

St James the Less Parish APCM 2020 Reports for Meeting

Christian Aid Report 2019

St. James Church raised £118.00 when they hosted their Lent lunch in March. A further £284.50 was raised from the sponsored walk in May, plus £23.27 from a collection box left at Tibbs Green Grocers throughout the year, making our total annual contribution £425.77. The total raised in Teignmouth and Shaldon during the year was £3,130.52.

Huge thanks to everyone has contributed to this very worthwhile charity. If anyone has any fund raising ideas, or would like to support Christian Aid during 2019/2020, please contact me.

Many thanks, Joyce Annal. [January 2020]

Kenn Deanery Synod

Up until the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April 2019 the elected Lay representative from our parish was Peter Wood. Anna Venables was also elected at this meeting to serve as the other representative from West Teignmouth [St James the Less] Parish.

During 2019 there were three Deanery Synod meetings held. At the February 2019 meeting in Bishopsteignton the guest speaker was Penny Mills, Branch Director covering Devon of the Campaign to Protect Rural England [CPRE]. The June 2019 meeting, hosted at Dunsford, welcomed the guest speaker, the Revd Rosie Austin from Shirwell Mission Community, made up of 7 rural parishes which cover 50 square miles northeast of Barnstaple. She offered an inspirational presentation exploring how God was calling them to bless their communities with the resources they already have. At the October 2019 meeting, hosted at Starcross, the Bishop of Crediton provided an inspirational and amusing question and answer session alongside the Rural Dean, the Revd Dallas Ayling.

At these meetings there are also the financial report updates on the contribution towards parish share payments etc to the diocese – to meet the cost of stipendiary ministry and central support. Other topics at these meetings have also include: Bishops' in Mission 2020; Devon Historic Churches Trust; and support by the Diocese of Exeter towards our link Diocese of Thika in Kenya. Thanks also go to all the parishes that hosted these meetings and for supplying the welcome refreshments on arrival.

Anna Venables & Peter Wood [January 2020]

Dorcas Group Report 2019/20

During 2019 we have had a varied programme of speakers: – Stewart Henchie on Kew Gardens, Devon Air Ambulance Trust, Home Safety by the Fire & Rescue Services and a light-hearted talk on Fun in the 1950's. These talks have been followed by excellent two-course lunches provided by Jonathan of Carole's Cupcakes. They are served by Marion, June and Pat assisted by Peter and Tom, our waiters. This all adds to the enjoyment of the meals which are happy occasions.

We have enjoyed four lunches at the Masonic Hall provided by Chris and June Owen. These will continue into 2020. The year's outings went to Barnstaple, Sidmouth and the Donkey Sanctuary, Widecombe with a cream tea at The House of Marbles and Tavistock for the Christmas Tree Festival. We now have a regular number of non-members who enjoy the trips and this helps to keep the trips going.

Coffee Mornings are well attended and provide an opportunity to get together and chat.

Our Service in Memory of our Loved Ones gave us an opportunity to remember them and all that they meant to us. This was followed by a delicious lunch.

We have welcomed several new members during the year including some gentlemen. All are made to feel welcome. I feel this is what the group does best; offering friendship and support to each other. I would like to thank all our volunteers this year – the coffee ladies, the raffle ladies and the washing-up group. Dianne has been a great help at meetings. Each of you is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank all my volunteers this year; All of you are greatly appreciated.

For further information about Dorcas please speak to me; Christine Marsh (Group Leader) – 01626 772561

Report for Friday Club 2019/20

Friday Club has continued to meet on the first Friday of the month [except August] throughout the year. We average an attendance of eight children and nine adults at meetings. We meet in the Whitford Room at St James and are very pleased to say that we have a good mixture of St James and St Michaels as members, plus we have families from Bishopsteignton and Kingsteignton.

The Friday Club Team consists of Pam Bridger, Doris Pashley, Kirsten Jones, Barbara Cooper, Bex Hooper, Hannah Bailey and Tricia Stuckey plus, we have just been joined by Marion Delaney. As two of our team have young babies

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and cannot always be with us, plus some of us of older years are not always in the best of health we have been very grateful for the added help from Joyce Annal and Hazel Lott.

We have also been delighted to welcome Jane Frost on the Fridays that she can manage to come.

Every meeting we provide a cooked meal mainly for children, though there is usually enough for adults to have a snack as well. We play games and do craft work; we sometimes sing, but more importantly we have a teaching on a Reading from the Bible which is usually tied in with the Lectionary for the following Sunday.

Due to some of our members being of school age and upwards, we have split into two groups for the teaching. The little ones still continue with the simple teaching we have always had, but the older ones are now having a slightly more advanced teaching which they seem to appreciate.

