
St Mary's Church

LYDIARD TREGOZE

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



Corbel head on the Chancel Arch

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Church Ministry Leadership Team
for the year ending 31 December 2019**

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FLOWER GROUP

During the first half of 2019 we continued to provide floral arrangements for the church for all services except during Lent.

From June, some of the team were involved with Teresa, Hazel and Pauline in dressing the scaffolding erected in the nave for the conservation work. Our thanks go to all those who put in the time and effort, producing a stunning effect with the white muslin drapes dressed with white rose bowers down the poles, with strings of fairy lights to brighten up the aisle and compensate for the lack of daylight (blocked by the hessian covers for the platforms above).

Thanks also go to Doreen and the team for the silk flower arrangements put together with natural greenery used for many of the weddings, often accompanied by coloured bows and/or the pearl hearts. We will continue to offer assistance with weddings when required.

Other weeks we have provided relevant arrangements for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, and Christmas.

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 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. If there is anyone within the congregation who would like to join the team you will be most welcome, as we will be struggling once the church reopens to have floral arrangements in place as the team is few in number, so commitment comes around very often for those still involved.

Please speak to the clergy or the wardens if you would like to join us. If you already have some skills, then great, if not we just need your enthusiasm, and have time to enjoy this activity.

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

**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 bells to call people to worship at St Mary's and that remains the primary objective of the Bellringers at Lydiard Tregoze.

Peals, quarter peals and weddings

The local band rang 3 quarter peals during the year which is somewhat lower than in previous years and also for 10 weddings. On Thursday 18th April, along with towers all over the country, we rang to mark the fire at Notre Dame. Two visiting bands also rang a full peal (3 hours of continuous ringing) during the year and we welcomed a couple of other visiting bands for general ringing.

Recruitment, retention, training and publicity

The band has tried hard to find new recruits and whilst we have had considerable interest at tower open days, two of which were advertised on local radio outlets, no one has yet joined us to have a go! One learner did join us via a different route, and was making good progress, but had to stop for personal reasons. Bell ringing is a fun activity for all ages so if you do speak to anyone who expresses an interest, please send them our way.

The band has said goodbye to Carol this year who has moved away. Carol was a regular on Sunday mornings, as was Hazel who will also be greatly missed. This will mean that our ability to ring 6 on a Sunday morning will be significantly reduced but we will continue to ring for services provided we can get four or more ringers together.

As part of the Church Conservation Project Felicity Cormack, one of two artists in residence for the project was invited to a number of practice evenings. Their work is currently on display at Swindon's Art Gallery & Museum and an article has been published in the local Swindon Link magazine, including mentions of the ringing team.

Jenny Moore

**ST MARY'S LYDIARD TREGOZE
AGM AGENDA, 11.45 am, 15 MARCH 2020**

Opening worship

God is good, all the time

All the time God is good.

Reading: Psalm 100, Reader: Revd Teresa Townsend

Apologies for absence

Minutes of 2018 AGM and Matters arising

Reports, with responses as appropriate

Questions to the Ministry team and MLT

Vestry Meeting.

Including Election of Wardens.

Elections to MLT

AOB

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, Team Minister
Revd Trevor Day, Associate Minister
Revd Teresa Townsend, Curate
Sue Green (Treasurer)

WEDNESDAY HOME GROUP

The Group has met 26 times in 2019. 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 presentation format, followed by group discussion and references to scripture suits our members.

This year, we have looked at:

Empowered Rebecca Manley Pippert with Dick Molenhouse

Notorious An integrated study of the Rogues, Scoundrels and Scallywags of the Bible

What can be learned from them.

Jeff Lucas

Who wrote the New Testament?

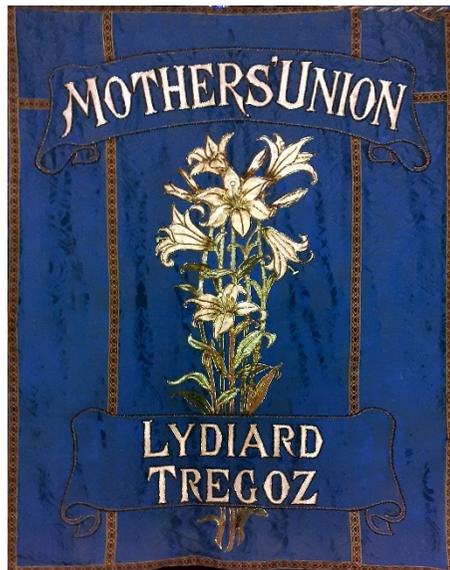
A 3-episode documentary by S4C and Bible Society. A slight departure from our normal study format, with hour-long episodes, and no guidance for further study or discussion, but we nevertheless found them interesting.

