

ST PETER'S, KINVER  ST MARY'S, ENVILLE

*in the big moments
and on the small steps
we will journey with Jesus
together!*



ANNUAL REPORTS BOOKLET
MAY 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Annual Reports booklet. For the first time this year in addition to the reports from St Peter's, Kinver, we are also including information on activities at St Mary's, Enville. Each activity or subject leader has contributed a brief overview to give you a flavour of what has been happening over the past 12 months or so. In total we have 37 reports, which just shows what busy churches we have!

The reports are provided by the people who oversee each area of the church, or the relevant activity. Thanks to the generosity of these people, many of whom work quietly behind the scenes, our churches remain beautiful, full of life and able to offer a wide range of activities for our communities.

If you are interested in finding out more, or joining any of the activities listed, you can talk to the people who wrote the reports, or email stpetersandstmarys@gmail.com and your message will be forwarded to the activity co-ordinator.

Thank you to everyone who helped compile this booklet and thank you to everyone who volunteers for St Peter's and St Mary's – we couldn't do it without your unwavering support.

Claire Gwilliam, Church Administrator

RECTOR'S REPORT

I have to confess that preparing for Annual Meetings is one of my least favourite parts of being a Rector. It doesn't really play to my strengths in that you have to be organised, and you need to remember things that have happened, neither of which are high on my list of skills—especially as I'm usually doing it in the busyness of the run-up to Easter!

That said, reading through these reports each year is one of my absolute favourite parts of being a Rector! They are a reminder to me, and I hope to all of us, of just how much work and love and care and effort goes into the life of our Churches and communities.

So many people are behind the words in this booklet, because a church isn't just the stone and wood, or even prayerbooks and bibles, a church is the people, faithfully following Jesus together week after week, year after year. And so I am incredibly grateful to every single person who makes up the wonderful church family of St Mary's and St Peter's.

I have been Rector here nearly 5 years now (if you can believe that!), and I am so excited to be part of all that God is doing among us at the moment. Last year we spent a lot of time seeking God's vision for our Churches, and out of all of that came this Vision Statement:

We believe that God is calling us to:

Do the Big Things Well

We will share God's love in the big moments of life
for individuals, communities, and churches

Make the Small Steps Easier

We will help make everyone's next steps towards Jesus easier
wherever the starting point may be

Go on the Journey Together

We will support each other and learn from each other
on our journey of faith

**In the big moments and on the small steps
let's journey with Jesus together!**

Each of the reports in this booklet are, in their different ways, outworkings of this vision, as we seek to deepen our faith and share God's love with our community. I can't wait to see where the coming year takes us on this exciting journey with Jesus!

BAPTISMS

During 2024 we held 15 Baptisms at St Peter's and one at St Mary's, which were spread between January and November (we don't usually have baptisms in August or December). Three of these were adults, and the rest were young children. Baptisms are usually held on a Sunday afternoon which means that we can make the services much

shorter and more child-friendly than having them in a morning communion service, though this is always an option too.

One of the afternoon baptism services marked a particularly significant moment in the life of our Benefice as it also included the very first use of the Church of England's new Prayers of Love and Faith for the blessing of a same-sex marriage. It was a truly joyful occasion as we were able to celebrate this with Gareth and Jonathan and their family.

Rev'd Rich, Rector

BELL RINGERS

There are 18 ringers affiliated to Kinver, however, we need to recruit and teach more so if you know of anyone who might want to learn, please spread the word! In 2024 we rang for many Sunday services, 10 weddings, three funerals (and tolled for two) and also tolled at Wolverley and Wollaston.

We opened the tower and welcomed Brindley students, Kinver Guides, Bobbington Air Scouts and most recently the general public as part of the Daffodil Days weekend. On 4th March this year we rang a Quarter Peal marking the 25th anniversary of the bells being rehung at St Peter's.

Our young ringers Charlotte and Anna were part of the Worcester Cathedral Young Ringers band at the Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC) in London in July, their team won the 8 bell Call Change contest with a score of 9.5/10 – we were all thrilled. Kelise achieved her first Surprise Quarter Peal - a complex ringing performance lasting 47 minutes and Isobel and Ruby both passed their level 1 Learning the Ropes Ringing Award.

Thank you to Mo for his ongoing belfry maintenance and the Cumbria Clocks Specialists who upgraded the electronic clock wind system in January, (the cost of which was funded by the Wrigley Trust, with thanks).

