

# St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze

St Mary's is part of the West Swindon  
and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



Christ the Crown of Thorns wallpainting in the South Porch

**Annual Report and Financial Statements  
of the Church Ministry Leadership Team  
for the year ending 31 December 2018**

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## **WEDNESDAY HOME GROUP**

The Group has met 26 times in 2018. The group remains small but stable, and meets so long as no more than two members are absent.

This year, we have continued with DVD courses as usual. The video format followed by group discussion and references to scripture suits our members.

This year, we have looked at:

John Ortberg (one of our favourite authors):

‘I’d like You More if You were More Like Me’ (started in 2017)

Lisa Harper (an American author and speaker)

‘Believing Jesus: A Journey through the Book of Acts’

Tom Holladay and Kay Warren (from Saddleback Church, California)

‘Foundations: God’

John Beck

‘Land Without Borders’ (A journey with his study group through the wilderness spaces of the Holy Land)

Francis Chan

‘Letters to the Church’ (A series looking at revival in church values, which has provoked a lot of discussion within our group!)

We continue to enjoy the discussions, fellowship, and prayer within the Group. I thank Pat and Lisa for allowing us to use their homes for Group meetings.

**Ian Whitworth**

## **COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**

The Group has continued in the form of the Communications Focus Group, liaising with St Mary’s Conservation Project via Sarah Finch-Crisp.

As the Delivery Stage of the Conservation Project started, the Group has seen Ed Poole and Revd Teresa Townsend organise a couple of meetings towards the end of 2018, to establish the role and responsibilities of the Group going forward, and its relationship with the communications activities of the Conservation Project.

**Lyn Morgan**

## **ST MARY’S LYDIARD TREGOZE AGM AGENDA, 11.15 am, 03 MARCH 2019**

**Opening worship,**

God is good, all the time

**All the time God is good.**

**Psalm 150 read by Lynwen Morgan**

**Prayer**

**Apologies**

**Minutes of the last AGM**

**Vestry meeting: Election of Churchwardens**

**Members of the MLT**

(Election of Officers takes place at first MLT meeting)

**Representative to join Wardens on Partnership Council**

**Representative for Deanery Synod, Methodist, WEBA  
and others.**

**Ratification of those administering Communion and reading  
banns**

**Reports with responses as appropriate.**

**Partnership Policies**

**Questions to the Vicar**

**A.O.B.**

**Closing Prayer**

## **MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM**

### **Trustees**

Wardens: Pat Watson, Jacqueline Kirwan

### **Elected Ministry Leadership Team Members:**

Pat Watson  
Jacqueline Kirwan  
Hazel Davis  
Wendy Deverell  
Paul Gardner  
Ellen Heavens  
Neil Heavens  
Brian Henderson  
Doreen Henderson  
Mat Koelz  
Lyn Morgan  
Mary Poole  
Connie Roach  
Paula Roach  
Alison Lewis (Minutes Secretary)

### **Ex-Officio Ministry Leadership Team Members:**

Revd Capt Clive Deverell, Vicar  
Revd Trevor Day, Associate Minister  
Revd Teresa Townsend, Curate  
Sue Green (Treasurer)

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

This year, after the first meeting of the year, the leaders made a decision to update some of the documents that we use in Junior Church, and adopt a policy of making registration an annual event so that the leaders can be confident in having the most up-to-date information about the children who attend, so that we can continue to provide a safe learning environment. We also added a tick-box so that we can have permission to take photographs of the children participating in their activities for display in the Stable Room, and added to the Junior Church scrapbook.

We have started on rationalising our equipment and cupboards; we have been gifted some new equipment and paid for some out of the Junior Church funding, which also paid for the children at the now regular annual bowling get together, at which we were joined by many self-funding adults. I think that it was enjoyed by all who attended.

