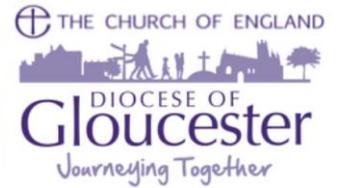




# The Mid-Wyedean Churches

serving Coleford, Broadwell, Clearwell, Newland,  
Redbrook, Staunton and surrounding areas.



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of  
Mid-Wyedean Churches

## Annual Report 2017

Registered Charity No: 1132171

Vicar: Revd Sarah Bick, 40 Boxbush Road, Coleford, GL16 8DN  
Telephone: 01594 835476 or email: [vicar@mid-wyedeanchurches.org.uk](mailto:vicar@mid-wyedeanchurches.org.uk)  
Parish Office: Church on the Street, 6a St John's Street, Coleford, GL16 8AR  
Telephone: 01594 368849 or email: [office.midwyedean@gmail.com](mailto:office.midwyedean@gmail.com)

## **Administrative information**

### The Licensed Staff Team

Revd Sarah Bick	Vicar	01594 835476
Revd Alan Wearmouth	House for Duty	01594 832660

### Readers:

Mark Bick Pioneer Reader  
Mr Chris Howell Reader Emeritus  
Mrs Denise Hogan Reader

### EMEP team:

Rev Sarah Bick, Rev Alan Wearmouth, Mark Bick, Denise Hogan, Chris Young, Wendy Williams & Bea Erskine.

We also have six licensed Worship Leaders – Fred Meek, Wendy Williams, Margaret Winter, Chris Young, Alison Stuttard & Bea Erskine.

We are grateful for the support of retired Clergy Father Barry Coker.

### Church Officers

#### Parish Wardens:

Mrs Sarah Codd (Also at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Broadwell)

#### Assistant Wardens:

Bea Erskine	All Saints, Newland
Sue Simmons	All Saints, Staunton
Mrs Penny Rayner	St John's, Coleford
Richard Fordham	St Saviour's, Redbrook
Charles White	St Peter's, Clearwell

PCC Secretary: Alison Stuttard

Parish Treasurer: Mrs Rosemary Ward

#### Finance Reps:

Terry Bovill	St Johns, Coleford
Betty Weaver	St Peters, Clearwell
Alan Day	The Good Shepherd, Broadwell
John Simmons	All Saints, Staunton
Pat Shuttleworth	St Saviours, Redbrook and All Saints, Newland

Independent Examiner: Robert Lewis of Wildin Accountants.

Deanery Synod reps: Glynis Bidmead, Alison Stuttard, Penny Rayner

Parish Co-ordinator: Alison Stuttard

## **Structure, governance and management**

The Parish of the Mid-Wyedean Churches is a Church of England parish serving the town of Coleford in the Forest of Dean and many of the surrounding villages.

Under the Pastoral Scheme that created our United Parish, the name of the parish is "The Parish of The Mid-Wyedean Churches of All Saints Newland and Staunton; Good Shepherd, Broadwell; Saint John, Coleford; Saint Peter, Clearwell and Saint Saviour, Redbrook". It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. At the 2017 APCM it was agreed to ask the Bishops Council to approve a slightly amended version of the Interim constitution which existed for the first 5 years but unfortunately the Bishops Council has not yet authorised that constitution so we remain as stated with the intention of reverting to the agreed constitution with its safeguards for each congregation when the Bishops council so permits.