Diane Awkati, Tower Captain

BIBLE STUDY

There were a number of opportunities to study the Bible together through 2024. We ran two more modules of the Pilgrim Course on the Beatitudes and the Creeds. We joined together regularly with the Methodists for a series of different Bible Studies and courses.

A new group began to meet, led by Roger and Ginny Campbell, to look at Luke's Gospel together. And we began a new series of discussion evenings called 'Thursday Night Theology', which so far has tried to answer questions such as "What is the point of wasps?", "Why are there so many different types of church?", and "If the Bible has been translated so many times how can we still trust it?".

In 2025 all these will continue, and we will also be running the Church of England's "Difference" course alongside a sermon series using the same material this summer. Studying the Bible together in small groups is a great way to go deeper in your journey with Jesus, and is great fun too!

Rev'd Rich, Rector

BLACK COUNTRY FOODBANK

The Black Country Foodbank is a Christian-based charitable organisation set up in 2006. At St Peter's, we started to donate food, toiletries and money in Lent 2012 and we thank the people who continue to give donations. Packets and tins of food are ideal.

Please consider being a part of this initiative; if every member of the congregation brought one item each week, what a fantastic result that would be! The donation point at St Peter's is just by the font in the South Aisle, and at St Mary's is the box in the porch.

Hilary & Ian Gapper, Foodbank Co-ordinators

CHAPLAINCY AT KINVER HIGH SCHOOL

Coming out of Churches Together in Kinver & Enville, the High School

Chaplaincy programme is a joint commitment between Invictus Academy Trust who run Kinver High School, St Peter's Church and the Methodist Church at Potters Cross.

There are 10 Chaplains covering two one-hour lunch breaks per week and two one-hour periods of 'enrichment', which are sessions at the end of the school day for year 8 students. Currently this is limited to assisting in the food preparation, where we come across some budding chefs and 'foodies' of the future!

Chaplaincy dovetails well with the work with young people undertaken by both Churches at Foley Infants and Brindley Heath Junior Schools (for more details please see Anne Drew's report later in the booklet). Anne is also a Chaplain which has many benefits such as helping with transition when Year 6 students move up to the senior school.

Ian Campbell

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Children's Society, a national charity, works with young people to counsel and support them through their most serious life challenges. To help vulnerable children through the Society, members put aside coins or banknotes over twelve-months. In 2024 we raised £675.74 - down from £800.87 in 2023 but 11 new members have joined, and we currently stand at 38. Many thanks to all who contribute - it is wonderful to see how the contributions add up. We also support the Children's Society through our annual Christingle Services.

I took over as box network co-ordinator in December 2024. Hilary Gapper put much time and effort in for many years - thank you, Hilary! Our allocated 'collection month' is January. Many thanks to Hugh and Angie Ross who helped count and cross-check monies this year. To learn more about the Children's Society, or join the box network, please contact me. All donations - and new members - are welcome.

Colin Darling

CHOIR—ENVILLE COMMUNITY CHOIR

Since first forming at Christmas 2022, the Enville Community Choir has sung on a number of occasions, usually gathering for a few rehearsals before singing at a special service. In 2024 the Community Choir assembled twice, firstly to sing at the Harvest Festival, and secondly for St Mary's Carol Service where the choir numbered nearly 30 including 11 children! Since then we have also sung at the Benefice Palm Sunday service, and have plans to sing at a special VE Day Evensong, and this year's Harvest and Christmas services again. Do keep an eye out for future dates, everyone is welcome to join us!

Rev'd Rich, Community Choir Director (and Rector!)

CHOIR—ST PETER'S CHURCH CHOIR

There has been no change in total Choir membership at St Peter's – 14, mainly ladies. This number is occasionally supplemented by two U3A singers Margaret Thompson and Joan Bowles, and Church Warden, Ian Campbell. We have eight sopranos (Amanda West, Gail Davis, Betty Cross, Hazel Harris, Margaret Temple, Lynn Hingley, Jill Elwell and Barbara Hanke) three altos (Barbara Rundle, Judy Gibbons, and Margaret Emuss) and two bass (Ben Thompson and George Barrow).

Attendance is variable for Sunday services, nevertheless the choir has a core group who continue to support the congregation well. They rise to the challenge when asked to sing something new or different.