Junior Church has been teaching by sharing with our young people, stories from the Bible (usually using the Roots magazine content as a basis for our weekly sessions) and encouraging learning through various activities; the cake sale held later last year raised over £20.00 for the Junior Church funds. It is hoped that we can arrange two such sales annually from now on.

I think it is fair to say that the leaders and children have enjoyed the sessions that the leaders and helpers prepare. We are learning a lot more together; especially when the children share their thoughts with us, which are often quite enlightening.

It has been a delight to see the core children developing their social skills and friendship, and making visiting children feel welcome; the 'show-and-tell' in the church after the children return has been a great success, and helps the children grow in confidence, even though it has been a little embarrassing occasionally, and the children participating in the monthly family service has also worked well.

We look forward to continued sessions, not only this new year, but in the years to come.

**Prepared by Mat on behalf of Susan and the rest of the Junior Church team – Sarah, Mat, Jacqueline, Janet, Myra and Connie.**

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

2018 has been a very challenging year for the Mothers' Union, with a reduced membership owing to ill-health.

We have had some excellent speakers, both entertaining and informative.

Members attended various Diocesan events, including the Lady Day Service at Christ Church, where we had the opportunity to meet our World Wide President, Mrs Lyn Tenby.

A Deanery Quiet Morning was held in St Mary's Church, led by Red Trevor Day, whose theme was 'Following in the footsteps of Mary Sumner'

We celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of one of our members with cake and wine.

A Wave of Prayer Service, followed by lunch was well attended.

Members were involved in a Global Service of Prayer against gender-based violence.

We ended the year with our Advent Service.

Our members have been very active in the support of St Mary's Church, and are involved in Church cleaning, flower arranging, serving drinks after Sunday services, and providing refreshments when required. We also make sandwiches for The Filling Station, who distribute them to the homeless in Swindon, and members send shoe boxes to the charity Samaritan's Purse, for distribution to children abroad.

Although our Branch has a small membership, I am extremely grateful to the members who show commitment to the Branch with their time and generosity devoted to numerous projects, involving help and support, throughout the United Kingdom and abroad.

**Jean Brock  
Branch Leader**

## **MINISTERS' REPORT**

***"All the believers were together and had everything in common"***  
Acts 2:44

**Your** report gives you a snapshot of what it means to belong to the community of your Church and fellowship. The report looks at the many different ways in which we engage with one another and with the wider community, as we seek to live out our faith in Christ Jesus. Some of which I have been part of others not.

I hope that this report provokes you to think more widely; I ask that because I am having to think myself, about what it means to be together in our Churches and as a Partnership - what is it we have in common?

For all of us this year has been a bit of a roller-coaster - sometimes difficult with illness and bereavements, (remembering especially Resa) – sometimes with the joy - weddings, baptisms, graduations, confirmations, the beginnings of the next phase in the Conservation Project and by no means least, the appointment of our new curate, Teresa.

### **Remembering and Mission**

Why is it, that every year we are excited by what happens; whether negative [an opportunity to learn] or positive [an affirmation of our learning]. This year has been another "stepping out into a new domain" for me (Trevor) as Chaplain to our new Mayor of Swindon [Junab Ali]. It is a one-year appointment that has drawn me into wider Swindon issues, and not just those of West Swindon. I have a clearer insight into Islam, and appreciate the similarities in our respective faiths. It also fitted neatly into our work with the Royal British Legion, and the Field of Remembrance in Lydiard Park Walled Garden.

2018 was a special year, reflecting on 100 years since the formal end of the World War 1, which took me away from Partnership activities for the first three weeks of November - a very special time.

I think, what it has re-affirmed in me, is that we often get absorbed by our church, and forget where our mission fields really are. I sometimes forget that "church" is wherever I am and with whoever I meet. Church for me, is not the building, nor the Christian denomination. It's living the life that God has given me, in the way that Jesus has taught me ... "loving one another with a pure heart fervently" [1 Peter 1 v22], which are also words from that S.S. Wesley Anthem "Blessed be the God and Father". Meeting people on my travels ... sharing Holy Communion at home with those no longer able to get to church - they are for me what "church"

is. Singing has been a key part of my Christian life since the age of six and three quarters. In our Partnership, we have four denominations, but we are all Christians, following the one Lord Jesus, and I can enjoy singing in any one of our Partnership churches.

