

**Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
for 2019**

Incumbent:
Reverend Kate Mier

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

The Vicarage
Manor Mews
Studley B80 7PR
01527 852830

RECTOR'S REPORT

The truth that **Jesus is the Good Shepherd who came to bring us life in all its fullness** (John 10) has been especially important to us this particular Easter season. We trust the Lord to lead us, provide for us, and keep his churches here in good health through this unprecedented time of the coronavirus pandemic. Looking back over 2019 and the first months of 2020, we can see that the Lord has faithfully guided and provided for and grown the Arden Marches Churches in so many ways.

It has been a joy and privilege to share this time with you. We have prayed (and sometimes wept) for each other, for baptism, wedding and funeral families. We prayed with Churches Together on several occasions, including a great prayer breakfast for the Week of prayer for Christian Unity this January. We have partied and we have praised at teas inside and outside churches, at Mappleborough organ concert, to mark the re-opening of Morton Bagot church, with Rob Halligan at Harvest Supper, at the Big Brekkie for Christian Aid, and with Riding Lights Theatre Company to name a few of the great events. And we have welcomed our church schools' communities to worship in our churches at high points of the year. The children's enthusiastic singing and taking part in these services and in Collective Worship at the schools always thrills me.

I am particularly thankful for your welcome to Mrs Linda Ngamlana Principal of Amasango School in Grahamstown, and for the wonderful fundraising evening for her at The Manor House. This was followed by the visit Lynda Barr and I made to the school in October.

In 2019 we moved our monthly Sunday 6.30pm evening worship to Four Acres Care home where it has flourished and grown. We also now take a monthly service at Woodlands Care Home with Churches Together. Messy Church went from strength to strength, being held monthly, under the dedicated leadership of Sue Ludlow and the team.

I am enormously thankful for our churchwardens, treasurers, administrator (and her willingness to work set hours from the Vicarage), fellow-clergy and Readers, and all who take a lead in the many and diverse activities of our churches; you are a great team to be part of – thank you.

It has been fantastic to welcome as curate, Revd Dan Corlett and his family. Dan has quickly settled into ministry here, and has played a central role in enabling our worship over the internet during the coronavirus pandemic. His main focus is the oversight of ministry and mission in Studley, allowing me to give more time to Mappleborough for this season.

In June about 20 of us enjoyed the hospitality of Scargill House for a weekend with the theme 'being church.... being community'.

In September I was made Area Dean of Alcester Deanery for a five year term. Thank you for your support in this work of strengthening ministry and mission across the deanery.

In the New Year the church accounts were finalised and we thanked God that our finances had broken even in 2019, while recognising their fragility going forwards. We received generous bequests last year for which we are deeply thankful, and seek God's guidance about how to use the funds for our mission and ministry. In August we did a further Healthy Churches survey and attended a church development morning with Tim Mitchell. Morton Bagot and Oldberrow churches took part for the first time. The new PCC Forum meetings have helped us begin to act on the findings of the survey. As a result, all of our congregations are seeking to deepen our everyday faith, develop our worship, and improve our outreach. There are slightly different emphases for each congregation, but much that we can develop together.

The PCC Forums also helped us to plan our church calendar with an eye to the 4 'P's of church growth: prayer, presence, proclamation and persuasion.

Throughout the church development process the priorities that I outlined when I arrived here, and the following Bible images remain important for us:

- Offer relaxed, bespoke hospitality
 - ◊ *an open door.*
- Cultivate homespun family-feel communities that foster deep relationships
 - ◊ *John 15: Jesus the vine, we the branches, abiding in him as we love each other.*
- Be visible and active in the wider community
 - ◊ *John 2: The wedding at Cana – Jesus affirming and transforming a village celebration*
- Enable people to live out of a still centre, rooted and grounded in the love of Christ
 - ◊ *Psalm 1: putting down deep roots in God.*

Cultivate homespun family-feel communities that foster deep relationships

John 15: Jesus the vine, we the branches, abiding in him as we love each other.

Be visible and active in the wider community

John 2: The wedding at Cana – Jesus affirming and transforming a village celebration

Enable people to live out of a still centre, rooted and grounded in the love of Christ

Psalm 1: putting down deep roots in God.