In 2024 we held two open workshops - a Gospel workshop and a Faure's Requiem first chorus. Both were well attended and the standard of singing was high. There are plans to hold more workshops this year. Since returning to Choir practice after having January off, we now practise alternate Saturday mornings and to help choir numbers, members of the U3A continue to join us for weddings, funerals and special services.

Helen Barley stepped down as accompanist for 1st Sunday each month, we are grateful for all that Helen has contributed to the musical life of St Peter's over the years. Michael Jones now plays for this service and

on the third Sunday. Nicholas Stanbury plays 2nd and 4th Sundays and Dan Campbell plays the occasional 5th. New choir members are always welcome, please get in touch if you are interested.

Barbara Hanke, Choir Director

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN KINVER & ENVILLE

Representatives from St Peter's Church, St Mary's Church and Kinver Methodist Church meet about three to four times a year. The meeting always begins with a welcome and opening prayer.

The agenda covers news from the Churches, services, schools, youth and children's work, any Bible studies or courses coming up and of course AOB. The meeting then concludes with prayers for the village and the Grace.

There was great news at the meeting in November. There will be a new Methodist Minister, Rev'd Jeremy (Jem) Hawkins who will take up his post this September. He and his wife Wendy are both from the Black Country. This post will cover Kinver, Kingswinford, and a chapel in Brierley Hill. Jem has already had links with ecumenical work and working with children and is looking forward to doing more of the same.

These meetings help communication between the Churches and are so useful in planning joint services and events such as the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, exchanging news from the churches and schools and knowing better what is going on at all the Churches.

Anne Drew, Churches Together Representative

CHURCH HALL

The Church Hall continues to serve as a venue for a range of activities from Bridge to Brownies and Rainbows to KLOS rehearsals, in addition to parties and other celebrations.

The quiz nights are getting busier and the groans louder if the

questions are too difficult! The ploughman's suppers continue to be popular, even if the quiz rounds are not to everyone's liking!

During the year Hilary secured a large photograph of the king which now hangs on the wall between the kitchen and committee room doors. Our small committee, under Hilary's leadership, continues to keep the hall up to standard and thanks to some recent grants we have replaced the curtains and blinds.

Our Christmas and Easter fairs are always well received, but it is always difficult to avoid clashes of dates with a busy village. A great deal of maintenance is done by Ian Gapper and we are very grateful for this, and the tables have been revamped by another 'backroom' body.

There is always room on the committee for extra members, so please have a word with Hilary if you would like to join us – many hands make light work!

Sandy Allen, Church Hall Committee

CHURCHYARD—ST PETER'S

In order to help South Staffs Council discharge its statutory duty to maintain the churchyard walls, we commissioned the church architect and engineering consultants to undertake a detailed structural survey. This is the essential factual basis for obtaining church Faculty approval for repairs.

The Council is now seeking quotations for appropriate conservation-led repairs and we expect to start work with them on a Faculty application shortly. A section of the north wall collapsed during one of the winter storms and the gap has been fenced off by the council.

The Council continues to provide an excellent grass-cutting service in the main churchyard and our own contractor cares for the churchyard extension where we propose to increase the level of maintenance this year.

In 2024, we won a Silver in the Diocesan 'Best Kept Churchyard' Competition. The churchyard looked better than ever for the Daffodil

Days weekend and was ablaze with flowers thanks to the hard work of John Cutler and his team. We are now progressing plans to improve disabled parking.

Church Wardens

CHURCHYARD—ST MARY'S

Due to health issues on the part of our previous gardeners, we have now appointed John and Abigael Garrett who are doing an excellent job maintaining the grounds around the Church. Unfortunately early in the year we had two significant tree branches fall, one of which damaged some old gravestones. However thanks to Ian Campbell, Martin Lindon-Jones, and Enville Hall, these were made safe and cleared. Thanks also to Nigel Adams who relaid part of the path to make it safe.

We continue to get a lot of interest in the ancient gravestones near the porch which it has been suggested may be connected to the Knights Templar. Despite Rev'd Rich's scepticism about the accuracy of these claims, they draw a lot of visitors to this Church for which we are very grateful!

Church Wardens

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

We no longer have a regular Contemplative Prayer Group however, we now do a monthly service of Compline on a Sunday at 4.00pm. This very short form of evening prayer is a quiet, reflective space which many find brings a great sense of peace. For those who aren't familiar with it, I do invite you to come along.