## **Mission and Ministry**

### **Incumbents report.**

2017 was a momentous year for the Vicar as she and Mark celebrated the birth of their son, Isaac, a joyous event upon which the entire Parish rejoiced. Of course, this meant that from August to December (and continuing to the end of July 2018) Sarah took Maternity Leave and I (Alan) assumed the duties of Interim Minister in a voluntary expansion of my House-for-duty role. As detailed in the "Summary of achievements or major events" below this gave many individuals the opportunity to step forward to play critical roles around the Parish, for which I am extremely grateful. The St John's congregation continues to enjoy the hospitality of our Catholic brothers and sisters and Coleford dwellers have also been prominent in supporting the development of the Church on the Street which is, under the very capable oversight of our Parish co-ordinator, Alison Stuttard, proving to be a great resource for the whole Parish. In each of our Churches individuals too numerous to mention individually have been faithfully working away sustaining worship, keeping the buildings functioning and being a visible presence in their various communities. I must mention the improvements in the fabric of St Saviour, Redbrook; the increased attractiveness and welcome of St Peter's, Clearwell, the continuing support of the Friends of All Saints, Newland, the exciting plans for work at All Saints Staunton and the cheerful way in which The Good Shepherd, Broadwell lends itself to a wide variety of Parish events. The PCC has worked efficiently through some heavy agendas, chaired by Bea Erskine, the lay vice-chair during the Vicar's absence and although our congregations have shown no dramatic increase in terms of Sunday attendance there has been much activity, some of it in exciting new challenges which show that our Church is alive and serving the community. I have been privileged to see just how hard and how well the Church – that is, the people, of course! – has risen to the challenge presented by Sarah's Maternity Leave and on her behalf as well as my own I thank you all for everything you have done and are doing to build the Church here in Mid-Wyedean.

### **Worship**

A new pattern of Sunday services started at the beginning of 2017 offering 4 services on most Sundays. There is a 9.30am and 11am Eucharist service and a 9.30am and 11am Service of the Word each week throughout the parish with the congregations of St John (who continue to meet at St Margaret Mary, RC church), St Peter, Clearwell and The Good Shepherd, Broadwell, alternating weekly between Eucharist and Word services.

The congregations of Newland and Staunton (averaging 12-14 in total) continue to worship as one congregation, alternating worship between All Saints Church, Newland and All Saints Church, Staunton. Each Church has one 9.30am Eucharist and one 4pm Evening Prayer service every month. St Saviour, Redbrook holds a family focused service once a month on a Sunday afternoon and a monthly Sunday afternoon Eucharist. The relationships developed through school contact continues to be important in this and the new regular congregation is gaining a life of its own with a very active House group which meets twice a month.

Services of the Word and Evening Prayer services are led by lay members of our congregations with members of the EMEP team taking the lead at All Saints Newland and Staunton, St Peter's Clearwell and The Good Shepherd, Broadwell.

United Parish Services are held 6 times a year normally on Festival days with all churches in the Parish being visited during the year. Those who attend our Parish services appreciate the opportunity to worship together and the hospitality and socialising afterwards, some services are followed by a Bring and Share lunch.

Lifts are offered to people who need them to ensure no one is excluded from joining in with this Parish worship.

## Schools

Open the Book continues in the Parish. At Clearwell C of E school it is led each week during term time by Chris Young.

*'I continue to hold an 'Open the Book' Assembly each week at Clearwell School. All the school attends and I involve the children as much as possible. I copy the story and highlight parts for the pupils to read. With very little rehearsal this is usually effective and there is great competition to take part! I still get some theological questions thrown in. Just last term:- "Does God push the clouds along?" At the end of each term the whole school community including parents and other relations come to the church for their service. Again there is much pupil participation with prayers and readings. At the well attended Christingle before Christmas the singing under Miss Brunt was really enthusiastic and well received.'*

## Other Assemblies

Prior to going on maternity leave Rev Sarah Bick visited and led worship weekly at Redbrook School and St John's Academy & Rev Alan Wearmouth visited Clearwell School every Wednesday to lead worship.

Since becoming Interim Minister Alan has continued to visit Clearwell school and St John's Academy weekly.

Towards the end of 2017 the Mustard Tree Team started to lead a monthly worship at St John's Academy on the Friday prior to the Mustard Tree session.

Alan and Sarah contributed to Special occasion worship for the schools as appropriate.

## Other school contact and collaboration

Redbrook Church is now used on a regular weekly basis by the School for worship, PE and other whole school events. The Licence agreement between the PCC and the Wye Forest Federation (the governing body of the school) is due to be renewed in 2018.