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

MOTHERS' UNION

It is with considerable regret that members of the Lydiard Tregoze Branch of the Mothers' Union held their final meeting in mid-2019. Approximately 30 attendees, including members from other branches of the Diocese, attended the closing ceremony on 12 June 2019, followed by a strawberry cream tea. At the ceremony, which was officiated by Reverend Captain Clive Deverell, the many achievements of the Lydiard Tregoze Branch were celebrated.



Records show that the Branch had been in existence since at least the 1930s, during which time sewing machines and bicycles were donated to the women of Uganda, to help them become independent. More recently, funds were sent overseas to support the health and education of children in Malawi. Among notable other accomplishments, Branch members were involved in the recent campaigns on "Violence Against Women", "Modern Day Slavery", "Same Sex Marriage" and "Children's Television Viewing". From supporting local projects for recovering substance abusers, to knitting jerseys for children overseas and hats for premature babies, to funding a day at the seaside for needy families, members have greatly benefitted from and very much enjoyed their fellowship in the Mothers' Union.

It was an honour and privilege for Lydiard Tregoze Branch members to participate in the Mothers' Union mission of caring for Christian families. They look forward to continuing to support this work individually, as their time and health allow.

**Jean Brock
Branch Leader**

MINISTERS' REPORT

A year of challenge, change and upheaval has weighed heavily on most of us over the last year. Having a vast amount of scaffolding alongside dust and lighting issues has meant that it has been difficult at times to keep looking forward and remembering that the ongoing works have been necessary.

We have continued to worship though, and for the most part, our resilience has shown through. There has been an impact financially where we were unable to contribute as much as we have done in the past to the Partnership and consequently to the Diocese. In difficult circumstances our attendance has held up. There has been some change in membership numbers; it could be argued that this relates to the renewal of the Electoral Roll that took place in 2019.

Our determination to beautify the church for the booked weddings and baptisms saw a dedicated team devise a plan, and dress the scaffolding with fabric and flowers to create a 'garden' feel, which, along with the fairy lights down the nave gave a 'wow' impact and many, many photographs were taken by guests believing we always do this for our weddings and baptisms. Our relationships with the Royal British Legion and Lydiard House continue to flourish and we had large numbers of visitors over the remembrance period at our services, school's activities and the Garden of Remembrance in the Walled Garden.

We held a final service of thanksgiving for the Mothers' Union which disbanded in the summer after many years of committed engagement with the church. We are extremely grateful to all those who have led the Mothers' Union over the past few decades.

There have been some wonderful discoveries during the conservation work, and we can be proud and excited about showing them off to visitors who drop by on a day out at Lydiard, and to visiting worshippers. We have the opportunity with the newly discovered niche, priest's fireplace and rood screen staircase to explain how the structure of the building has enabled generations to encounter God through pilgrimage, prayer and worship. But we are not there yet; 2020 will see the final works completed. It was lovely to work with and build relationships with the young people

who came to volunteer from across the world as they worked with Hodge, Naomi, Eddie and Jane.

We have continued to develop our understanding of how to live our lives through the Holy Habits, shared the excitement of Teresa's ordination to the priesthood and her first celebration of Holy Communion at St Mary's and sent Hazel off with our love and prayers to begin her ordination training in Cambridge. At the end of the year, we were delighted to welcome Revd Lis Arnold as a retired ordained minister who has permission to take services across the Partnership.

Trevor's ministry has also taken a new route, since his full laryngectomy in October. He will return to more active ministry in the partnership and with the various chaplaincies with which he is involved after Easter 2020 ... and with a slightly differently sounding voice. He thanks everyone for the support and prayers, during this time, that have certainly helped him on this new journey.

We would like to give our thanks to all those who work tirelessly in so many ways to enable the life of St Mary's to continue to grow; with special thanks to our wardens and our families.

Clive, Trevor and Teresa

JUNIOR CHURCH

2019 saw some challenges for the entire congregation of St Mary's Church, including Junior Church. Nevertheless, solutions were improvised and a full programme of Junior Church sessions continued throughout the year.

During the period of Lent, we had an event of 'growing together' where sunflower seeds of various varieties were grown by the children and congregation, who subsequently exchanged news on their growth. We plan to repeat this activity in 2020. During the period of Stable Room closure for the Conservation Project, (12 weeks), we put together a contingency box of craft materials and Bible stories and held our Junior Church sessions in the open air, where we were blessed with dry and sunny mornings. We had extra help from members of the congregation, which we hope they enjoyed.