However, during the latter part of the 2018, singing has not been possible because my vocal cords have decided not to work as they should do; and at the end of the year, I have started to find it difficult to speak. What I've found is, that when one thing stops, God opens up new opportunities and reinforces those other gifts that were lying there semi-dormant.

So, when you hear my voice croaking away and ask me if I'd like a peppermint or eucalyptus sweet to suck on, I might answer "Yes", not because it would help the croaking voice, but because I like sweets.

## **Change**

Change can be something good if managed well! Having good communication, through conversation and listening, a willingness to learn and share means change can be intentional, productive and positive. For me – Teresa - as the 'newbie' (yet another member of the Church of England clergy), I could have found the change from leaving my sending church of thirty-five years, to arriving in the Partnership, extremely difficult. There could have been a time of bereavement, the loss of what has always been, my comfort zone, my 'normal'. But I haven't felt that. I have embraced the change, asked questions, listened, learned and will continue to do so very intentionally. It is an exciting time to be a Curate in the Partnership; we are in a time of change here which is challenging, daunting and exciting. By working together, as the one body of Christ, we can be focused on the bigger picture of building God's kingdom here on earth, so the necessary changes open up new possibilities for the future.

## **Holy Habits**

Beginning Holy Habits is an important part of our future and already the first fruits are evident. A desire to learn and discover how we might be more holy and habitual in our discipleship is already apparent. As ever, we are grateful to you all for your kindnesses to us as families and your support from Wardens Jacqueline and Pat, to you all, our deepest thanks

Our challenge will be to read this, **your** report, and reflect how many others helped deliver that event or activity, in our own context here at St Mary's and wider. God is moving! How can we join in here and expand and join in God's Mission, here and across the Partnership but also where are we being prompted to put our limited resources.

**Clive, Trevor and Teresa**

## **HOLY HABITS**

I am the Holy Habits champion for St Mary's. Holy Habits is a ten-themed church-based activity gleaned from Acts 2:42-47, helping to develop Christian discipleship. Each theme lasts two months, encouraging an in-depth understanding and application. Over the summer, Sunday sermons introduced the Holy Habits concept.

The first spiritual theme "Worship" was presented in Sunday services over November and December. During 2019, six more Holy Habits themes will be presented throughout the Partnership. These will include "Biblical Teaching" and "Prayer". Holy Habits themes are presented during Sunday services, supported by other activities, including a monthly Bible Study group.

It is hoped Holy Habits will encourage personal Spiritual growth and a common sense of unity in the Partnership.

**Peter Roslyk**

## **PRAYER GROUP**

Prayer group has met regularly over the last 12 months, and we continue to pray for St Mary's, the Partnership, the world, each other and prayer requests that have reached us from visitors far and wide. Prayer Group has continued to be supported by the same regular few, and I would like to thank Julianna Ridsdale for her support in leading the group with me.

**Wendy Deverell**

## **PASTORAL CARE GROUP**

This group has continued to meet regularly throughout 2018, providing support for the church family of St Mary's, and within the wider Partnership of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze.

The meeting starts with a time of prayer for the church family members including particular individuals who are unwell, bereaved, or in any other form of difficulty. We also pray for Partnership issues, for our clergy, lay readers and other worship leaders including those involved with our schools work, and any other issues raised by the group.

The main part of the meeting is when each Pastoral Friend shares with the group any concerns or contacts they have had with those on the family / membership list.