## The Mustard Tree



The Mustard Tree continues to thrive with the Team becoming familiar faces within St John's Academy. The monthly meetings continue with crafts, games, stories, worship and a meal. Lisa, the school cook, continues to prepare the meal for the group for which they are very grateful. New families have joined the group and there is a core group who attend regularly. Last summer the group had a stall at the town's 'Family Fun Day' at the local Recreation ground where 28 families took part in craft

activities. They also held a week long Lunch Club to which all school families were invited. Over the week they served lunches (which the children and family members took a hand in preparing) to 6 families. Each day had a theme with various people from the wider parish taking part. The children and families created a wonderful Crib Scene for the Parish Crib Festival at All Saints Church, Newland and also took part in the Crib Celebration service on the Sunday afternoon.

## Governors

Before going on Maternity leave Rev Sarah Bick continued in the governor's role at St John's Academy and for the Wye Forest Federation (Redbrook and St Briavel's schools). During her period of Maternity Leave our Pioneer Reader, Mark Bick, took on the role of Governor at Redbrook School.

Alan has had to resign as a governor of Clearwell school because he has been recruited as a member of the Interim Executive board at St John's C of E Academy. His ex officio position has been filled by Chris Young.

Sue Sparkes, of St John's congregation, served as foundation governor at St John's Academy until the end of the academic year 2016-17. Other foundation governor positions have been filled at the appointment of the PCC by members of other local churches, being unable to find volunteers from among our own number. The PCC is grateful to those who have taken up these positions.

## Pastoral

**Weddings, baptisms and funerals.** This aspect of the work of the church continues to be busy. There was a decrease in numbers of baptisms from 37 to 24, an increase in weddings from 21 to 32 and another small decrease in numbers of funerals 62 – 54. Since Rev Sarah Bick went on Maternity Leave we have reduced the number of Sundays that we offer a Baptism service to one a month, alternating between The Good Shepherd and St Peter's, as these services are at 11:00 rather than 9:30.

Unfortunately our third annual Celebration of Marriage service at St Peter's Clearwell was cancelled due to snow. It is hoped to resume this annual service in 2018. It remains a hope for the future to add a Celebration of Baptism to the calendar as well

**Home communions and visiting.** All Together Now: A service of Home Communion at Tuffthorn Close Community Room was led by a team from across the parish.

*'This is generally held the 2nd Thursday of the month and follows the Common Worship format of Holy Communion for Home or in Hospital. We have the weekly Collect with usually 2 Readings followed by The Gospel Reading, then into Prayers of intercession, praying for family, neighbours or local people. We then go into The Communion ending with The Peace. We are normally between 4 and 10, a very happy, friendly group who enjoy a cup of tea and cake and a good long chat after the service!'* Denise Hogan

A regular House group meets in Clearwell twice a month at a parishioners house. Communion is offered once a month and the other service is led by the EMEP local minister.

**Meet and Eat** continued once a month, for the most part of 2017, at the village pub in Staunton where a group of people met for companionship together with a light lunch. However, due to illness of some of the group and others moving away it was decided to put it 'on hold' for the immediate future

## Other Mission

The beginning of 2017 saw a working party from across the Parish (and the local Baptist Church) gutting and reordering the premises which were to become the new Parish Office.



The 'Church on the Street' was officially opened on 25th March by Bishop Rachel. The Parish now has a Parish office and large meeting room in the premises and rents out the front part of the building to a Christian Bookshop.

The Parish appointed a Parish Co-ordinator in February and she works 24.5 hours per week alongside the Rev'd Bick and Rev'd Wearmouth.

The Church on the Street has become central to the parish in terms of administration and organising services, parish events etc with members of our congregations popping in on a regular basis.

The 'Shop Front' has been a widely recognised success in terms of giving the public the opportunity to engage with the church in a neutral space: several community groups and many individuals have benefitted from this provision.

During the year we were able to help various homeless people by signposting them to the relevant authorities and have become a place where people know they can pop in for a coffee and a chat. We hold emergency food bank parcels and are also able to give out food bank vouchers.

Monthly coffee mornings and knit and natter sessions are well attended and we intend starting a Memory Café early 2018.

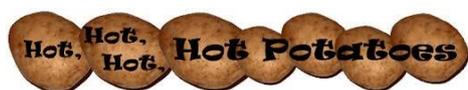
The premises have been used by our ecumenical friends over the year for meetings, courses and coffee mornings.