So, we look back with much thankfulness, and we look ahead with hope and trust in the Good Shepherd to guide us, grow us, use us and provide for us.

Reverend Kate Mier

Rector

CURATE'S REPORT

Thank you for welcoming me and my family into your midst. It has been a very enjoyable, as well as stretching, first half-year or so, not only in this new place, but also in full-time paid church ministry. I emphasize the word paid, since none of us

can be part-time Christians. We either accept Jesus as the Lord of our whole lives (albeit we're all still working out what that means) or we haven't yet reached the point of being a Christian. And by the same logic we are therefore not part-time ministers either. We are all ministering to our family, friends, colleagues and the world around us at all times. In that sense, nothing has changed. However, ordained ministry has certainly changed the balance of how I spend my time and where God is drawing my attention on a daily, weekly and much longer-term basis. It's taking some getting used to, but then curacy is meant to be a learning experience.

My first six months included getting my head around a wide variety of services in our six church locations as well as the wealth of other things that happen in the life of this church, or led by members of the church. It's encouraging to find a core worshipping community of people who cherish one another, church buildings which are cherished by the wider community, schools and uniformed groups that are well connected to the church and a really well-oiled organisational machine!

One of the delights of the role has been joining in alongside the journey that the church is taking as it reflects afresh on its purpose and mission. At my ordination I gave the 'declaration of assent', which responds to the charge that we share the 'faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation.' Through the '8 Essential Qualities' surveys and several discussion fora, the church has been grappling with what it means to stay fresh in our faith in this current generation. Lots of ideas have flowed from this, including in Studley church (where I'm focusing more of my ministry): the desire to look at key topics in greater depth; experimenting with new worship, including music; and the hope to birth some new small groups. We go into 2020, trying to get a balance between the three dimensions of our faith: UP (going deep with God); IN (going deep with one another in community) and OUT (being visible to the wider world and opening our doors to others). As I finish writing this at Easter 2020, this takes on even more potent meaning as we are working out, under Covid-19 restrictions, what it means to be church without walls and without many of the other touchstones we think of as church. There is quite obviously an opportunity to go deep with God as we live in lock-down mode. Already we are seeing whole new depths to some relationships within our community as we listen to one another on the phone and pay attention to each others' needs and pray earnestly for one another. But there will also be surprising ways in which we can open our homes and our hearts to other people who need Jesus. I've been reminded of how Brother Yun brought many people to faith in prison, both using his own ingenuity and because the Holy Spirit made possible what would otherwise not be possible.

I'm sure there is much we are looking forward to getting back to doing again. But before we rush to reconvene, let's take the opportunity of this crisis (literal meaning, a 'turning point') to offer ourselves to God to use in new ways. Where would

he turn our attention to? Do we need to re-start everything we were doing before? Or can we be even more faithful and missional as disciples if we are stripped back, following a life of simplicity? What would that look like? Can we do some Godly day-dreaming?

If the crisis has taught us anything though, it is that we can only ever live in the present. The future is just theoretical and all our plans can be turned upside down. Life may be tough at the moment, but it is not on hold. We are not to just mark time until we can get on with life on our terms. This is the life we are called to and it's part of the life in all its fulness that Jesus came to bring. When we look back on 2020, will we have lived it to the full?

Dan Corlett

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

– The Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Studley.

Two thousand and nineteen was Kate's first full year of our Rector and on 1 July we were pleased to welcome our Curate Dan Corlett, his wife Angela and their three children Noah, Eve and Jonah who have already shown that they are a very gifted family. We trust that they will enjoy their time with us.

We are so blessed to have Kate and Dan who throughout the year encouraged us to grow in our relationship with Jesus, to serve Him, to serve each other and to reach out to our community. We thank God for them, for PTO's Alan, Judy, our Readers and all who have taken part in services during the past year.

On 17 February we welcomed Rev Steve Hood from Wellesbourne who preached at our 10.00am service. Also, on 4 August we were pleased to welcome back David and Val Silvester. David preached at our 10.00am service and it was good to see both him and Val looking well. In addition to our regular services on Sundays and Thursdays at the Church, Four Acres and Parish Centre our ministers carried out the following occasional offices: 9 Marriages, 17 Baptisms, 24 Funerals (14 Church and 10 Crematorium) and 2 Ashes Interment. We are appreciative of the support of small dedicated team and the bell ringers (for weddings) who help with these services. In March we opened the church every day providing a quiet, peaceful place for the local community and visitors to the area. This has been well received and on occasions visitors have joined us for services.

