchers, the Chemist, Doctors surgeries and Vets, and are delivered to newcomers and new houses by Margaret Durbin and Irene Skinner and John Jones as part of the welcoming newcomers initiative.

The Parish News is uploaded to the church website at the following link

<http://www.kelsallparishchurch.org.uk/styled-22/index.html> and twitter [@stphilipskelsal](https://twitter.com/stphilipskelsal), by Chris Spray. The format enables you to turn the pages with a click of the mouse, making it much easier to read online. Grateful thanks are due to all who make contributions. Many thanks are due to Margaret Davies who this year has passed on the reins to Jane Pearson who is now compiling the rotas and dealing with advertisers for us. We are extremely grateful to Margaret for her years of hard work and for Jane for taking on this important task. John Diggle provides regular Outward Giving updates. A new feature this year was initiated by Lis Wye who contributes the poetry for the 'Quiet Corner'. Of course, we must not forget the Vicar for providing his 'View from the Vicarage' and other items. Please could items including dates to go in the diary be emailed direct to the editors at news@kelsallparishchurch.org.uk Contributions are always welcome direct to the editors at news@kelsallparishchurch.org.uk

If you know of any houses that have recently had new occupants, please take a Parish News (for free) from church and pop it through the door (or even better, take a Welcome Leaflet as well and call in and introduce St Philip's to them!).

Kath & Geoff Roberts

Communication & Outreach Group SPACE Events Review 2018

SPACE (St Philip's Alternative Church Experience) events have continued through much of 2018, however, the numbers attending have drifted downwards somewhat. However, there have usually been between 30-40 people attending and often there have been people attending who don't attend the weekly services in church. Thus 2018 saw slightly fewer events than previous years and the advent-based Christingle event was moved because it clashed with Peter Mackriell's induction at his new parish. Thus, the last SPACE event was led by Ian Enticott, our previous vicar, at harvest and a good time of fellowship was enjoyed.

Alongside the drift downwards in attendance, there has also been a reduction in the number of people able to assist with planning and organising these events. There were also question-marks over who the events were really targeted at now – originally these events have been targeted at those on the fringe of church, especially families and is aimed to provide a time when families can join together, whilst those on their own can come along and be included. The format was an informal café style, starting at 4 pm with coffee and tea, followed by time to consider the theme for the event, then a shared meal. It has become increasingly clear that the event was no longer suitable for many of the church children and we were not attracting new families. Indeed, it was recognised that catering for older children was increasingly impractical, especially as the requirements for boys differed from those of girls. All of this has led the organisational team to feel that the event was no longer viable in the current format. Grateful thanks are due to all of those who have supported SPACE over the past few years and have actively contributed to the food and setting-up for the events.

In an effort to continue with some form of alternative church service several St. Philip's folk met with a delegation from Kelsall Methodist Church to discuss some form of joint venture. This has led to a decision to hold an initial café style service at a joint St. Philip's/Methodist service in June and to review this before planning further events.

Kath Roberts & Andy Wisbey

Walking Group

The group has continued to thrive during the year with numbers on particular walks exceeding twenty people. The membership continues to be a good mix of people from St Philip's, the Methodist Church, the Catholic Church and other Anglican churches plus a good number of local villagers. For the annual Christmas lunch and walk 42 people came for lunch and 36 walked. We have tried to vary the level of the monthly walks from easy (6 miles and flat) to harder (about 8-9 miles and a bit hilly) to do our best to cater for varying levels of fitness. During the year 26 people visited the Yorkshire Dales, near Malam, for a long weekend and enjoyed excellent weather. Mid 2018 marked 20 years since the walking group was first formed by George Wilson (our lay reader at that time), Cliff Nixey and Dot Wilkinson. To celebrate this occasion a group of 16 held a lunch with George and Viv at the Morris Dancer.

Brian Rischmiller

Safeguarding Report

Since last year's report we have been busy updating and also developing new policies and guidelines in relation to our parish safeguarding commitments. A new Parish Safeguarding Handbook and supporting National Policy and Practise Guidelines have been formally adopted by the diocese and help to summarise the safeguarding responsibility for parishes and to support our day to day work. A copy is available at the back of church for anyone who wishes to view it. It is also available via our website at www.kelsallparish.org. Hopefully by the time this report is published all our children and young people volunteers will have completed training to their appropriate level and DBS checks in place or process where necessary. Recent changes in Splash and Whatever group sessions need some joined up

thinking now that all these activities take place away from our own building and currently sit under another denominations policy. If anyone has any comments, suggestions or concerns then please let me know. If I hear nothing, I will assume that the leaders and parents of the children/young people involved are happy with current arrangements. Also, all PCC members will have completed their training and again appropriate DBS checks in place where necessary. Last summer we made a brief start ensuring that our care group members were up to date with training and checks. Following Peter's departure, I now need to put further steps in place to ensure this area of church life is working within the policy and guidelines set by the diocese.

Changes to the structure of safeguarding within a parish means that we are no longer required to have a deputy safeguarding officer [this role was held by Peter], but we are required to have a safeguarding lead on PCC in addition to the Parish Safeguarding Officer [PSO] role. Whilst I currently sit on PCC, I have done both roles, but going forward there is a need for these two roles to sit separately simply as the role of PSO is not a PCC position.