At the present time, we are meeting and sharing Junior Church with our Partnership churches, and are making new friends and contacts.

We managed two bake sales during the year which raised a grand total of £94.00, allowing us to make donations of £20.00 to Bethany's Children's Trust (one of St Mary's Mission Partners) and £35.00 to Hop, Skip & Jump Swindon (a charity offering respite care for children and young adults with disabilities and special educational needs).

Junior Church has a small core of leaders, helpers and children, but all are welcome to come along and join us, after all, we are all children of God.

The Junior Church Team

SWINDON DEANERY SYNOD

Swindon Deanery Synod has met three times in 2019, and I have attended as representative of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership. Meetings are well attended by lay and ordained members of churches throughout the Swindon area and provide everyone a chance to catch up on issues that concern us all and more importantly to pray and talk together.

Over the last year we have considered:

- **Arthur Rank Centre** and the help it can give rural parishes. Although St Mary's exists in West Swindon it shares some of the features of a village church.
- **Reports from Diocesan Synod** and recommendations for discussion.
- Continuing updates on the link between the Bristol Diocese and Uganda. This is very much a two-way experience. People from the deanery have visited Uganda, while in October 2019, the **Uganda Youth Choir** shared their faith and talents in school visits and concerts. We were fortunate to have Rev. Frederick Baalwa preach at St Marys during the visit.
- **Swindon Food Collective** and how we can all support its vital work.
- A visit to the new **Deanery School in Wichelstowe** where Bishop Viv led us in thinking about the conversations we have with those who appear to have no faith.

The Deanery Synod meeting in February 2020 will be my last, as I have served two 3-year terms. If anyone is interested in taking on the role please give it prayerful thought; it involves a willingness to talk to and learn from other churches and going to meetings three or four times a year. Clive who is currently Area Dean can help you find out more.

Mary Poole

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

2019: An exciting and challenging year!

Our ever-popular 'Strawberry Teas' organised by Doreen and Pat took place earlier in the year, to avoid the start of the conservation project in June. The Stable Room was used by students and the conservation team until late September.

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.

In November we again supported the Garden of Remembrance in the Walled Garden with 3 weeks of daily 2 minutes silence at 11.00 am and 2.00 pm, led by members of the church.

The Christmas services were well attended, with Carols by Candlelight being the most popular. We had a wonderful evening for the Partnership event 'Carols in the Park' which had to be moved inside the church, due to inclement weather.

Conservation work affected visitor numbers, but information about the church continued via the website and the Information Hub. Thanks go to Mat, Paul and the stewarding team.

To mitigate the impact of the conservation work, in June a small team consisting of Teresa, Pauline, Hazel and other church members dressed the scaffolding and boards with muslin, flowers and fairy lights to improve the appearance of the church during conservation. It became a unique feature, delighting many of the congregation, wedding couples and baptism families. We welcomed students who came to learn by practical experience how to conserve the fabric of the church, its monuments, wall paintings, coat of arms and decorated ceiling, working under the guidance of Jane Rutherford, and her team. Two 'Artists in Residence' captured the essence of St Mary's over this period.

We would like to extend our ongoing thanks to all who help keep the church operating. We are always in need of anyone from the congregation who can help. Please speak to either of us about any skills or time you could offer.

Pat Watson and Jacqueline Kirwan

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019

The general fund this year had a slight increase and is now at £12,718.

Both income and expenditure were down on last year as expected, due to the conservation work. Cash collections at all services, including weddings, funerals & baptisms was the only income stream that had any increase over last year.

With expenditure, the main reductions were £7,000 less in Partnership share and £1,500 in tithing. The Christmas collections were down a bit, but we were able to give £1,597.78 (The 2019 Christmas charities were: Harbour Project, Shelterbox and Shine Pinehurst). The remaining expenditure was comparable to last year.

We now have £5,882 in the general fund which has been given for the sound system and Stable Room improvements.

Looking forward to 2020, we are still expecting less income due to the conservation work having an impact on baptisms, weddings, funerals and visitors as, the church is going to be closed for the first 4-5 months. The budget has been set with similar expenditure and includes the sound system.

The Building Fund had income of £410,307 (£289,139 was from HLF and £37,490 was VAT repayment) and expenditure of £390,566. The Building Fund is now at £103,091 plus a £30,000 loan from the Partnership. (The statutory accounts show the Building Fund as being £698,349 at the start of the year as the HLF grant of £615,000 needed to be shown as a debtor and a year-end balance of £428,951)

Sue Green

PRAYER GROUP

Prayer Group met regularly until September 2019, when changes to different members' circumstances led to the prayer group entering a time of recess and a period of reflection. Thanks go to all those of have helped lead Prayer Group, and those who attended the sessions up to September. Prayer Group will relaunch with a different format and venue after Easter 2020.