In addition to our regular services we met for Prayer, Homegroups and other Small Groups, Short Courses, Foodbank, Lunchbox, Sunbeams... Other events that we arranged or hosted included:

17 February - Snowdrop Tea

18 April - Maundy Supper

11 May - Christian Aid Big Breakfast

The foundation governors will play a key role in this work, and in much else in the development of the school, and we have this year welcomed Sarah Furlow as our third foundation governor to join Mark and myself.

We look forward to another year of growth together.

Keith Johnson

Chair of Governors

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

A quiet work year for me. Mainly settling into a new routine of set hours, working from the vicarage. An arrangement that has been beneficial on many fronts for both me and Kate.

There was the usual round of posters, flyers, tickets, newsheets etc which part way through the year we could print on our new printer/copier. A lot quicker than before.

I handled baptism, wedding and funeral enquiries, some of which I handed straight over to Kate and Dan when he joined us in the summer.

I've been involved in analysing better ways of handling our data storage, managing calendars and email system.

Also, I have kept the website and facebook pages up to date, with input as well from Dan and Kate.

Judith McLelland

SAFEGUARDING

To follow as a separate report

SUNBEAMS

Sunbeams has continued under the leadership of Kerri Gibbs.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church has continued under the leadership of Sue Ludlow

RAINBOWS

Rainbows has continued under the leadership of Pam Winfield

30 May to 9 June – Ascension to Pentecost

11 June - Archdeacons Visitation

15 June - Studley Art Trail w

21 June – Weekend at Scargill House

30 June - Coventry Cathedral for Dan Corlett's Ordination

14 July – Tea in the Churchyard

18 August – Studley 480Th Squadron Closing Service

7 September - A morning at Berkswell Parish Church with Tim Mitchell our Healthy Churches Mentor

12 September – An evening at the Manor House with Linda Ngamlana from Amasango School

18 to 22 September – Riding Lights Christian Theatre Company

5 October – Harvest Supper with Rob Halligan

27 November – Visit from Lisa Holt from Coventry Diocese

7 December – Parish Christmas Party

We also participated in Studley Churches Together, local community events, welcomed one of the local walking groups, hosted seasonal services for our church school and welcomed a group from the RC school. It doesn't seem enough just to say thank you, but the hard work and commitment involved in making these activities happen is appreciated. God bless you.

Church Building Maintenance

The new servery was completed in January and has been well used not only on Sundays but on other occasions too.

Repairs have been carried out to the wood flooring at the rear of the nave which became unsafe.

A frontal rail has been put in place at the front of the South Aisle to cordon off the family area.

Repairs to the Chancel roof and one side of the boiler house roof were carried out following damage caused during high winds.

Pointing that needs to be carried out to the base of the parapet, other possible repairs on roof of the bell tower and pointing to the church roof are being considered by the DCC. A structural engineer has been appointed to carry out an inspection and produce a report.

During the year maintenance of equipment - PAT tests on electrical equipment, fire Alarm, emergency lighting, fire fighting equipment, boiler and organ maintenance have all been carried out by qualified contractors. A review of our health and safety procedures is ongoing.

Thank you to the building maintenance team for your support.

Churchyard

The churchyard continues to be well looked after thanks to the small group of helpers who usually meet on the morning of the first Saturday in the month. It is incumbent of us to take good care of the churchyard as it is a special place where many local people and visitors to the area experience God's peace.

A Rowan Tree has been planted in the churchyard this year to celebrate 100 years of the Coventry Diocese.

Earlier in the year damage was caused to two graves by local adults which thankfully was swiftly dealt with by the Police after a local resident reported the incident.

We appointed an Arborist carry out an inspection of the trees, the result being a substantial amount of work having to be carried out by tree surgeons to remove dead wood and dangerous branches. There is still some work that we will have to consider carrying out within the next 2 years.

Thank you to the team for caring for the churchyard.

Phil

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

- Church of the Holy Ascension, Mappleborough Green.