We also have a variety of opportunities for meditation and contemplation. Last year these included a Quiet Day at Mucknell Abbey which was lovely, a bi-monthly Contemplative Service at St Peter's on the first Saturday of the month, and 'Blue Christmas' (a quieter seasonal service with the bereaved especially in mind).

We hope to arrange another Quiet Day in the summer and I am planning an Ignatian prayer workshop. I would also like to also draw attention to the many interesting and useful books on spirituality and contemplative practice in our well-resourced church library.

Particular thanks to Colin Darling and Glenis Lucas for their much valued contributions.

Rev'd Nicki Caines

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The Electoral Roll is a parish church's register of people who can vote on church matters, stand for The Parochial Church Council (PCC) and attend the Annual Meeting.

At the time of writing the Electoral Rolls are being updated to reflect the above. Every six years we are required to renew the Electoral Roll as part of the Church of England's rules. The Roll was last renewed in 2019. During the intermediate years it is updated when members join the congregation, move away or when members sadly pass away. It is anticipated that the Electoral Roll at the APCM will be approximately 135 for St Peter's, St Mary's is still being compiled at the time of writing.

The Electoral Roll is also uploaded to 'iKnow', the Church's database, to assist with communication with Church members. It would be very helpful to check to ensure we have your current email address. If you have not completed your 2025 renewal form, it's never too late!

Ian Campbell - St Peter's Electoral Roll Officer
Ken Hingley—St Mary's Electoral Roll Officer

FABRIC REPORT—ST MARY'S

Early in 2024 we had our Quinquennial (five-yearly) Inspection at St Mary's by our architect Andrew Arrol. Thankfully this revealed no major issues, and the routine maintenance of the building continued through the year. This included fixing the tiles near the porch door

which had become unsafe, repairing the plaster in the porch roof, some electrical works by the kitchen and on the outside lighting, and repair work to the lightning conductor.

Funding for this work was supported by REVs Enville, and the St Mary's Enville Trust and we are grateful for their assistance.

Church Wardens

FABRIC REPORT—ST PETER'S

Winter storms necessitated some urgent repairs to the church roof, but otherwise the fabric of our wonderful building remains in generally good repair. We continue to tick off repair jobs listed in the 2024 Quinquennial (five-yearly) architect's report whilst progressing some improvements where finance allows.

We have received Faculty approval to introduce stained-glass into the south porch door and have upgraded the church electrics to provide better illumination (including of the Ten Commandments board) and more power points.

A plaque commemorating Graham Rowley and his organ restoration campaign in the early part of the century has been installed in the Chancel and was dedicated in a morning service. The hearing induction loop has been repaired and the alarm system upgraded to send telephone alerts.

Sadly, our church architect of long-standing, Robert Kilgour, has resigned and relocated to Wales and we are in the process of recruiting his replacement.

Church Wardens

FLOWERS—ST MARY'S

This year has seen change for the flower arrangers at St Mary's. Maggie Talbot had for many years organised the flowers arrangers, ordered supplies and been very active offering help and guidance. We were

saddened by Maggie's sudden death last July.

I have taken on the role and I have been very grateful to the seven regular volunteers who cover the weekly arrangements as well as decorate the church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We receive many compliments on these occasions.

We are also grateful the flowers for Christmas and Easter are bought for us, as is the oasis which, in trying to be environmentally friendly, is now biodegradable. I am very grateful for the help, encouragement and support of Sue and Carolyn who keep an eye on things in the week. Anyone is welcome to join, no experience necessary!

Beryl Pritchett

FLOWERS—ST PETER'S

Last year saw our Flower Arrangers busy during Harvest and Christmas, making sure that we contributed visually to those traditional Great Festivals. We have just taken part in another mammoth Daffodil Weekend enjoyed by many villagers with their families over the two days. We hardly had time to draw breath and it was Easter!

Once again the ladies excelled themselves and St Peter's was a sight to behold for visitors and worshippers alike. We would love to welcome more ladies or men to our team. You do not need any experience, we will soon teach you the basics. Please speak to one of the wardens and they will point you in the right direction.

Thank you everyone for your willingness to give up time and share your skills for all to enjoy.

Barbara Rundle

HOLY DUSTERS

Good news! After at least fifteen years of looking after this lovely old church, we are welcoming four new (younger?) members to our team. There is a rota and traditionally we have been meeting on Friday

mornings between 9am and 11am with a break in the middle for a cuppa and a chat.