Wendy Deverell

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

A new Bible Study Group started up in 2019, following interest shown as a result of Holy Habits last May. The Group met fortnightly in the Stable Room on a Wednesday evening. We have studied two books from the Lifebuilder Bible Study series. The first Study looked at "The Names of God" over eight sessions, and the second Study was the "Coming of the Saviour" over six sessions. We had a good attendance at both studies. Session lead has been shared amongst members of the Group.

Wendy Deverell

HOLY HABITS

The Holy Habits programme continued in 2019. Six habits were explored, with two months for each habit. The six habits were: Biblical Teaching; Fellowship; Breaking of Bread; Giving; Gladness and Generosity, and Eating Together.

Allocating two months to each habit allowed the congregation to appreciate the meaning and spiritual content of each habit. Each preacher could present the topic in their own style, helping the congregation to understand how they could respond to each habit.

Even with the building and restoration work during 2019, we overcame the challenges created by scaffolding, reduced sound systems and the wearing of coats to keep warm.

It is hoped that Holy Habits will become a part of St Mary's Christian testimony to West Swindon. An enjoyable event was the Sunday picnic outside Lydiard House, when all the Partnership churches enjoyed food and fellowship under the summer sun.

Peter Roslyk

BUILDING AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Stage 2 of the external conservation repairs works by Ellis & Co have been successfully completed at St Mary's with roof repairs to the St John Chapel, the south aisle roof, and external grounds works were completed by the end of May 2019.

Stage 2 of the internal conservation project was completed by mid October 2019, with Jane and her team working in the Nave, St John Chapel and the South Porch. The scaffolding has been removed and the conserved wall paintings, Tudor barrelled ceiling & decorated corbels, polychromy and South Porch are on view to all. During the summer there were up to 14 student trainees (from 10 different countries) working on the conservation of the Royal Coat of Arms, polychromy to the St John Chapel, assisting on the Mompesson Monument and the wall paintings in the Nave.

"You will be able to stand in the doorway of the South Porch as pilgrims did and look across to the wall paintings on the north wall of the Nave, which include Thomas Becket & St Christopher and newly discovered 13th century patterned wall painting. You will see the newly-discovered niche which originally contained a statue of St Christopher. When opening up this niche, Jane discovered part of a stone head which probably belonged to the St Christopher statue. After entering the South Porch, turn around and look up at the conserved Christ the Crown of Thorns wall painting with its representation of Christ, which has been described as unique.

In July, we had 3 very well-attended performances by Prime Theatre. We also held very successful 'Conservation in Action' days involving local primary schools. 200 pupils attended in July and September and 60 attended in November. On 17 August there was a "Conservation in Action " Family Fun Day at St Mary's.

In September, St Mary's took part in the Heritage Open Days on weekends 14/15 and 21/22 September, with over 350 visitors from the UK, Poland, Switzerland and Lithuania.

St Mary's was actively involved in supporting the Royal British Legion Lydiard Park Field of Remembrance, with over 250 primary school children taking part in acts of remembrance.

The match fund-raising is very close in achieving its target, with continued fund raising throughout 2019. The shortfall now stands at £11,400.

On 21 September, volunteers from Good Gym gave their full support to the corporate volunteer programme of the conservation project.

During 2019, the church has been opened and stewarded on virtually every weekend throughout the year from January to December including public bank holidays. Furthermore, the church was open and stewarded on Fridays throughout November by Arts Society volunteers. This has resulted in over 4,400 visitors to the church from all over the world, impacted by the church being closed during weekdays when internal conservation works were in progress.

Paul Gardner

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

The group has continued to meet regularly throughout 2019, providing support for St Mary's church family, and within the wider Partnership of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze. It has been particularly important during the period of the church conservation works, to keep in touch with the congregation members.

Each meeting starts with a time of prayer for church family members, particularly 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 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 church family membership list.

There is a list on the noticeboard in the Stable Room 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 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.

We have had a few changes within the team as some have had to leave due to other commitments (Hazel Davies and Pat Watson), we welcome the support from Revd Teresa Townsend, and soon to welcome Revd Lis Arnold.

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 in extending a warm welcome and fellowship to newcomers and visitors, so we can continue to live up to St Mary's mission statement of being a 'Living, loving, worshipping community in an historic building'.