This being my first Churchwardens Report can I firstly say a big thank you to our Deputy Wardens Erica and Maxine for their help. Also a thank you to Alan Jarmy who has stepped down as warden after serving 6 years including a large part of 2019 and Margaret Lee who has stepped down as Deputy, Alan Greathead for his ongoing support and all who help and contribute to the smooth running of our Church.

During 2019 we had;

- 3 Weddings
- 9 Baptisms of which 4 were under a year old and 5 were aged 1-4 years old
- 1 Thanksgiving for a child
- 4 Funerals, 3 at the church and 1 at the crematorium
- 1 Internment of ashes

We also held an Organ concert organised by John Parker which raised over £1000.

We had our Advent gift day on 30 th November.

We continued with our small change tubs as a further way of raising funds.

We also received a legacy from Joan Welsh during 2019.

Harvest Supper on 5th October was the first I had attended and was very well attended and a great night.

The school came to church for several services through the year. The Foundation Governors positions at Mappleborough School were filled.

We sang Christmas carols at Badger Nurseries once again.

The 8 Essential Qualities of growing healthy churches were broadly discussed by the DCC and well supported throughout and we also looked

tember 16. The children have agreed to aim at providing tracksuits for the Amasango children at £25 each. A dedicated fundraising event has been planned for this summer term but may now be postponed because of coronavirus.

A new SIAMS inspection framework has been introduced nationally. This is being implemented within the school curriculum and ethos. Some staff members have attended a training course and are passing this on to the staff as a whole. The aim is to increase the strength of Christian values and vision within the school with a real emphasis on wellbeing, spiritual development, social justice, moral development and charity.

The church has continued to support the school with a financial grant from the Education Fund, to cover the cost of the Diocesan support fee, coaches to take the children to church for services, Christmas lunches and some counselling services. The school budget is extremely tight and any contribution is greatly appreciated.

Further plans, including class visits to school, Kate Mier's likely involvement in RE teaching, a possible Sunday service in school and the July end-of-term services have had to be put on hold while the school is in temporary "lockdown".

Jennie Jarmy

STUDLEY ST MARY'S CE ACADEMY

Our church school continues to make progress, a fact acknowledged by the Autumn Ofsted report and by a letter from the Chief Inspector. Disappointingly, we feel that we were caught out by the brand new, and significantly changed, Ofsted criteria under which we were one of the very first schools to be judged. The Inspector's comments have been taken on board and are already being acted on.

The staff has been very stable over the past year, though there were a couple of long-term absences. They remain dedicated and hard-working.

As this report is written, we have just received the resignation of Mrs Ireland, our Headteacher. This has come as a shock, though we appreciate and understand her reasons. The process of finding a replacement is already under way.

The falling numbers of children in the area also sets its own challenges for the future.

The strong links between church and school continue and have probably increased this past year. There are plenty of opportunities for pupils to visit the church, either for worship (such as the Christingle service) or as part of their curriculum studies. Members of the church lead the assembly each Wednesday. New volunteers are always welcome!

Kate's position is as School Chaplain and she is able to visit the school regularly as she develops this role. We have begun work on exploring Christian distinctiveness and the spiritual life of the whole school. We seek through discussion, teaching and workshops to understand the meaning and impact of these terms better.

We look forward to another busy year. Bookings are already coming in on a regular basis.

Tony Drake

MAPPLEBOROUGH GREEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

The positive relationship between the school and the church has continued. In July 2019, Mike Holland resigned as a Foundation Governor after 8 years' service, for which grateful thanks have been offered. In September 2019, Jennie Jarmy was re-appointed and both Dan Corlett, curate, and Diane Pannell, church member, were appointed as Foundation Governors and welcomed by the Governing Body. Kate Mier, rector, has become school chaplain and has written a letter to the parents explaining her role within the school and her availability to children and parents. There have been foundation governors at all meetings of the governing board and committees through the summer, winter and spring terms 2019/2020. There has, additionally, been one meeting each term between Alex Finch, headteacher, Kate Mier and the Foundation Governors where all church/school related issues and activities have been planned and reviewed.