There is a list on the Stable Room noticeboard of the St Mary's Pastoral Friends. Any one of them can be contacted by members of the congregation if you would like support, prayer, to ask questions about the church, or to find out who is your Pastoral Friend. If you would prefer a different member of the group to offer support, then please let us know and you can be allocated your preferred person.

Members of the team have been issued a certificate from the 'Disclosure and Barring Authority', to work with vulnerable adults. Further pastoral training this year did not take place, due to a number of factors. (Arrangements for 2019 will be explored to provide joint training with the other pastoral teams within the Partnership).

The Pastoral Friends would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the congregation for their support. We would urge all those in the congregation to help the pastoral team to extend a warm welcome and fellowship to newcomers and visitors to St. Mary's, so we can continue to live up to our mission statement of being a 'living, loving, worshipping community in an historic building'.

The Pastoral Friends are: Jacqueline Kirwan, Pat Watson, Sarah Pritchard, Tish Vass, Jean Brock, Hazel Davis, Revd Trevor Day.

**Jacqueline Kirwan**

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

2018: A more unusual year!

A number of us attended the Lent course which was called 'Finding a Voice' and was based on film clips from 'The Kings Speech', this was an interesting way of thinking about the ways of communicating within the church family.

Our ever-popular 'Strawberry Teas' were organised by Doreen, thanks to you and your team again. The Teas were held on all the Sundays in June and extended all the way through July the exception being the 1<sup>st</sup> July when we welcomed Teresa Townsend as our Curate to St. Mary's and the Partnership with a wonderful buffet lunch after the service.

In July, we welcomed the return of the Strictly Recorders and Wentworth Voices providing another superb evening of entertainment. Our thanks go to all involved.

During the year we had many visitors to the church, who were greeted by the stewards and our thanks go to the stewarding team especially Paul and Mat for their time, commitment and their knowledge shared with all.

We were delighted to be successful in our bid for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund this time around, this allows us to progress with the Conservation Project which will be delivered over the next 2 years or so.

This year was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Great War, which meant a special period of Remembrance in the Walled Garden, with 2 minutes silence at 11am and 2pm, led by a number of members of the church. In the church we also had activity stations relating to the Great War kindly set up by Gayle for the visitors.

We welcomed the start of the conservation in the Church. Fortunately, the Conservator's scaffolding was removed in time for the Christmas services and the three candlelit weddings that took place.

We would like to extend our ongoing thanks to all those who help with the many tasks on the rota and behind the scenes that keep the church in smooth running order.

**Pat Watson and Jacqueline Kirwan**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2018**

The General Fund this year had another decrease and is now at £11,167. Both income and expenditure were down on last year. Whilst fees from weddings and funerals was up a bit, planned giving was down.

With expenditure, we met the budgeted £36,000 to the Partnership but because giving was down, we reduced the tithing to a total of £4,500 down from the £5,000 in previous years. However, the Christmas collections were up, so we were able to give £1,725. We had a slightly higher electricity amount this year as we got the meter readings up to date, otherwise expenditure was not far off the budget.

We now have £5,616 in the General Fund which has been given for the sound system.

The Building Fund had income of £164,454 and expenditure of £97,805. The Building Fund is now at £83,350 plus a £30,000 loan from the Partnership.

Looking forward to 2019, we are expecting less income due to the conservation work having an impact on baptisms, weddings, funerals and visitors. The budget has been set with similar expenditure, except for the Partnership share which will be lower.

**Sue Green**

## **MUSIC AND UKULELE GROUPS**

This year, as usual, the Music Group has led the music for services once a month (other than August), and provided the music for the Christingle and Crib Services. The Ukulele Group provided music at one of the Strawberry Teas in the Summer, and held a 'Christmas Sing-along' of carols and Christmas songs in the Stable Room at the beginning of December. Only a few church members and guests braved the cold to turn out, but they all had a good time. Many thanks to Pauline Bowler, who made the hot drinks for musicians and audience!