We now meet on Mondays starting at 9.30am. We should only be needed once each month, thanks to a larger bank to call on. If you are reading this and feel that you would like to help and join us why not drop in sometime and have a chat?

Unfortunately, there are three Bank Holidays at the beginning of this new quarter, but I am sure that the congregation will be understanding and support us. Finally, a huge thank you to all our volunteers for your loyal commitment to St Peter's. We couldn't do it without you!

Barbara Rundle

LITTLE ST PETER'S TRUST

The aim of the Trust is to give priority to aiding young church people in educational travel. Special consideration is to be given to the Stourton ward of the parish. Otherwise, the funds are to be applied for the good of the people and church of the parish of Kinver.

The Trust Fund is administered by the Rector, Churchwardens and two nominees from Little St Peter's Church (currently Ian & Hilary Gapper).

If you live in Kinver Parish and wish to apply, please contact the trust by email to ian.gapper@gmail.com

Ian Gapper, Treasurer of Little St. Peter's Trust

MESSY CHURCH AT ST PETER'S

'Messy Church' has had a very busy year in 2024/25: we hold our 'Messy Church' session every third Sunday in the month at 12noon at St Peter's, starting with a 'bring and share' lunch. (And I warn you, it can be messy . . .)

We regularly have fifteen or more children and their families, and they certainly seem to engage with what we do! We make a lot of noise, sing, bang instruments, act out stories, and do messy, gluey craftwork

(but not all at once. . .!!) all based around a simple message on the topic in hand, with an ‘all-join-in’ prayer to round everything off.

The children safely ‘take-over’ the church building at their own level, while the adults join in, putting the world to rights as and when they feel the need.

This past year we have covered ‘The Emmaus Road’, ‘Pentecost Party’, parachute team games with ‘The Body of Christ’, ‘All Creatures Great and Small’ (when we made bug hotels, and googly-eyed bugs), then an Autumn series of saints, starting with a scarecrow ‘St Peter’ for St Mary’s scarecrow harvest, then ‘St Luke’ (bull masks) followed by ‘St Hilda’, finding out a little about the Celtic Church and making spinning snakes/ammonites.

New Year saw us making some Bible Beasties, with ‘Jonah’ and a ferocious big fish, ‘Elijah’ with some flapping ravens, and ‘The Lost Sheep’ (represented by a large marshmallow Shaun the Sheep). Time for thinking caps now as we prepare for this coming season. . .

Margaret Emuss, Messy Church Team

MINISTRY TEAM

The Ministry Team continues to meet monthly to plan and review our services and other ministry activities in the Benefice. It is wonderful to have such a variety of perspectives and experience within the team, and we all learn from one another as we think prayerfully and carefully about the nuances of our worship and liturgy. This year we welcomed Jason Content into the Ministry Team while he explores a vocation to ordained ministry, and we look forward to Emma Hammond joining us as curate in the summer of 2025.

At the beginning of 2025 we introduced two new regular services into our service pattern – Evening Worship on the first Sunday each month, which is a service of traditional prayer and contemporary worship, and Compline on the last Sunday each month, which is a quiet service of night prayer to round off the month.

Rev’d Rich, Rector

MOTHER'S UNION

Mother's Union is an international charity where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. We have a membership of over 4 million people in over 82 countries, each serving Christ in their local community through prayer, financial giving and volunteering. The Diocese of Lichfield has over 2,000 members both ladies and gentlemen (very often members' husbands and partners).

Our branch meets on the third Thursday of each month at 2pm in the Church Hall. We start with a prayer, a hymn and a Bible reading followed by a guest speaker. We also have tea, cake and time for discussion. Some members are what we call 'indoor members' i.e. those who are housebound.

Many members are involved in fundraising to further the work we do here and worldwide and to create a relief fund for when disasters happen. Wherever we see the need, we are there.

Margaret Davies, Branch Leader

OUTDOOR CHURCH AT ST MARY'S

The monthly Outdoor Church All Age Service at St Mary's has grown into a really strong little community of people of all ages. We meet at 11am on the first Sunday each month. Depending on the time of year we vary the amount of the service that is spent outside, but we always do at least part of it in the Churchyard. Our worship over the past year has been inspired by trees, rainbows, feet, conkers, rain, and much more!