The most obvious single benefit of the project has been the contribution to efficient forward planning, recording and putting into action various elements of bureaucracy and administration which would previously have drained the time of the clergy and in the present situation would have meant that there would have been little time to develop and grow the parish during the Maternity leave. The Parish Co-ordinator has been able to improve communication across the parish both electronically and in publicity materials etc. An interesting result of the latter is the raising of over £1000 of charitable giving for a range of visible external purposes without needing clergy leadership. Work is in hand on building a team to address building issues and associated fundraising; this is proving liberating to a number of church people.

The staffing situation has led to a clear broadening of leadership within the parish and the Parish Co-ordinator's role has made this possible. Lay members of each of our congregations have found themselves able, with organisational support, to initiate, to oversee and in some cases to see coming to fruition tasks which would previously have happened only if driven by clergy.

The Interim Minister has been able to provide a weekly presence in both St John's C of E Academy in Coleford and Clearwell C of E Primary School to offer pastoral support as required. He has accepted a role as a member of the Interim Executive Board of the former because the work of the Parish Co-ordinator has made it possible for him to do so by avoiding being bogged down with administration. This is critical to the continued visible presence and support for young people within the parish.

## Discipleship



A group from the benefice meets every third Thursday of the month to discuss hot topics in contemporary society and to see if we can find a Christian perspective on them. Maybe it says something about the group that we often find more than one Christian perspective! Some of us

indulge in a cheeky drink or two (unless we're driving) and we consume chips so it's the Hot Potato group in more ways than one!

Over the past year we've discussed a wide range of topics and have tried – wherever possible - to avoid sliding into despair over Brexit and the various antics of the President of the United States.

Discussions have included:

- Must we always obey the law? Yes and no, according to Jesus. He critiqued Old Testament laws in the light of the new commandments to love God and our neighbour as ourselves but he also commanded us to 'give Caesar what belongs to him'.
- Is Science going too far?
- Is it better to get out on the streets and demonstrate or is it just as valid to express our opinions via blogs, Twitter and Facebook? Some of the regular attenders are keen on the internet so this generated a lot of lively debate.
- Are our media a positive influence on our Society?
- Is our education system broken? As a good number of the group are teachers, this was a lively one.
- Is democracy alive and well?
- Are we a narcissistic society? Sorry, but D Trump inevitably made an appearance here.
- We have a programme of discussion for this year which you can find on the Mid Wyedean Churches website. If you'd like some lively discussion and friendly company, do come along – it's always a stimulating evening and we tend to laugh a lot (and not just because alcohol is taken!)

### **Lent Group**

We didn't hold our own Lent groups this year but joined in with our fellow Christians at Christchurch again for theirs. This was led by a different leader each week from all denominations and from a wide geographical area. Those that attended enjoyed the experience of meeting with other Christians from across the area for prayer, discussion and a chat whilst getting to know one another over a cup of coffee or tea!

## **Social Groups & Fund Raising**

### **Craft Group**

The Craft Group continues to meet most Thursdays at the Church of the Good Shepherd from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm. The people who come work on their own projects and share ideas and have a good chat over tea and biscuits. In the last year we have been on various outings including two visits to Nature in Art, and a visit to the Quilt Show at Malvern.

### **CAMEO**

Come And Meet Each Other continues to meet twice a month at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Over the course of the year members of the group knitted various items to be distributed by 'Teams for You' at Christmas to Children all over the world.

### **Fundraising Committee Report**

Report of the Fundraising Committee March 2018.

The Fundraising Committee, consisting of representatives from all of our churches, has met regularly to plan, produce and appraise a variety of events in order to increase the income to Parish finances and enable us all to get together socially. We have tried to arrange things which would appeal to different tastes and, importantly, attract people who are not regular members of our congregations. A great deal of work goes into this by a relatively small number of people and we are grateful to those who support us regularly, either in person, financially, or by helping to publicise events.

Below is a list of events which we organised during the last financial year.