Many thanks to Adrian and Hilary for accompanying the Music Group in church many times throughout the year, to Jean for singing with us whenever she can - and to Pat, for putting together the whole music rota, which includes the Sundays when the Music Group play.

We've had to be a bit adaptable this year, when the Family Pew was out of action, we had to find ourselves a temporary 'home' in the choir stalls, and we practised at Pat and Mike's home (thanks Pat and Mike!) when the Stable Room was unavailable due to Carol Services. Wendy led the Crib Service this year, but thankfully still played her ukulele from the other side of the pulpit!

We are quite a small group now, and we can't always all be at practices or services - we're quite a busy group of people, and even the healthiest of us get ill from time to time - but we still manage to make plenty of noise when necessary. We're also continuing to add to our repertoire of both hymns (as Music and Ukulele Group) and non-hymns (as Ukulele Group). In April 2018 Wendy and Paula attended a New Wine Worship Leading Day, based around music for church, which gave extra food for thought.

We welcome new members from the congregation - the Music Group practises once a month, and the Ukulele Group practises on the weeks in between. If you're interested, then just talk to Paula or Connie.

We'd like to thank the members of the Music Group and Ukulele Group for all their efforts, often turning out for practices on cold, dark nights after a hard day's work - we really value the fellowship and friendship which the group shares, and hope that we've made it possible for our church members and visitors to worship God through music throughout the year.

**Paula and Connie Roach, Music and Ukulele Group  
Leaders**



## **LYDIARD TREGOZE BELL RINGERS**

### **Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers**

St Mary's tower is a member of the Swindon Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers. St Mary's hosts ringing for the Swindon Branch on an annual basis.

We have continued to ring the bells to call people to worship at St Mary's and that remains the primary objective of the bell ringers at Lydiard Tregoze. Despite our relatively small cohort of ringers, the number of occasions on which we were unable to ring for Sunday services are thankfully few and far between, although we often have a spare rope (or two) on Sunday mornings.

### **Retention, Recruitment, Training and Publicity**

Having started the year with a rather depleted number we were thrilled to be joined in April, by Jason, an experienced but lapsed ringer who hadn't rung since moving to Swindon. He is able to offer guidance and look after the ringing at any level and was also able to give the bells a thorough check over. We were also pleased to welcome Michael on board and can now sometimes be heard ringing minor methods on a Tuesday evening! In the spring Nicky took a break, we hope she will rejoin us when she is able to. Dena is back living at home while she completes her studies so is able to ring with us again. We have had no new recruits this year so really do need some to keep the band numbers in a healthy state.

### **Quarter Peals and Weddings**

15 quarter peals were rung through the past year, 12 by our local band and 3 by visiting bands. We also welcomed visitors on bell ringing outings. During 2018, we rang for 13 weddings. We participated in the national campaign of Ringing Remembers and rang at 12.30 on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice.

If anyone is interested in learning to ring please contact Jenny at [jem277@yahoo.com](mailto:jem277@yahoo.com).

**Jenny Moore**

## **BUILDING AND CONSERVATION REPORT**

In September 2018 St Mary's church was successful in its Round 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, receiving a Delivery Stage grant award from the Heritage Lottery Fund to conserve its gorgeous interiors. The main focus of the Delivery Phase is the conservation of the extensive medieval wall paintings, which have been identified by the Church of England as one of the 100 artworks currently most in need of conservation in their **100 Church Treasures Appeal**. The scheme will restore St Mary's historic interiors and make them more accessible to the public with access improvements, imaginative interpretation and lively education programmes. New heating and lighting systems are planned.

Stage 1 of the Conservation Project Delivery Stage ran from the beginning of November to mid-December 2018, with work in the St John Chapel and South Porch, replastering the walls and conserving the very rare wall painting "Christ the Crown of Thorns". During this work in the South Porch a 17<sup>th</sup> century fireplace has been discovered.

