



St Peter's Church
Chantilly

A.G.M.
2nd April 2017

Activity Reports
for 2016

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St Peter's Charitable Giving Association (CGA)

As custodian of the charitable and mission giving of St Peter's Church, Chantilly the CGA supported five Christian charities during 2016.

1. Secours Catholique – helps those in poverty at a local and international level.
2. SEL – Christian relief organisation with a long-term vision to reduce poverty and improve living conditions within communities and also to respond to emergencies/crises worldwide.
3. ICS (Intercontinental Church Society) – international mission and ministry to people who speak English; they are also the patron of St Peter's.
4. Open Doors – helps persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. They provide Bibles, literature, medical and mental support/treatment where needed.
5. Saint Paul's, Athens – Father Malcolm Bradshaw is supporting refugees in Greece. St Paul's is an Anglican church and part of the Diocese in Europe.

Cheques for €1,500 were sent to each of the above in January.

The CGA continue to support Ryle Francis Alura and will do so until he finishes his education (he was born on 6 March 2009).

A sponsored walk organized by Hazel Hales and the Sunday School was held in May and raised €150. Please continue to write regularly to Ryle... e-mails can be sent via Daniel Ross (daniel.je.ross@gmail.com)

During 2016 the CGA have supported several other charities.

- St John the Evangelist Church, Izmir, Turkey.
- Jane Foster and friends who performed a play of Le Petit Prince which raised €150.
- Harvest Festival appeal raised €195.67.

A big thank you to Rev Michael and Jo Selman for sharing their experiences in Izmir which brought this important restoration project into focus.

Having visited the 'jungle' in Calais during April it was generally felt that we were serving no useful purpose. It was decided to discuss with L'Auberge des migrants and Christian Salome but to put further visits on hold. During the following few months there were huge changes which concluded with the dismantling of the entire camp in October. It was discovered that some 47 Syrian refugees were displaced to Nogent sur Oise under the protection of ADOMA, a social housing association. In December a collection of clothes, hygiene products, books, pens and games was made and delivered.

- The Way asked to be actively involved and a collection of baby/ children clothes, cots, pushchairs etc. was delivered in February to assist five newborns and their mothers. A huge thank you to them for this initiative.
- St Peters Mission Action Plan
It was decided that the CGA would like to concentrate on some short term actions to "Bring Charity Home" and so with the support of the whole community we helped:
 - The BCF (British Charitable Fund) to bake, decorate and distribute 23 Christmas cakes,
 - Send 31 present-filled boxes to the American Cathedral in Paris as part of their Christmas "Love In A Box" appeal.

Pastoral Care – this is difficult on many levels in the absence of a Chaplain but Rev Chris Martin suggested that a start would be to encourage the congregation to be aware and to encourage those members who are naturally gifted. There has been some very effective coordination of home/ care visits and food delivery in the last few months for which we thank God.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Members of the Bureau:

President: Henny Davies Ex-Officio: Nick Clarke (until Sept 2016)
Treasurer: Cheryl Jones Secretary: Daniel Ross - to step down 4/17
Committee members: Ann Bouchardon, Sas Browne, Lucy Hoffmann
and Régis Lesieux.

Henny Davies

The Way - St Peter's Youth Group (11-18 years old)

The Way meets every Sunday morning outside of school holidays in the basement for breakfast, worship, and exploring faith together through the Bible, testimony, sharing and prayer, with emphasis on fun and friendship.

In January 2016, The Way had been established for 4 months, and the youth ran a service in church. They started by serving breakfast to the whole congregation before moving up to church to lead worship, perform a sketch, lead prayers, give testimony and preach on Matthew 15: 22-33, the theme being "Trust". They served communion, inviting people to gather in small groups to pray together.

The youth have been actively involved in other services in the main church building, notably at the end of June, Nick and Cherry's leaving service in September, Harvest Festival, and Christmas. They particularly enjoy leading worship.