Easter Monday cake stall at Shop £155.15

Lent Lunch at the GS £136.70

Plant Sale at the GS. £206.38

Coffee morning. £115.00

Cake Stall at Music Festival. £123.00

Flower Festival at Newland £877.00

Stalls at Staunton Art Festival £24.40  
Cake stall @ Church on the Street £123  
Quiz at Clearwell. £28  
Mediaeval Banquet at the GS. £203.52  
Crib Festival and Beer and Carols at Newland. £ 426.57

The financial returns fall significantly below our target £5000. There are obviously good reasons why some people cannot participate in events of any kind but, it has to be said that, some things have been very poorly attended, although enjoyed by those who did come. We have tried asking for suggestions (an article in the magazine produced no response whatsoever) and for help with publicity, selling tickets, making posters etc. A few people have been very supportive in this but it would be lovely if more were willing to help. After all, the bottom line is, if we don't raise sufficient income through regular giving, we need to do so by additional means or we'll lose our full time clergy. The Fundraising Committee are there to enable everyone to participate in some way towards making our parish solvent as well as friendly, inviting and vibrant. Please consider again how you could help. We are open to suggestions! Jean Smith

**Other Fund raising:** In addition to the above over £1000 was raised for Cancer Research, Macmillan Cancer care, Christian Aid, Gloucester Historic Churches Trust (Ride and Stride) & the local food bank through various coffee mornings, a Big Brekkie, a Harvest Lunch, a sponsored walk and afternoon tea.

## **Ecumenical links**

We value our connections with Christians of other denominations, both for Christian fellowship and for partnering in engagement with the wider community in mission and evangelism.

## **Coleford Churches Together**

The CCT group meets three or four times a year, to discuss plans for joint ventures, and to hear about each others' churches struggles and joys.

## **Foodbank**

We continue to support the food bank through a variety of ways. Members of our congregations volunteer for the distribution centre and food collection. The Church on the Street is a collection point for foodstuffs and also raised over £100 through coffee mornings during October and November. There was also a special request put out for Christmas goods in the lead up to Christmas which resulted in huge generosity with a large quantity of Christmas items being collected and delivered to the Food Bank. The parish, as a whole, collected enough food for 372 meals over the year. The level of need continues to grow and the food bank manager continues to keep us up to date with their requirements.

## **Roman Catholic Church, Coleford - St Margaret Mary**

The PCC continues to be grateful to the priest and congregation of St Margaret Mary RC Church, for welcoming St John's congregation into their building to give us a place to worship. We have enjoyed some joint activities, during Holy week we joined the Roman Catholic congregation for an evening service and ended the year with our second joint carol service.

## **Buildings (Church Warden's Report)**

### **All Saints, Newland**

- Tower Re-ordering project completed in June.
- Faculty was prepared and sent to DAC for the second phase of the Tower project – to install a meeting room in the first floor of the Tower.
- The West Window with its Medieval glass was repaired under Archdeacon's licence.
- The QI was completed during the Tower Repairs.

### **All Saints, Staunton**

- The final part of the overhaul of the heating system was completed with the installation of a new oil tank.
- A contract for repair and maintenance of the clock has been agreed with Smiths of Derby.
- The congregation agreed on plans for reordering of the building – this will include toilets and a servery and removal of some pews. Toby Falconer has been asked to prepare Faculty ready plans.
- The QI is due in June 2018.

### **Good Shepherd, Broadwell**

- The organ blower was repaired with the cost being partly covered by contributions from the congregation.
- Two bequests were received to renew the path around the Church building.

### **St John, Coleford**

- St John's Church was put up for sale by the Diocese through Toombs Estate Agents at the beginning of the year.
- Church on the Street was opened on 25<sup>th</sup> March

### **St Peter, Clearwell**

- The clock has been causing problems again – looking into a contract with Smiths of Derby
- Some trees and undergrowth have been removed from around the Cemetery Chapel – more work is required. Heras fencing has been put around the chapel for safety reasons. Still investigating ownership and closure process.
- The noticeboard was repaired and reinstalled.
- A faculty request was sent to the DAC for the installation of an Eco-Toilet in the Church Grounds.

### **St Saviour Redbrook**

- No building works took place during 2017
- The QI is due in September 2018.