The Royal Coat of Arms has been removed for conservation, and will return next year. Maundy Thursday 2018 saw the return to St Mary's of the 180-year-old Thomas Becket watercolour painting donated to St Mary's by the Brake family. The painting conservation and framing were funded by the Friends of Lydiard Park.

The match fund-raising for the main conservation is very close to achieving its target, with continued fund-raising throughout 2018. The shortfall now stands at £12,000. Throughout the Summer into November, volunteers from Thames Water & Network Rail gave full support to the Corporate Volunteer Programme of the conservation project.

Rt Reverend Dr Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon, said "The National Lottery receives many deserving applications, so it is particularly heartening that Swindon has once again been supported by the award of a major grant. St Mary's remains a national treasure and enabling us to preserve and restore its unique features continues to benefit local people as well as enriching our country's heritage."

During 2018, the church has been opened & stewarded every weekend throughout the year, and also on public bank holidays. The church was also open and stewarded on Fridays, from April to early November, by Arts Society volunteers. In 2018, we had over 7,000 visitors to the church from all over the world.

**Paul Gardner**

## **SWINDON DEANERY SYNOD**

Over the past year Swindon Deanery Synod has enabled member churches to meet together, pray and share good news stories. There have been changes on Diocesan and Deanery levels; we have a new Bishop of Bristol and Archdeacon, and several new clergy have been appointed, including our own curate Teresa Townsend.

Revd Capt Clive Deverell, in addition to being Vicar of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze, is also Area Dean. His work means holding the Deanery clergy and Churches together, taking responsibility for those Parishes in vacancy, and with the Deanery Lay Chair, producing a dynamic programme for Deanery Synod.

Meetings in the last year have demonstrated the Anglican Church's commitment to key areas:

- **Education.** The new Church of England Secondary School at Wichelstowe will open in September 2019. Synod heard from its Principal Linda Culling, and discussed its priorities.
- **Young People.** Our Deanery supported a group of young people (including 3 from Swindon) to visit Uganda during the Summer. For most of them, this was their first experience of travel outside the UK and had a significant impact.
- **Learning and Developing lay leadership.** Two new courses - Growing Leaders and Bridgebuilders started in the Autumn, hosted at Toothill.
- **Church growth.** A new church plant at the old Swindon Pattern store was established in December. It will aim to attract and grow in discipleship, new Christians who are under 40. This is part of a wider Diocesan strategy.
- **Community.** Deanery Vice Chair David Cain led a moving tribute to all those from Swindon who died in the Great War. This was combined with learning from a current Army Chaplain.
- **Prayer.** In all 3 meetings of Synod members have learnt about the needs of our diverse area and prayed for one another.

Synod meetings are open to all and as well as keeping members updated, give churches encouragement in building God's kingdom in our local area.

**Mary Poole**

## **FLOWER GROUP**

During 2018 we have continued to provide floral arrangements for the church for all services except those during Lent. Most weeks, there have been the usual two arrangements, either with natural flowers and greenery, or, especially for weddings, using silk flower arrangements with natural greenery. The use of coloured bows and/or the pearl hearts alongside the floral arrangements have been popular with wedding couples. We will continue to offer assistance with weddings when required. We have provided appropriate arrangements for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, and Christmas.

We had an added touch to the church decoration for Remembrance this year, with a cascade of poppies coming down from the altar. A big thank you to all those involved in knitting, crocheting and sewing together this wonderful display.

In the autumn, we had an opportunity to have a clear-out of the old props and equipment that we have used over the years as much was stored in the large cupboards in the South Porch. These cupboards had to be removed to make way for the conservation work to begin.

Thank you to all those in the team for your ongoing commitment and support to this role within the church. It is always lovely to have some floral arrangements to add that welcoming touch to the building, especially for the many visitors that come to see St Mary's during the week as well as at the weekend.

Our thanks go to Lyn for organising the rota for the flower team along with the many other roles she has within the church.

**Jacqueline Kirwan**