The present Pastoral Friends are: Jacqueline Kirwan, Sarah Pritchard, Tish Vass, Jean Brock, with Revd Teresa Townsend, and Revd Trevor Day offering home communion.

Jacqueline Kirwan

MUSIC AND UKULELE GROUPS

The Music Group has continued to play for church services throughout the year, usually one per month - including the main service on Easter Day. We enjoyed providing the music for the Crib Service, which included singing carols as people entered and found their seats before the service. We practise as the full Music Group in the week before a service that we're playing in, and practise as a Ukulele Group in between.

The core Music Group is now quite small, so huge thanks go to all our members, who put in a lot of practice time despite very busy lives. We are also blessed with two pianists, Hilary and Adrian, who play the keyboard with us in services on a rota basis. We are very grateful to them both, for helping us out with their skills, as the keyboard fills out the sound that we make in church. We've also been delighted that Suzannah has been able to come back and add to our numbers occasionally - especially at Christmas.

Thanks are also due to Connie, who stood in for me to lead the Music Group while I was on a 6-week sabbatical over the summer - and who is the group's ukulele expert. Also huge thanks to Pat, who puts together the music rota which includes the Music Group. She's also kindly provided us with an alternative place to practise when the Stable Room has been unavailable for use, and provided us with a warm place to practise on the coldest of winter evenings.

Finally, if anyone in the congregation is thinking of taking up the ukulele, please let me or Connie know. All our current uke players started off with us, so if there's enough interest we might be able to hold another beginners' workshop in 2020.

Paula Roach, Music and Ukulele Group Leader

SCHOOLS EVENTS 2019

Partnership Holiday Clubs

- Easter Holiday Club 10, 11 April 2019
28 children and 11 helpers
- Summer Holiday Club 31 July and 01 August 2019
24 children and 11 helpers

Easter Reflection at Holy Trinity Church Shaw

- Brook Field School
60 children, 10 staff and 6 church helpers
- Shaw Ridge School
60 children, 8 staff and 6 church helpers
- Peatmoor School
26 children, 4 staff and 6 church helpers

St Mary's Church visit 05 June 2019

- Brook Field School
60 children and 8 staff

Remembering Together sessions:

- Oliver Tomkins School
57 children and 6 adults
- Brook Field School
60 children and 7 adults,
- Tregoze School
50 children and 6 adults
- Peatmoor School
4 children and 2 adults
- Shaw Ridge School
13 children and 4 adults
- Hazlewood Academy
28 children and 5 adults (+ additional class of 30 for the service in the garden)

VISITORS

The total number of visitors to St Mary's during 2019 was just under 4,400, down from the 2018 total of 8,000 because of the church closure periods when conservators were working in the church.

HERITAGE EVENTS IN 2019

A number of events for schoolchildren and families were organised in 2019:

19 July	Prime Theatre production; 150 visitors over the 3 performances
23 July	Conservation in Action day, attended by 146 children and 16 adults
17 August	Conservation in Action Family Fun Day, attended by 50 children and 20 adults
14/15, 21/22 September	Heritage Open Day weekends, with a total of 350 visitors (adults and children)
18 November	Stories & Selfies Pilot event, attended by 60 children and 12 adults.

OTHER EVENTS

11 November	Acts of Remembrance in conjunction with Royal British Legion in the Lydiard Field of Remembrance attended by 250 primary school children and 20 adults.
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CAROL SERVICES

17 & 19 December	Schools Carol Services (4 services) 243 children and 97 adults
18 December	Carols in the Park (in church—bad weather) 21 children and 126 adults
22 December	Carols by Candlelight 11 children and 139 adults

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP



This new Group formed at the start of 2019 'to enable people to feel engaged with the worshipping community of St Mary's.' We aim to receive and publish information with wide appeal in various formats: print, spoken word, website and social media, in conjunction with the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) and the Conservation Project Board, where some of the Group are also members.

Many of the main topics during the year relate to the period of the Conservation Project. Inevitably this had major consequences for the life and work of the church during the continuing period of disruption. We have aimed to provide information for church members, and also the many visitors which the church and Lydiard Park receive through the year. The website www.stmaryslydiardtregoze.org.uk is also becoming an increasingly useful way to keep in contact – both with Worship and Community activities, and also the Conservation and Heritage events and developments.

Other topics have included ensuring that good quality information from St Mary's appears regularly in the Partnership Newsletter 'In Partnership'. We have also continued with an adapted version of the Weekly Notices whilst the church is closed for worship. This is now also available with a weekly email for those whose contact details we hold.

Lastly, we depend on regular information from around the church to keep us going and we welcome feedback on what we do.

Ed Poole and Revd Teresa Townsend