We would value continued prayers for Friday Club as we still have competition from other children's activities in the town. All these activities are good and right for children to take part in, but it is hard for us having to compete. We lost Sunday School and Family Services to Rugby etc. and now find that Fridays are being gobbled up too. Please pray hard for this work as children need to know about God and we have indications of two missed generations who know very little, if anything, about God and Church. Our desire is to reach out to local children whose families do not necessarily attend church, but plans for that are still in their early stages, so you can see that much prayer is needed. Tricia Stuckey and Pam Bridger [March 2020]

The Leprosy Mission

During 2019 the congregation of St. James' continued to support the work of the Leprosy Mission. We achieve this through collecting used stamps, keeping informed about TLM's work by reading 'New Day' booklets, and with prayer and prayer booklets. Those who used TLM collecting boxes raised £163, and a further £ 400 was given by St. James' PCC. Thank you all for your support of those affected by leprosy.

Pam Bridger [February 2020]

Mothers' Union [members formerly relating to St James the Less and St Michael the Archangel] Teignmouth

Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity that seeks to support families worldwide with over four million members who are actively involved in projects in eighty three countries. Locally, the majority of Mothers' Union members from both congregations, who continue to attend the monthly meetings, opted to become Diocesan members at the start of 2019. We are very grateful for the passion, enthusiasm and energy of Pat Henchie, the former combined churches Branch Leader, who has continued to organise monthly gatherings at St Michael's Church on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm. Right at the heart of our commitment as members here in Teignmouth is to translate into our daily lives the Mothers' Union Vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships – through praying, campaigning and enabling families and communities – both here in Britain and around the world. And over the past year Pat also took responsibility to offer an invitation and very warm welcome for others to come to join these gatherings through the Teignmouth Parish News Magazine and Weekly News Sheets.

She also suggested that a Display Board be set up in St Michael's Church. Initially it was placed there as part of the annual Flower Festival, to advertise the work of the Mothers' Union to the tourists / visitors to Teignmouth during this event. With so much interest shown, it was decided to keep the display available for the rest of the Summer and it is still there for when the church building is open for events with images / articles relating to the work of Mothers' Union and how they are encouraging the building of Hope and Confidence – at both local and global level. It would be difficult to estimate how many seeds have been sown about the work of the Mothers' Union, as this display is available to inform visitors / tourists entering the 'Church by the Sea'; but leaflets 'Changing the World' available by the display are continually being replenished.

In the past year Mothers' Union members have also been faithfully praying for the life and Christian witness of the Haldon Mission Community – with a specific congregation being prayed each week across the six parishes – using a Prayer Diary. Hard copies of the Prayer Diary were distributed to Mothers' Union members and a copy of this Prayer Diary was also available via Haldon Mission Community Web Site – for anyone else wishing to join and pray alongside Mothers' Union members.

Upon receipt of The Clewer Initiative 'Spot the Signs of Modern Slavery' Posters sent out at the beginning of October 2019 from the Mothers' Union Diocesan Office in Exeter [now on display in all six parish churches] Pat Henchie also arranged for the 'four signs' to be printed in full on the front page of the Weekly News Sheet – given out to the congregations attending services in all the parishes.

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We were also very grateful to Marion Delaney, who is also a member of the editing team for Teignmouth Parish News, who ensured that the daily Bible Readings and Texts [available as a resource via the Mary Sumner House Web Site to support the 16 Days of Activism] was the front page article for the November 2019 edition – communicating these issues not only to members of the respective congregations but also out into the local community.

In response to the encouragement by the Team Rector and Team Vicar seeking to build stronger bonds amongst parishes across the Haldon Mission Community, Mothers' Union members took an active part by moving out beyond parochial boundaries [not only through the prayers being offered] but also contributing to the Advent 'Angel Festival' hosted at Bishopsteignton in December 2019.

Our gratitude is also expressed to Teignmouth West [St James the Less] PCC who very kindly agreed to donate funds at their December 2019 meeting towards the Mothers' Union Book Share, a national Prison Project including Channings Wood, Dartmoor and Exeter prisons here within the County of Devon.

Pat Henchie and Anna Venables [January 2020]

Report on St James' Organ

St James Church hosts a fine two manual organ which has been recently tuned and inspected in December 2019. Our organ is maintained by Lance Foy and his son Christopher, who come from Truro. Unfortunately, it is becoming more and more difficult to maintain our fine instrument as, in the words of Lance Foy, the electrics to the organ are now 'shot' and any maintenance work can only be very temporary as major renovation is now needed. The renovations desperately needed for our organ comes at a cost which will require major fundraising before funds can be found for the work to go ahead.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to rely on the organ in the context that due to its failing and elderly electrics, some of the stops do not switch off once used. This can cause major disruption as found when Teign Choral had their rehearsal for their Christmas Concert and the Trumpet stop remained sounding long after the tap stop had been put into the off position. When the quieter music was needed, this caused a major intrusion and delay during the practice whilst the organist had to go up to the organ loft and manually disconnect the trumpet stop.

There have been several instances during a Sunday Service when some stops will not disconnect and have sounded loudly on isolated notes. This has happened a number of times during incidental music and at communion. It is only a matter of time now before our beautiful instrument will no longer be of standard to play during a service. As each year passes, the instrument declines greatly. Lance Foy, our organ builder is now very limited as to what he can do to keep our organ maintained unless sufficient funds can be found for its long overdue major overhaul.

As a matter of urgency, I would ask that our Parish address these issues the time is fast coming when our organ will no longer function to a reasonable standard and the services would have to be accompanied on the piano.