I would like to pass on thanks to everyone involved with the church services, particularly to the ministry team, the readers and to all the helpers and music makers!

Special thanks to all the assistant wardens.

Sarah Codd  
Churchwarden

## **A year in the life of.....**

Some reflections from around the parish:

### **The Church of the Good Shepherd, Broadwell.**

We love a good social at GSB – especially with food– and this year we have had a sumptuous spread of them! Mainly thanks to the enthusiasm and great ideas of the social committee. We started with a Plant sale and coffee morning then we were lucky enough to host the first parish Medieval Banquet wow, that was a crazy success. Wonderful atmosphere and incredible food – (credit goes to Wendy Williams and her dream team). We have continued our quarterly coffee mornings Mince pies & Coffee/Hot Cross Buns & Coffee/Cream Teas & Coffee, social events just for folks to come along sit and chat. The final service of the year was held at the Good Shepherd and was a joyous occasion with folk from around the Parish and a group from Options Holidays, who offer holidays for adults with learning difficulties, joining us. The service ended with more food and drink in the form of coffee, tea and mince pies!



### **St Peter, Clearwell.**

The congregation at St Peter's was delighted when our vergers were honoured by being given the St Kyneburga Award in July. St Peter's is a small host community to over thirty couples who choose to marry at our church. Because of this, we continually welcome new people into our warm fellowship. We recognise the importance of our brief encounters with so many people and have created a little 'cafe' and seating area where we provide refreshments and fellowship despite not having a kitchen. We use our visitors book to monitor how well received our efforts are. One thing that was missing was a toilet, important with many of our visitors travelling from afar. In 2017 we were successful in gaining the agreement of DAC's for the installation of the latest state of art eco-toilet. We celebrated achieving our goal with a lunch at a local hostelry. The Friday 'Cleaner Team' was created in 2017 to preserve, maintain and clean our Grade I listed building, with ground clearance taking place to create a wildlife and picnic area for our use and that of our many weekday visitors during the summer months. Associated with St Peter's is a Grade II listed Cemetery Chapel in a very sorry state. We have generated local interest and specialist expertise to form a committee who hope to take over the care, repair and create future uses of the chapel. Our beautiful church is often enhanced by the Floral Team who decorated our window ledges and arranged flowers for special occasions. Our patron saint day provided an opportunity for us to celebrate with the entire parish, a wondrous occasion.



### **All Saints, Newland**

We continue to worship with the congregation of All Saints, Staunton with each Church having a 9.30am Eucharist and a 4pm Evening prayer service each month.



The United Parish Palm Sunday service was held here and was a wonderful occasion with the commissioning of the EMEP team and Licencing of Denise Hogan as a Reader to our parish.

The Church was host to the Annual Parish Flower Festival in May with a theme of 'Lets Celebrate!' The Church was decorated with a host of beautiful flower arrangements with each church and group in the parish being represented. The first phase of the Tower project was completed in June and a on a beautiful summer evening a 'Thank you' party was held in

the Church for all those people who had contributed in any way to this project.

November saw our second 'Crib Festival'. The church was decorated with a variety of crib scenes including a life size Nativity complete with Camels! We also had over a dozen craft stalls selling a variety of goods. The whole village was invited to 'Beer and carols' on the Saturday evening, this turned out to be a very successful and enjoyable evening – we even ran out of Mulled Wine! On the Sunday afternoon the Mustard Tree children joined us for a Crib Celebration service.



### **All Saints, Staunton**

We continue to worship with the congregation of All Saints, Newland with two services being held here and two at Newland each month and have hosted two Parish services during 2017 – one at the beginning of the year and one at the end! Denise, our new Reader, has introduced refreshments at the end of our services – she brings coffee makers and crockery from home giving us the opportunity to socialise after our services which has been greatly appreciated.

During the Art Exhibition in the village room in July the church was home to a craft fair with a variety of stalls selling a range of different crafts. Members of the wider parish also helped with refreshments in the village room. Our annual carols around the tree, with mince pies and mulled wine, was very well attended with local people from the village joining us to make a joyful noise! We are in the process of putting together a faculty to introduce a toilet and servery area into the church to make it more accessible for all.