Rev'd Rich, Rector

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

St Peter's Pastoral Care Team continued to meet through the year, working together to support some of the more vulnerable members of our congregations and community. This includes visits and phonecalls,

communions for the housebound and services in residential homes.

A particular focus during this year was working towards being a Dementia Friendly Church, with several members of the team attending training led by the Diocesan Dementia Friendly Churches advisor, Sarah Thorpe.

We must also pay tribute to the late John Gibbons who died in October. John was a key member of the Pastoral Care Team and was someone who exemplified a life of Christian friendship and quiet pastoral care for so many.

Rev'd Rich

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Monthly visits to The Coach House are on the last Friday of the month. We have also been visiting The Lodge Care Home on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The contact person for The Coach House is Activities Coordinator Karen Dainty and Charlie the Activities Coordinator is at The Lodge.

Volunteers (usually 3-5) from the Pastoral Care Team and members of the choir join me to deliver morning prayer services at 11am. This year I have also given Holy Communion after the morning prayer service. This has been popular among the residents with most receiving the sacrament. This has extended our visits to lasting an hour.

Visitors who have accompanied me this year are Gail Davis, Becca Campbell, Ben and Margaret Thompson, Gillian Elwell, Keith and Marlene Parsons, Margaret Emuss, Jason Content and Lucie Clarkson. At Christmas we had a mini carol service with readings and carols, which was very well received. Approximately 15 residents regularly attend.

The homes have enquired about residents visiting the church during the week during the warmer weather. As the church is open Wednesday to Sunday this may be arranged.

I have also visited Freda Chatfield every 4-6 weeks at The Gables

Nursing Home in Hagley to give her Holy Communion. Glenis Lucas, Gail Davies, Hazel Harris and John Cutler have accompanied me for this ministry.

Barbara Hanke

REVS ENVILLE

REVS Enville continues to be very successful, and we regularly have up to 80+ cars and over 100+ people attending. The overall number of individuals must be well over 200 - we are ever grateful they do not all turn up on the same day!

The intention is to use the new burial ground by adding a gate and some temporary matting which the grass will grow through – thank you to Rev'd Rich for applying to Faculty for this change.

We are grateful to St Mary's for their continued support, help and encouragement. Our attendees report that they find the meetings supportive and are constantly grateful for such a safe and calming environment in which to spend time.

REVs Enville meets from 10am to midday on the second Saturday each month at St Mary's Church, classic cars of all shapes and sizes are welcome, as are others who would like to come and see them—if you are not in a classic car please try and park elsewhere in the village as the car park gets very full!

Martin Lindon-Jones

ST PETER'S BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

It's been another very busy year at St Peter's Baby and Toddler Group, Kinver. 68 different families have attended the Group at least once during the year, with a mix of new and familiar faces. It's been lovely to see such a wide range of people attend, with children being brought by mums, dads, grandparents and aunts and uncles.

The year got off to a strong start, and the spring term in particular saw

very high average attendance rates which helped to boost our bank balance early in the year and allowed us to expand the range of toys we have and replace some of the older toys.

It has been lovely to see so many of the children who attend regularly progress from the baby corner to charging around the hall and developing friendships! The committee has been bolstered by the recruitment of a new Treasurer and a new Head of Fundraising. Thanks to the regular presence of Margaret and Val volunteering in the kitchen.

We are always happy to welcome new children. The Group runs every Wednesday during term time between 9:15am and 11:30am. Each session features a variety of toys and role play areas, a craft activity or jigsaw table, and finishes with song time.

Any new parents/grandparents/carers wishing to attend with their children are welcome to register on the door. You can also message our Facebook page, or contact our Secretary, Kerry Wright, on 07738 310347 for more information. Cost is just £3 for first child plus £1 per sibling and includes a snack and drinks for the children and tea and coffee for the grown ups.

ST PETER'S CHURCH LIBRARY

Our Church Library is very well-resourced and continues to maintain its high standards with frequent updating. Rev'd Mary Morris has always been its greatest supporter and has continued to donate up-to-date books this year - we are so grateful to her. We do feel that we have something for everyone and the clearly labelled sections are a good guide in finding what you're interested in. Please come and see for yourself!

Rev'd Nicki Caines

SCHOOLS MINISTRY

We continue to work closely with both Foley Infants and Brindley

Juniors, both led by Headteacher Jimmy Martin.