Many thanks. Organist and Music Director [February 2020]

Operation Imprezza Report

It was so lovely to have Catherine at St James at the Sunday service where she gave a talk to the congregation. She looked well and was enjoying her stay here although she had been really busy with visiting etc.

The main thing this year has been the locusts which are now twenty miles away from the school. They are of biblical proportions being about two miles across and they are keeping their fingers crossed that they will divert away from the school. The school year has now started in January and the pupils study the Arts, humanities geography and History as well as the basics. The school now has its own electricity and water [from a bore hole]. It seems as though just as they think they are doing well the authorities step in and alter things. The boy's beds in the dormitories have to be further apart so this means they have to build another dormitory to accommodate this.

They have done really well academically this year. Keep it up Imprezza Academy. Thank you all at St James and St Michael's for your contributions. God Bless Mary Prior [February 2020]

Thursday Housegroup APCM Report

Throughout 2019 there were many interesting studies when we were reading the 'Letters' in the New Testament. We always tried to consider who wrote them – why they were written – to whom were they written – what were the political circumstances when they were written.

Simple things came to light [I am sure ALL our readers will know already!] – the early Christians, or Followers of the Way, were mainly Jews [you and I are Gentiles]. The Apostles were Jews – Jesus was a Jew [NOT Christian!]. Many of the letters were written to encourage those Jews who were suffering persecution – to deepen their faith – to teach

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them about Jesus and to combat heresies that were 'creeping in' and affect this 'New Belief'. The Gnostic Movement being one example.

Another surprise from our discussions of the early church was that many problems they had we experience today! Dare I mention – divisions between the various factions – antagonism between the established church [meaning people] and the more Charismatic attitude of some church members – also an apathy of the general public to any 'religious' movement.

We did have some very 'interesting' discussions. BUT, after 22 years of meetings, it felt right to bring our chats to a close. So we met for a celebratory meal on 16th February 2020 and said 'Farewell' for the last time.

Arthur and Penny [February 2020]

St James' Tower Report 2020

Members: R Barter, Julia Brett, Madeleine Brett, Verity Brett, Janet Clutterbuck, Martin Dodd, J Dowling, Alan Furse, Elaine Grant, Trevor Pearce-Jones, D Robertson, Ann Roper, Fiona Rock-Evans, Elaine Smerdon, J Stern, Roger Treweek and Jean Wilson.

It is a joint band of ringers for St Michael's and St James'. Most ringers' are Guild Members, some live out of the town and cannot always ring for services. There are a few ringers that also do stop to the service.

Practise night is on the last Tuesday of the month. Estuary hand-bell ringers have several members of the tower team and ring for special Church events and practise on Monday afternoons at St Michael's. We have a Tower outing in April or May visiting five or six Churches with ringing at each Church and another short outing in the Autumn. There is always a Christmas dinner on the first Tuesday in December.

The Bell Project still lives on raising money for special projects to do with the bells of St Michaels or St James. Anyone wishing to learn the art of Bell ringing should come to St Michaels on a Tuesday evening between 7.30 pm and 9.00 pm or phone Tower Captain. Our Secretary is now Julia Brett.

Tower Captain St Michael's and St James. Martin Dodd. [January 2020]

Churchwarden's Report for APCM 2020

In addition to the Reports being submitted to the APCM, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank other groups and members of the congregation not mentioned in them for their contribution towards mission and ministry, the practical upkeep of the building week by week; in addition to our outreach in partnership with the local community during the past year:

- * Baptism Visitor responsibilities, initially led by Tricia Stuckey and then by the Revd Val Atkinson;
- * Confirmation Group hosted at St James, led by the Revd Val Atkinson and the Revd Jim Quinn;
- * Haldon Mission Community Web Site, thanking Andy Harding for his contribution
towards the advertising of events through social media on behalf of St James;
- * Julian Prayer Group hosted monthly at St James, where a warm welcome is also extended to our ecumenical partners;
- * Leading Prayers of Intercession and Bible Readings at services, to enhance our Sunday worship;
- * St James Choir members, for their faithful contribution to also enhance our worship to God;
- * St James Cleaning Team, including Pam Bridger, Val Clough, Kirsten Jones, Hazel Lott, the Revd Jim Quinn,
Jean Wilson, and Nicky Whitlock – gathering weekly on Friday mornings as our 'Heavenly Dusters'
- * St James Celebration Festival, particularly for Angela Healy's support and contribution
as we work towards a local community-led event in July;
- * St James Flower Guild, led by Betty Ayres and her team for providing the beautiful floral arrangements;
- * St James Fundraising Events – to everyone who has contributed in any way to these events, especially to Annie Williams and Jean Wilson for their lead for the events on The Den in July, and the Pancake Party earlier this month;
- * Sides-persons, offering a warm welcome to those attending services – to both regular attenders and visitors;
- * Thursday Craft Group held monthly with 12–18 attending,
where sharing in fellowship together is as important as creating items for fundraising events;

and to also express thanks to everyone else not included in the above list who have contributed in any way towards the Christian mission and ministry offered through St James, and out into our local community and beyond.

Doris Pashley [February 2020]