Services for the whole school have been held at the church each term. A celebration service was held as part of the All Age church service on July 7, 2019 and the annual Leavers' service was held on July 19th. The foundation governors and volunteers provided a welcome breakfast for new parents on September 5 and the new children were invited to a special welcome as part of the church harvest service on October 6, when 10 families attended. All new pupils have been presented with Children's Bibles. The school harvest service was held at church on October 9th with around 40 parents/carers attending. The Christmas service on December 18 was attended by almost 60 parents and carers. The Easter service planned for April 1st has had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus directions.

The church Friendship Group was entertained at the dress rehearsal for the KS1 Christmas Performance on 6 December, including tea and cakes/mince pies afterwards. This event is always very enjoyable and encouraging for both the visitors and the children. On December 10, a group of children visited Four Acres Care Home along with children from Studley Junior School and accompanied by staff members plus Kate Mier, Dan Corlett and Jennie Jarmy. The children sang songs and Carols, all of which were greatly appreciated by the residents and staff.

Four parishioners have continued to provide regular voluntary help within the classroom and the Lighting the Candle programme continues at a lunchtime once a week. Clergy and church members from the Arden Marches Group continue to lead collective worship at the school each Wednesday and this is received warmly by the children.

The school has adopted the Amasango School in Gordonstown, South Africa, as one of its charities. Linda Ngamlana, headteacher, attended a special assembly on Sep-

at ways of developing our ministry.

Routine maintenance of the Church and Ankcorn House was carried out, pat testing, running repairs to the roof of Ankhorn House and the Church tower were identified and have been addressed in 2020, gutters cleaned, grounds maintained. Two working party days were organised August and December and thanks to all that helped.

Thanks also to Fred Young who cleans Ankcorn House and the Church on Wednesdays.

The project we were pursuing for the Lady Chapel has been shelved for the time being in favour of the Vestry Project which was ongoing for 2019.

John Styler

COMPASSION REPORT

The Compassion Group meets in the Parish Centre every Monday afternoon, other than bank Holidays, between 2.30pm and 4.00pm. The group comprises of bereaved or lonely people and provides a safe regular place to meet in friendship and fellowship for a chat accompanied by lots of tea, coffee and cake.

In the early part of 2019, our numbers had dropped considerably as several of our regular members had died. However, as the year progressed our numbers rose considerably and just before our temporary closure, due to the Covid-19 virus, we regularly had 20 or so members and helpers.

The afternoons are very informal with members enjoying general conversation and a hallmark of our meetings is that there is much laughter. The group also links in with the Friendship Group and members of Compassion attend the Friendship Group monthly lunches. Our afternoons finish with a short reflection and a prayer and members are encouraged to bring their own poems or readings to share. At our last meeting before the Christmas break, we enjoyed our alternative (fish and chip) Christmas Lunch which was brought into the Parish centre and music and a singalong followed courtesy of John Parker.

In March 2020 we sadly had to call a temporary halt to our weekly meetings due to the virus pandemic, but team members quickly implemented a weekly telephone call rota so that every member speaks to a team member by telephone once a week. Some members are also contacting each other to share news and generally stay in contact.

Once we are able to re-commence our weekly meetings, we are planning to have afternoon tea at Studley Castle on one of the Monday afternoons.

If you would like to join the group as a member or helper, or know of someone who would, then please contact either Joan Lock (01527 853703) or Alan Greathead (01527 404038).

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The friendship group is now going into its 9th year, and still very busy. Everyone enjoys the outings each month from March to December, meeting up with friends, to have a chat and enjoy a pub lunch together.

This group is for bereaved and lonely people that are unable to get out on their own. There is a total of 61 in the group made up of – 14 volunteer drivers and 47 members.

On average a group of between 35 and 40 people go on each outing, so I'm having to find larger pubs to accommodate a larger group now.

Over the last 12 months 6 of our dear friends have died and 2 dear friends that are unable to join the group anymore through illness, but we remember our happy times shared together with fondness and love.

Our Christmas lunch was once again at Kings Court Hotel, Coughton, on Friday 13th December 2019. There was a total of 50 members that enjoyed their meals. Dan was able to join in this year, to meet up with the group. Unfortunately I was unable to be there due to illness, but the afternoon ran smoothly with the help of Eric & Julie, which I appreciated. Father Christmas was able to join in again this year, to go around and give everyone a small gift, which makes the day a little special.

Our first outing this year is on Friday 27th March 2020 at The Golden Goose.

