

St Peter's, Chantilly

To belong to Jesus Christ - To live for his glory



Confirmation and Baptism Weekend with Bishop Robert and Helen Innes in May (photo by Helen Innes)

We began 2018 by reviewing our priorities for the next few years

Growing in
our intimacy
with God

Sharing
God's love
with each
other

Showing
God's love to
those in
need

- Focusing on our worship together
- Building up our home groups to strengthen our pastoral care; biblical understanding and fellowship
- Getting our structures in place as part of our love and care for one another. Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children. GDPR.
- Identifying projects for reaching out to those in need, with refugees, asylum seekers victims of human trafficking.
- Building on our Ecumenical relationships through local church networks
- Becoming an environmentally responsible community
- Financial Stewardship

It was lovely to welcome Bishop Robert and Helen in May for our Confirmation Service. It was a great time of celebration and joy as 15 members of St Peter's affirmed their faith through being confirmed and four were baptized. In June we held a fundraising concert with The Harvard Din and Tonics Accappella group and filled the theatre at the Potager de Prince with friends of St Peter's from far and near. Even the resident peacocks appeared on stage. It was a wonderful evening and we raised a few euros as well.



Money and the lack of it is a BIG ISSUE for us, and we launched a funding program to try to raise our planned giving and donations by an ambitious 25%. Together with our Annual Christmas Kermesse, we did see a small lift in giving but we have much more work to do regarding our stewardship. We are trusting in God's provision for our mission and ministry as we seek to grow in Godly love.



Through the St Peter's Church Giving Association we have identified projects that we can be involved in as well as help fund as another part of our giving. The Way (youth group), have led the way and encouraged us to support 'Le Source', the Chantilly Food bank. Now we take regular deliveries to them and are able to volunteer. We have been working with Adoma locally to support migrants. We also gave 86 Christmas boxes to love in a box, be delivered to children for Christmas.



In September we opened the Church again for the Journee de Patrimoine and a group from Nigeria/UK who joined us on the Sunday in our service.



Christmas at St Peter's included a Christingle service with a Nativity play and wonderful Carols by Candlelight.



Our Ecumencial links in the area are growing and we shared a beautiful service during the week of prayer for Christian Unity at Senlis Cathedral. Our Chaplain gave the sermon and there was a very joyful reception after the service. Next year St Peter's will be the host. We have also been happy to share our church building with the Malgasy protestant church of Creil who use the church once a month for a service.

While we have been encouraged by many things in 2018 we have also been struggling and challenged by our diversity. We pray that as we seek God he will bring the reconciliation that is necessary for us to be a thriving and joyful community and equip us to grow as a very diverse community into the people God has called us to be.