To date there are no PCC members willing/able to take on this role. So, if there is anyone reading this report who feels that they would be able to contribute, and therefore possibly be co-opted for this role only then please speak to me or Brian Rischmiller. I would expect the main focus of this role to report issues back at PCC meetings and also to engage with PCC on tasks that the PSO has highlighted.

Each year we have to complete a Parish Safeguarding Audit and an action plan prepared following the audit. This is now in place for the coming year and will be signed off by Church Wardens and PSO following the APCM. As detailed in the parish news article, I am hoping to produce an annual/bi annual newsletter later in the year that will keep everyone up to date with what's happening, when and how.

Finally, even if you are not involved in any of the day to day safeguarding tasks, then please pray for us as a parish, for those who have responsibility for ensuring we follow the guidelines, for those who are responsible for our children, our young people and our vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, Safeguarding matters.

Andrea Gray

Church Modernisation

Good progress was made during the year with the definition of the project to re-order the inside of St Philip's. It was decided very early on that it would be much better to rename this as CHURCH MODERNISATION. This will involve several safety features such as removing tripping hazards and levelling the nave floor. The font will be moved and replaced by a smaller item at the rom of the nave which can be moved if necessary. The pews will be replaced by comfortable chairs, a new kitchenette will be built at the west end of the nave and a new accessible toilet built off the entrance porch.

The aim of all this work is not only to enhance our worship and create the opportunity for alternative kinds of service, but also to create a space which can be used by the village community. This is particularly important as it has been ascertained that currently there is a shortage of available rooms elsewhere in the village for the popular times of the week.

Plans have been finalized and planning permission obtained for the toilet extension off the entrance porch. After testing a variety of chairs in church on several Sundays, chairs have also been selected. A skilled liturgical furniture designer has also been working with us to propose new modern furniture designs for the chancel area and this work is still ongoing.

A faculty application for the major structural changes to the church was submitted to gain permission for this work to be done and initially was returned for further consideration and

modification on a few issues. A revised application was submitted at the end of the year which has now been accepted and the faculty application approved.

Some fund raising also started during the year, in conjunction with the church's 150-year celebrations. In particular there was a concert series held through the year which it total raised over £3000. Calendar sales, an Italian meal in the church lounge and photographic competition together with a generous legacy amount meant that by the year end about half of the money required for the project had been raised.

Brian Rischmiller

Worship

The full range of services (at least two every Sunday) continued as usual during 2018, including major Festivals, Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. We also held our usual special services: DofE Awards, Christian Unity, Folk Festival, Remembrance, Memorial, Carol, and Christmas Eve Service. Most of these were joint with KMC. Added to these was our 150th Anniversary Service in July led by Bishop Peter.

During the year, of particular note:

- We decided with KMC to increase the number of joint services to about one each month. The visiting church provides the preacher.
- Since Peter Mackriell's departure, from the second week of November, visiting priests have conducted our Holy Communion services. Canon Stephen Attwater comes for one Sunday and a mid-week service every month. The other services have been led by one of the Tarvin ministry team. We are grateful to them all.
- We have also had a number of visiting organists for each sung service – except those led by our own musicians – with Jill Robey from Bunbury coming most often.
- We held a Christingle service, jointly with KMC, on Christmas Eve instead of the usual nativity service – because of the small number of our younger children, and the need to cancel the Christingle service arranged for early Advent.
- The SPACE events have continued bi-monthly. Although attracting a few folk who would not otherwise come to a service, the service required a lot of (human) resource and was becoming unsustainable. The next experimental service is a joint 'café church' in June at KMC.

At the time of writing, nearly every service up to the end of September has a priest / leader allocated. Attendances have, on average, remained at pre-vacancy levels so far.

John Diggle

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Service at St Philip's.

On January 27th we held our Annual Duke of Edinburgh Awards' Service at St Philip's. It was great to see the church full of young people and their families to celebrate the achievement of gaining their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

This year we had 37 Awards to be presented and the service was attended by Karen Green, MBE, who is the 'Edsential' *Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager* for our region.

We have had expeditions in N Wales, Shropshire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and the Lake District and we have over 60 young people enrolled with us at all 3 levels of the Award. Already this year we have enjoyed our first 'training' day hike on the Sandstone Trail with all 21 newly recruited Bronzes and 2 groups of enthusiastic Silvers.

We are particularly proud of our Gold Award group, seven of whom are attending Buckingham Palace on May 13th to be presented with their Certificates. They are: Anna Robinson, Annabelle Jones, Tom Adkins, Sam Grinter, Rebecca Goodier, Anna Richardson and Lucy Phillipson. **Congratulations** to them all!

Two other 'special' awards were presented at the Awards' Service. One was to Jonty Pattinson, who has done both Bronze and Silver with us, which was a West Cheshire Youth & Community Award for a 'Young Person showing Outstanding Achievement' and is richly deserved, and the other to Peter Moore who set up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Kelsall ten years ago and achieved the CWAC 'Adult volunteer of the year' which is for unpaid volunteers in the community working for the benefit of young people.

We surprisingly received further awards in February, as Daniel Gaskarth, Elaine Shakspeare and Pete Moore were given 'Ten year' certificates for service with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Cheshire and Sue Hannan a 'Five year' award. We also have two keen new leaders, Phil Manley and Steve Sheard, and the Duke of Edinburgh group seems to go from strength to strength.

Thank-you for supporting this venture and for your prayers and for letting us share the young people's achievements here in church.

Elaine Shakspeare