### **St Saviour, Redbrook**

Since the beginning of the year when our new service pattern started we have seen some growth in our congregation numbers. We have two afternoon services a month, one a Eucharist and one All Age Worship led by Mark Bick. On the weeks that we don't have a service we have a house group which is also growing and is a comfortable environment for people new to church to discuss the previous Sunday's gospel and ask questions – some of the deeper ones coming from the children who attend! We have close links with the school who use the building during the week and it is our hope that we will eventually have a toilet and small kitchen area in the building.

### **St John's, Coleford Congregation**

We are grateful to the Roman Catholic Priest and congregation for the continued use of St Margaret Mary. During 2017 we had two joint services with the Roman Catholic congregation. During Holy week we joined together for a service of anointing and Christmas saw us coming together for a Carol service followed by delicious refreshments in the hall. We even had a joint choir and music group which was fun. A monthly coffee and chat is held by members of the congregation in St Margaret Mary Hall during the summer months. The congregation continues to support Parish services and events and hosted the United Parish Harvest Festival service and Bring and Share lunch in September.

## **Deanery Synod Report**

### **7th February 2017 @ Drybrook School Room**

- LIFE (Leadership, Imagination, Faith, Engagement) the Diocesan vision was discussed. Parish reps were divided into groups to discuss the following questions in relation to mission:
  - ❖ What are we doing?
  - ❖ What could we do more of?
  - ❖ What do you need in order to do that?

Groups recorded their ideas and reported back to the meeting. Chris asked representatives to encourage their PCCS to be as outward-looking as possible.

### **8th June 2017 @ St James', Bream**

- Exploring LIFE
  - ❖ Sarah Bick gave a presentation on the way that her parish is developing new models of leadership. She explained that Mid-Wyedean is piloting Effective Leadership in Every Parish (replacing Parish with Place since the Mid-Wyedean is a multi church Parish). This is the key Diocesan strategy to shape and provide for ministry in each of our communities. Mid-Wyedean and another parish are taking part in pilot schemes to develop training.
  - ❖ Sarah shared with the meeting the context of Mid-Wyedean, which is a United Parish of five churches with one PCC, 2 churchwardens and local assistant churchwardens. Sarah explained about 'The Church on the Street' shop in the town. The parish has developed a mission action plan that sets out their vision. Sarah said that the need was to empower congregations to minister to each other. This is not a 'vicar does all' model. The vicar's role is to empower others to find their ministry and use their gifts.
  - ❖ Group discussions followed about 'What leadership might look like in the various parishes represented?'
- The treasurer thanked treasurers for paying their deanery subscriptions. He also suggested that parishes should not overpay their Parish Share to the DBF as this will affect the amount those parishes are asked to pay the following year. He suggested that any surplus that parishes wish to pay should be paid to the Deanery and it will be used to make up shortfalls in other parishes.