In February 2016, we began Youth Alpha, which was bilingual (French/English) in order to include some French youth who were keen to join. This ran until the end of June, and included a weekend in May discovering the Holy Spirit (appropriately on Pentecost weekend). This was a highlight of the year, when several of the youth chose to enter into a relationship with Jesus.

St Peter's had budgeted for some kitchen units in the basement, but this was temporarily suspended to help cover the costs of renovating the chaplain's flat over the summer.

The new school year began in September with "Grace" being the underlying theme for the year – understanding God's grace, entering into God's grace, experiencing God's grace, sharing God's grace. We considered what it means to live authentic lives, and also measured the

impact that our words can have on others, the aim being to make a positive impact on the world around us.

The nativity play was a highlight to end the year, and we spent several weeks rehearsing, practising songs, and making costumes, in conjunction with the Sunday School. 43 children and youth took part in this uplifting experience in December.

Tiffany Cawood

Home Groups

There are five Home Groups now that meet on different nights of the week every two weeks and one in the afternoons on Tuesdays. The night meetings are hosted in Coye La Forêt, Chantilly, Avilly St Léonard or Apremont and Chambly. The Tuesday afternoon group is hosted in Senlis.

Janet Ross stepped down from co-ordinating the Home Groups in Summer 2016 and our thanks go to her for helping to organize them.

Last year, before Nick Clarke left, we began the HTB Prayer Course - 6 sessions which went through the Lord's Prayer and each group watched a DVD clip and discussed together what God was saying to them through the DVD.

When this finished, we took a break for Christmas and started up again in the New Year with Jeff Lucas's study on 'There Are No Ordinary People'. This is a 4-session DVD and we are nearly coming to the end of this study. We will then look at a study for Lent.

Julie Dove

Archdeaconry Synod Report

The Archdeaconry Synod of France was held in St Jacut de la Mer from 18 to 21 May 2016. The theme of the Synod was “Migration and Refugees”. The Eucharist was celebrated daily.

The treasurer, David Bean, gave his financial report stressing that his aim is always to achieve a fair and equitable balance between the Quota and the amount necessary to reimburse the travel costs of those attending Synod. In 2016 the amount paid by Chantilly was 960 euros (700 euros Quota and 260 euros Continuing Ministerial Education fund), which is there to be spent and Chaplaincies can apply for money from it.

Two Bible studies on Old Testament books were given by Revd Dr Richard Briggs from Cranmer Hall, Durham, both very relevant to the theme of the Synod, “Jonah and the Assyrians, when the other is the enemy” and “Daniel and the Babylonians, when we are the other”.

Migration and Refugees

Refugees in Greece and the Anglican Response.

Max McClellan recently returned from Greece where he had been assisting Revd Malcolm Bradshaw, Chaplain of St Paul’s Anglican Church, Athens in his work with refugees. Max was supported by US, the United Society, a Christian agency based in the UK. He told us there were 54,000 refugees stranded in Greece including many women and children, sometimes alone, since the beginning of 2016. The main nationalities are Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan and thousands are in makeshift camps in Athens. The different churches in Athens have united together with NGO’s to help them but there is much confusion. (the Anglican Chaplaincy, Greek Orthodox, Salvation Army, Evangelical Church of Greece, Caritas (Secours Catholique), Jesuit Relief Services, United Society, Scandinavian Church, German Evangelical Church).

The Anglican Church provides 400 meals a week in 2 detention centres. Also financial help, providing an interpreter for the Afghans, and collects items for the refugee camps, combs, tooth brushes, etc.

There was also a presentation by Doris Peschke, General Secretary of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), reminding us that we have the biggest refugee crisis since WWII. It is important to realise that they are not ALL coming to Europe, 95% of the refugees are in the Middle East and Africa where support is now very necessary. Kenya is hosting the most refugees in Africa and receives no international support; therefore people starve in the camps because donations are not forthcoming.