Last July Year 6 visited St Peters as part of their transition to high school and experienced harp playing, making prayer planes, storytelling and exploring the church yard. I also spent several afternoons in school doing activities and joined them when they went to visit Kinver High. I often see some of these pupils when I visit the High School as a Chaplain.

In October we put on an Experience Jesus event for all eight of the Brindley class groups and in November all of Brindley and Year 2 from Foley came up for their annual Remembrance service. A big thanks to the British Legion, the Ministry team, and Chaplains for helping make it go so well.

Additionally, Year 3 came up to Church in November to learn about architectural features. Thanks to Di, they also visited the Bell Tower to learn how to ring a bell. We ended the year with a fantastic Christmas concert with Brindley and Foley children and their families – the church was packed to the rafters!

Mr Martin and the teachers are very grateful for all our efforts. I would like to give a big thanks to Rev'd Rich, Di Akwati, Helen Barley and everyone in all of our teams for their help, time, and support. It is all very much appreciated.

Anne Drew

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING—ST PETER'S

Church fundraising is very varied, from social activities including concerts, 100 Club, FOSPER's Membership, Lights, Bells' Sponsorship etc. Another vital element of the fund-raising are grant applications from 3rd parties. These are very targeted applications for specific high-cost capital works, without which we would struggle to keep this Grade 1 listed building in good shape.

Overall, social and fundraising activities raised a net income of over £9.5k, a little down on the previous year as we did not have the

biennial Christmas Tree festival. The figures are reported in the annual accounts as are each of the grants received. The contribution of these funds is invaluable to our Church, so grateful thanks to all who make this possible.

In addition, we should not forget those who had close links to St Peter's and Kinver in the past. They had the vision to make future provision for the Church through legacies and bequest.

Going forward into 2025 our events programme kicked off with the sublime harmonies of the Cantoras Upper Voices Choir, we very much hope that we will see them next year for an encore. We have a great line up of events to enjoy going forward this year with favourites such as Kinver Krufts, and the Langley Band along with the return of RJ Jazz and the Christmas Tree Festival, so plenty to look forward to.

Ian Campbell

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING—ST MARY'S

There were a number of fundraising events this year. We held two concerts - Rev'd Rich performing some of his songs and poems in the summer, and the Kinver U3A Choir singing songs from stage and screen in September. Instead of the bi-annual Christmas Tree Festival, this year we held a Scarecrow Festival at Harvest time which drew in a good number of visitors.

Thanks to Peter and Diana Williams we held the ever-popular Ghost Walk around Enville Hall gardens in October, and a busy Autumn of fundraising ended with a talk on The Women of Bletchley Park, which featured Betty Webb who worked there during the second world war.

2025 began with a hugely successful 'Pancakes and Stars' event which attracted over 100 people for stargazing on pancake day. Further plans for events in 2025 include an Open Day event around VE Day, a talk in May on Enville in the Second World War, an Open Gardens at Enville Hall in June, a followup to the Pancakes and Stars evening with 'Pumpkins and Stars' in the Autumn, and hopefully a guided tour/talk on the bats that live in the Churchyard.

Rev'd Rich

SPONSORSHIP OF CHURCH LIGHTS

It is wonderful to see the floodlit church up on the hill each evening and many people are happy to sponsor the lights to commemorate special events or remember loved ones. It has been great to hear from so many friends who want to share these important occasions over the last 32 years.

We are happy to receive all donations which help to towards the Church electricity bill. Please contact 01384 395047 with the details if you would like to sponsor the lights.

Hilary Gapper

THE ROCK MAGAZINE

Over 500 copies of The Rock magazine continue to go out into the Kinver community via 40 distributors. Each month they deliver magazines to homes, our churches, the library, the Coach House and Prestwood Lodge care homes. This year we had more interest from advertisers and have sold all twelve advertising spaces that we charge at £180 each for the year.

We have welcomed Rev. Roger Campbell and Barabara Hanke as new contributors to The Rock. Sadly, we no longer have our quiz page as our quiz setter John Gibbons passed away last year. We have added a wordsearch in place of the quiz when we have had the space. If anyone would like to submit a quiz for future editions, or would like to have a copy of The Rock delivered, please email stpetersmag@gmail.com

Julie Lindon Jones

TRYSULL DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Synod brings together churches from across the Deanery (which stretches from Kinver in the South up to Pendeford and Bilbrook in the North) three times a year to share information on essential matters such as clergy appointments; to focus on a particular

topic such as youth work and to receive presentations on important issues from the Diocese. Deaneries have recently taken on an enhanced role in shaping the Diocesan Shaping for Mission strategy.