## 17th October 2017 @ The Church of the Good Shepherd, Broadwell

- Treasurers Report. The Deanery Stipends Fund allocation has changed. A portion of any allocation will be related to Experian data. The remainder is allocated at a meeting of Area Deans and Lay Chairs. Andy reminded the meeting that this deanery has received a lot of support this year. He strongly encouraged parishes to run an annual stewardship campaign. He has sent links to parish treasurers with information about running a campaign. Representatives were urged to emphasise the importance of this matter to their PCCs. The diocese will soon be issuing a booklet and film on this subject. It was also suggested that some teaching on the subject of tithing takes place in churches. It was reported that when Christchurch parish made parishioners aware of the financial situation, the impact had been great.
- Mission and Evangelism. Bishop Robert and Ben Preece Smith attended the meeting.
  - ❖ Bishop Robert spoke about the LIFE vision and recounted a story from the book of Numbers about the people of Israel in the desert, some of whom, on seeing that the promised land was heavily fortified, wanted to turn back while others were happy to continue to the place God had called them to. He said we are being called to go forward and this is at the heart of the LIFE vision. We need to get the Why? right: we are committed to sharing the transforming gospel of Jesus because our God is faithful. This sense of being called forward is essential to how we manage our planning within the deanery. We have to consider: what is the right way to deploy our resources? As a deanery, we were encouraged to be bold and ambitious about the How? and What? And to look at the place where God is calling.
  - ❖ Ben Preece –Smith spoke about mission and evangelism through the LIFE vision. He said that LIFE is changing the diocese due to the way it has been formed and resourced. 6000 people around the diocese were involved in conversations (about 1% of the population of the diocese) about how the church can make a genuine difference. The vision is being delivered by 14 different groups made up of 90 people and the Bishop's Council has set up a sub-committee that does not consider money or buildings but concentrates on mission. Representatives were encouraged to consider how the deanery will deliver this within our community. The deanery should request help from the diocese when issues are identified. Bishop Robert, Ben and a variety of experts are willing to attend meetings to discuss ideas if this would be helpful. The overarching message was to see the diocese as a resource and to ask for support.
- Robert Simpson gave a presentation about Christian Aid and Green energy. Information can be found at: [christianaid.org.uk/bigshift](http://christianaid.org.uk/bigshift) Ben Preece-Smith reported that the Diocese is hoping to launch a green energy buying scheme in 2018.

Alison Stuttard (Deanery Synod Rep)

## Safeguarding

The safeguarding officer is Mark Bick who can be contacted on 01594 836418 or at <mailto:mark@markbick.co.uk>. The deputy officer is the incumbent, Rev Sarah Bick who can be contacted on 01594 835476 or at [vicar@mid-wyedeanchurches.co.uk](mailto:vicar@mid-wyedeanchurches.co.uk). During the period of Maternity Leave the Rev'd Alan Wearmouth has taken on the role of deputy officer. He can be contacted on 01594 832660 or at [alanw22uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alanw22uk@yahoo.co.uk). The Diocesan safeguarding team can always be directly contacted as well. There were no incidents directly within the responsibility of the parish this year. Six people have completed safeguarding training or safeguarding workshops and four people have had renewed DBS checks. The Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and adopted at a meeting of the PCC in September 2017.

## Summary of achievements or major events

Two developments in Ministry within the Pair are highlights of 2017. On Palm Sunday Mrs Denise Hogan was licensed as a Reader to our Parish and already her ministry has been fruitful and welcomed, especially but not exclusively by the Church community at Staunton. We welcome her with open arms and I am sure that she will be a great asset to our Ministry team. That Ministry team was further sugmenteed at the very same Palm Sunday service by the licensing of our EMEP (Effective Ministry in Every Place) team (detailed on the first page of this report). This team

underwent training together with the Director for Mission and Ministry, the Revd. Andrew Braddock, and is now invaluable in ensuring that our new pattern of Sunday worship can be maintained even when there is only one Priest available to celebrate the Eucharist and to perform Baptisms. This new service pattern has been generally well received and the "Service of the Word" services have offered new opportunities for lay led and innovative Sunday worship in all our communities.

The other major achievement of the year was the opening and embedding of The Church On The Street, our Parish Office in the centre of Coleford part of which is sublet to a Christian bookshop. Within the Parish Office the Parish Co-ordinator has quickly established her role which is proving invaluable and is reported upon elsewhere.

Our meeting structure has been forced by events to become more efficient and effective and this is to be welcomed.

Some real progress is now being made in terms of our vision and mission for the future. However, this is only being achieved through the grants we have received from the Diocese, the Development Fund and Sylvanus Lysons. Making this work sustainable for the future will take considerable time, and remains our challenge to rise to.

### **Finance Committee Report**

The Finance Committee has met regularly through the year as mandated by the PCC. It has dealt with decisions falling within its remit between PCC meetings when a response is required sooner than the next PCC meeting. It has revisited the financial policy of the Parish and its five year projections. It has kept a watch on the budget as set at the beginning of the year. The Committee, which includes financial representatives from each worshipping community as well as the Churchwardens and Clergy, assists the treasurer in fulfilling her duties and ensures financial openness and probity. I am very grateful for the attendance and support of all members of the Committee and can commend its work to the Parish.

Reverend Alan Wearmouth - Chair of the Finance Committee.