The British and German governments are giving support but it is insufficient. Germany has taken a million migrants.

The biggest challenge is in the Mediterranean area with many people lost at sea. There should be a common European policy on the reception of refugees with decent conditions and a workable re-settlement scheme. What does it do to US when we close ourselves in and how can WE justify closing ourselves off from the problem? We are perhaps afraid but the Bible says 'have no fear'. How would we like to live with bombs falling on our heads – we must create a place for those who have fled from that. 'Us and them' then becomes 'Us and you'.

Safeguarding Update

Ian Carter, the new Diocesan Safeguarding Manager gave a presentation beginning with a quote from Bishop Robert, "*For me the safeguarding of children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable within our Chaplaincy communities is an absolute priority. Failure to achieve a safe and secure environment within our ministry is simply not an option*". Safeguarding has become a priority in the Church of England because of various high profile cases recently. There is now a Lead Bishop National Safeguarding Advisor and a full team. Since December 2015

there is a new Safeguarding Policy and Protocol which focuses on the responsibilities (including audit returns) of the Archdeaconry and each chaplaincy. There is a new training programme in place. Safeguarding is possibly even more important in our European Chaplaincies because people change countries and police records do not always cross frontiers. The contacts for the Diocesan Safeguarding Team are : 0044 207 898 1150 (office hours) and answer phone 0044 2070898 1163.

There was an update on the implications of the Reuilly Agreement on how the chaplaincies could deepen existing relationships with the Reformed/ Lutheran churches in their neighbourhoods and with cooperation on theological work, pastoral training and exchanges.

There was a report on French ARC and developments during the year concerning Anglican - Roman Catholic relations. Pairs of bishops had been appointed to work together on issues of practical cooperation. In April 2016 French Arc examined the publication entitled 'O Lord, open our lips: for a Common Prayer between Anglicans and Roman Catholics' and are hoping to arrange for a translation of Common Worship Morning and Evening Prayer into French.

Grants to Clergy in Europe

The following resolution was passed unanimously: *"The Synod expresses concern that many UK charities which support Church of England clergy are unwilling or unable to make grants to clergy in need in the Diocese in Europe. We therefore urge the Bishops, the Church Commissioners and the Central Board of Finance to ensure that the Diocese in Europe clergy is not discriminated against by virtue of serving in Europe"*.

The next Synod is to be held at the Abbaye de Saint Jacut de la Mer from 17-20 May, 2017.

**Ann Bouchardon
Barbara Sauron**

Mothers & Others

The first half of the year was a busy one for Mothers and Others with continued attendance by a number of regular families, many of which with toddler age children. The summer holidays saw a number of the toddlers leave to start school as well as a number of families leaving the area. As of September, a number of mothers with younger children began to attend more regularly as well as a number of “bumps”.

In January 2017, Mary Ringer, who has been running the group in recent years decided to step down so a number of the regular mums have agreed to share the responsibility of running the group. Going forward, Mothers and Others will continue to take place on Thursday mornings at 9:30am during term time with occasional sessions during school holidays depending of the hall’s availability. The group will focus on offering a friendly, English-speaking environment for Mothers (and carers) to get together and chat over tea and coffee and a safe place for pre-school children to have fun! The format may vary each week depending on who is running the session but generally includes free play, singing, dancing, parachute play and occasional themes for activities/fancy dress e.g. Easter, Mother’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day... The entrance fee will continue to be €2 per family and refreshments will be provided. We will give 50% of the money box contents to the church at the end of each school term.

We currently have over 10 regular families, with children ranging from a few months to almost 3 years old, as well as a number of more occasional attendees.

The group would like to invest in a new floor mat to create a safe play area for those with babies as well as some music for the little ones. Mothers and Others has a closed Facebook page, with over 40 members, which is used as a communication tool. We also intend to attract new members, using targeted advertising in relevant venues (crèche, maternity etc.).