February 2024's meeting was at the modern community church of St Paul's Pendeford and focussed on funeral ministry, with a presentation by John Cumiskey of Wombourne Funeral Directors. Licensed funeral ministers, including our own Barbara Hanke, joined the meeting and shared their experience and best practice in the following discussion.

Rev'd Rich hosted the June meeting at St Mary's Enville when he spoke on the responsibility for God's creation and its impact on us as individuals and churches.

October's meeting was held at St Bart's Penn with a live presentation of their children's "Experience Christmas". This was a chance to see how another church approaches its work with children, but your representatives hoped to be forgiven for the sin of smugness when we reflected that "we probably did it better" with our own Experience sessions!

In February of this year we were at St Philip's Penn Fields for a very timely presentation from Canon Nick Smeeton, the Diocesan Strategic Programme Director. Nick is developing the Diocese's new strategy about which we will be hearing much more during 2025.

Mark Middleton

WEDDINGS

Over the last year it has been a privilege and pleasure to get to know and help our 2024 wedding couples. During the year we had 6 weddings at St Peter's and 1 at St Mary's. This is a lot lower than usual but we are already well above that with weddings planned for 2025.

After their initial meetings with Rev'd Rich we were able to meet them when we hosted an afternoon tea in the North Aisle. We discussed legalities, choices, the wedding service itself and much more. This was well received with lots of useful discussion and good humour.

Subsequently the team and clergy had individual discussions helping out with specific details for their weddings. When the time came for their 'big day' they were well prepared and all had memorable weddings which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

St Peter's Wedding Team
Glen Cutler, Mary Middleton & Sharon Day

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year was St Peters time to host the service on Friday 7th March. We had 42 in the congregation and the collection made £204.50 which will contribute to many Christian charities.

The service had been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from the Cook Islands and was entitled 'I made you wonderful,' a very emotive title. Through the service we reflected on the way of life in the Cook Islands and recognised how fearfully and wonderfully we are made. It was a lovely service - reflective and emotional.

The interesting front cover graphic of the service booklet was designed by Tarini Napa and Tevairangi Napa, a mother-daughter artist team from the Cook Islands. They were very honoured to have been able to share this piece of their artwork in recognition of their love for their home, their faith, and their heritage.

The WDP service, as with any event, does not happen without a team of people, often unseen. We thank this team for contributing to the service at St Peter's. A big thanks to all the readers, Carol for playing the piano and Marlene and Pat who looked after the refreshments. A big thank you to Lin Hingley for helping to plan and prepare the service. All help with any aspect of the service was very much appreciated.

Anne Drew and Lin Hingley

WORLD MISSION

Through this year, alongside our Mission Action Planning process, a small group met regularly to think about how we can increase the profile of World Mission in our Churches.

At the beginning of Lent 2025 we launched a Lent Appeal for our new Mission Partners through the Church Mission Society (CMS), Elise and Jon Fletcher who live and work in the Khlong Tooeey Slum in Bangkok. This link will develop over the coming years, and we hope to welcome Jon and Elise to our benefice in person when they are back in the UK this summer.

Another World Mission Link that will be developed over the coming year is with the Anglican Church in Melanesia. Rev'd Rich will be visiting the Solomon Islands on behalf of Lichfield Diocese in September 2025 to see first hand the impact of Climate Change on Pacific Island communities and learn about the work of the Church there in combating the effects of Climate Change.

Rev'd Rich, Rector



ST PETER'S, KINVER  ST MARY'S, ENVILLE

ANNUAL MEETINGS

St Mary's Annual Meeting
5pm Wednesday 14th May 2025
The Pavilion, Hall Drive, Enville

St Peter's Annual Meeting
Thursday 15th May 2025
St Peter's Church Hall, Vicarage Drive
6.30pm Bring-and-Share supper
7pm Annual Meetings

EACH WILL INCLUDE:

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

A joint meeting of the persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish and the persons whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of residence

For the purpose of:

Electing Church Wardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

A meeting of those persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish

For the purposes of:

- Electing lay representatives to Deanery Synod
- Electing lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council
- The appointment of the Independent Examiner
- The consideration of the Annual Reports and Accounts
- Other matters of parochial or general Church interest