We are all very grateful to the church for continuing to allow us to use the hall. Mothers and Others is a vital element of the English-speaking community for those with young children and provides a couple of hours of enjoyment for children and parents alike.

Thank you from all of us!

Claire Farrell

Men's Group

The raison d'être for this group is to have some time on a regular basis (monthly) where men from the St Peter's community and beyond can meet together and be encouraged and re-centered on Jesus Christ and the importance of maintaining Him at the centre of our lives.

The Men's Group meets on the second Saturday morning of the month and runs for around 1 ½ hours starting with breakfast, coffee and a chat to catch up with each other.

We then have a discussion around a theme of Godly character based on scripture and including life experiences. There has been on-going encouragement to come ready to share something with the group for mutual edification - the basis for this is 1 Cor. 14-26. We finish with prayer for one another.

There are usually around 6 - 8 men for each meeting and the core group express their desire to keep attending.

Aaron Dove

Music

Music has always played an important part in the life of St Peter's and 2016 was another very encouraging year, despite the obvious challenges thrown up with the departure of Nick and Cherry Clarke halfway through the year. I'm sure you would all like to join me in expressing our thanks to the Clarkes for their many music contributions over the years, from choosing music, to piano, guitar and clarinet playing and participation in and direction of the choir, carol singing in the market place, the Pantomime...the list goes on!

Our regular church musicians comprise two teams: Michelle, Vincent, and Toby Nipps-Gros, and Monika and Gordon Blackwell and I'd like to thank them for faithfully and regularly giving their time and talents to provide a variety of worship styles. Thanks too to our regular singers Sarah Sansbury and Julie Dove, and particularly for leading the singing on the occasions when we have been without any musicians on the rota.

As the regular musicians, Gordon, Monika and I would ask that the church would really pray about this ministry which, unlike almost all other ministries, does not stop for any school holidays or breaks. It is a challenge to fill in the rota, with only two teams over 52 weeks of the year and a real risk of fatigue and burn-out! Understandably, there has been the odd Sunday without musicians. Please pray that God would raise up volunteers and reveal hidden talents! We would appeal to anyone, adults or youth, with music skills - even rusty ones! - either instrumental, vocal or technical (microphones, sound levels and so on), to really prayerfully consider how, with full support, they might contribute to our worship in music and share in the vision of moving this ministry forward.

I have continued the music committee's way of operating, liaising closely with the various locums to plan the music for the coming month, taking into account the theme or special needs of the service, the congregation that will be present and the playing styles of our musicians and the instruments that will be played. I continue to be so encouraged as to

how the Holy Spirit often guides and helps in finding just the right song or hymn, with words that uplift and speak to us, reinforcing the theme of a particular service.

Out in the community, there was carol singing at the Kermesse, with enthusiastic participation of both stall holders and visitors, adding to the Christmas atmosphere and sharing widely the message of God's gift of love to all.

In December, we hosted our evening Carol Service, which was both exciting and challenging for me, taking on the role of director. It was wonderful to share conducting with Linda Weber from the Lamorlaye Church, which allowed me to accompany some of the music. My thanks to many new faces, young and not so young! who joined our regular seasonal choir members and musicians, providing some wonderful and varied music to a packed church, in an atmosphere of both reflective worship and joyous celebration.

2016 saw St Peter's continued development as a beautiful venue for quality musical concerts in Chantilly, while the concerts were able to broaden its appeal concerning the needs of the last part of the Restoration Project. Concerts included a well attended concert of Sacred Duets in May, and a superb concert of a variety of Celtic music from Eir Ys in September. In November, Elodie Kimmel broke from her normal operatic style with a completely original self-composed repertoire ranging from jazz to gospel accompanied by a clever use of looping and live accompaniment. In December we welcomed "After Hush" with contemporary songs taken from a variety of artists and styles from the '60s to the present.

With concerts planned at St Peter's for 2017, we look forward to a continuing variety of "Concerts for Every Season".

Michelle Nipps-Gros

Sunday School

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it. Proverbs 22:6

2016 was a year of change. With Annemieke and Mark van Boxtel stepping down from leadership, Cherry Clarke provided oversight of the team till the summer when she and Nick departed to take up a new position in the UK. Jenny Woods, a relative newcomer to St Peters, a former schoolteacher, accepted the invitation to provide assistance, encouragement and capacity building to the team.

There are number of children on the Sunday School register but each Sunday can welcome a different group. With a few regulars, sometimes we are as few as 9 and as many as 18, depending on the time of year and what extended family are visiting. The children appear to enjoy Sunday School and are lively, forthcoming and honest, growing in confidence to speak about spiritual things.

The Sunday school material is from Scripture Union with the themes of “Love in action, God sets the standard and God’s plan”. With 3 months of sessions all laid out for 5 to 11 year olds, we probably chose the curriculum for convenience in a period of transition. Therefore each time we have Sunday School we tend to massage the material to suit both the team’s talents and the children’s needs.

Each week we endeavour to incorporate a time of worship, story, prayer, activity/craft (in two groups if possible) and if time, include a memory verse or perhaps allow a time for questions. With our presence in church and Sunday School split, our time in the Church Centre goes quickly. To make it more engaging, we have been using a data projector/laptop for worship time, power points presentations or short videos on the theme.

Both the make-up and the number of the group changed when some went ‘up to’ The Way last year. We recognised the need to divide the wide-ranging age group after the story time. The older ones have more

discussion while doing an activity. The younger ones do an activity or craft depending on the material.

A highlight was working with The Way to put on a delightful Nativity play, which had an entertaining yet strong message about Jesus and the need to “pass it on”. We received very positive feedback from members of the congregation. The young people looked great in their hand made costumes.

The Sunday School Team

The team consists of **Julie Dove, Hazel Hales, Akiko Dupont, Lara Williams,** and **Jenny Woods** with **Aude Rijmenans** helping occasionally when she can. The team works in pairs, generally with one person taking the lead and the other person helping. They split into two groups for craft and discussion time. With such a small team, our duty can come around with regularity so a prayer point is for more helpers. Not all the team leaders speak French but the children act as translators, which is very helpful (a relief!).

It takes consistent commitment to be an active presence in the spiritual life of a child. St Peter’s is grateful to all who give up their time to prepare and help with the sessions on Sundays. Please continue to pray for both the children and their leaders – for strength, for creativity, for patience and for a desire to choose the life that God offers us all.

Jenny Woods

G & T (Give and Take)

After twelve years, G & T is continuing to meet in the Church Centre one Thursday afternoon a month (usually in the second week) and is currently undergoing a “reformation”... i.e. it is now open for all English speakers (old... AND young) to enjoy a talk or a discussion on any subject of interest today.

Is anybody at St Peter’s willing to co-ordinate “Give and Take”... ???

Maggy Brabyn (a former co-ordinator)

Churchwardens' Report

In early September we said goodbye to Nick and Cherry and it was a real testimony to their ministry among us that so many members of the community came together to give them a send-off which they will always remember. Even before they officially left, many of you worked hard on repairing and redecorating the residence; massive thanks for that and our locums have been extremely appreciative. Speaking of locums, we think that we are all grateful for the ministry and insights which Peter, John, Michael and Chris (at the time of writing) have brought to us over the past six months.

In the life of a church, a vacancy period is an excellent opportunity for us all to consider our part in how we contribute to the Christian Community. Please do continue to consider what you can offer and encourage others to do the same.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who take an active part in the church's work and mission. Sometimes your commitment is very visible but very often it happens discreetly in the background. As we prepare to welcome a new Chaplain in a few months' time, please do not hesitate to continue in offering your precious time and energy to St Peter's.

Nick Sansbury and Geoffrey Dys