Then we have been invited to Mappleborough School, to see the children in their Easter Concert on 3rd April, after the concert we get served with tea/coffee and cakes. I collect a donation from everyone, to give to school funds, to show our appreciation.

Once again a Very Big Thank You for all the volunteer drivers, that help pick people up. **Without them this mission of outreach would not be possible.**

Looking forward to another year together.

Thank you

Margaret Lee

THE TUESDAY HOMEGROUP

Our group of 14 has met regularly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays through the year alternating between the houses of the Volrath's and the Drake's. We have had a great time of teaching, prayer and Fellowship. Our evening begins with a teaching session led by one of us often using pre prepared materials and/or DVDs.

We have used the DVD 'Life on the Frontline' considering how our faith works out in practice in our community led by Tony Drake. We had a very thought provoking series led by Bob Martin using a DVD of Peter Greig on the Lord's Prayer. Recently we had a challenging 3 week session on the Holy Spirit led by Alan Tostevin.

We spend some time each evening in prayer for people in our church fellowship who are particularly in need of support.

In addition to this we had a great Summer BBQ despite the rain and an hilarious

ARDEN FOODBANK

The Arden Foodbank was set up by the churches of Alcester and Studley in 2012 and first opened in April 2013. We never thought then we would still be needed 7 years later. Universal credit, addictions and zero hour contracts are the main reasons for this.

During last year 174 vouchers were redeemed at the foodbank, 31 of them in Studley. The food given out in response to these vouchers fed 236 adults and 150 children, of these 56 adults and 77 children were Studley residents.

Over the summer holidays schools in Alcester, Great Alne and Studley gave out letters to families with children on free school meals to enable them to come into the foodbank every week of the holiday without a voucher. Food was given out to these families 75 times over the 6 week period and 52 of these were for letters from Studley schools.

All the food given out is donated (except when stocks fell very low during the summer and we had to buy some items). A total of 4428 kgs food was given out in 2019. 415kgs of this was donated by the churches of Studley and Mappleborough Green for which we are very grateful. We have also been supported by a local company, LPR, who have provided office equipment, printing and food.

After fantastic donations from all sorts of schools, groups and churches at harvest and Christmas our stocks are currently very high but we continue to collect food in churches, Waitrose and Co-op to meet demand particularly over school holidays. We rely on volunteers to man our centres and warehouse. If you are interested in helping please see Lynda Barr, Sue Kinnersley or myself.

Hilary Volrath

THE PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre has had another very busy year with a large number of one off bookings as well as the regular weekly bookings.

This year Guy Allen treated the main floor and it is looking really good. Also Ian Nichol has repainted the foyer, kitchen and Toilets. They also look nice and fresh. Ian gave up the cleaning of the Centre this year and this work has been taken over by Catherine Willis-Ball. This is working out very well.

Ian still looks after the grounds and they are looking great.

The Centre was entered into the Heart of England in Bloom 'It's your Neighbourhood' awards by the Studley in Bloom team winning a level 5 Outstanding. A huge thanks goes to the Studley in Bloom Team for all their efforts sprucing up the area which included creosoting the sheds and repairing the roofing felt on the backs of the sheds. They also maintain the planters and beds round the Centre all year round. This is much appreciated.

STUDLEY CHURCHES TOGETHER REPORT

The Arden Marches churches have continued to work, meet and worship with the churches of other denominations in Studley during 2019. The year started with a joint service during the week of prayer for Christian unity in January and this was followed in February by a quiz evening preceded by fish and chips. On Ash Wednesday we held a joint service with ashing in the Methodist church then during Lent people from all the churches met weekly for discussions based on the film 'The Theory of Everything'. An Easter craft session for children was held during the holidays. The Lent activities culminated in the walk of witness around the village on Good Friday with meditations in the Methodist, Baptist and Roman Catholic churches, outside the Co-op, by the Millennium gate and finally in Four Acres who supplied us with coffee and hot cross buns.

In May the annual Christian Aid week was promoted with 'The Big Brekkie', collections at shops and garden centres and a coffee morning. The period between Ascension Day and Pentecost followed the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative with prayer lunches and a walk ending with a joint service for Pentecost in Oldberrow church. July we were present (sporting the Churches Together T-shirts!) at Studley festival offering children stones to paint. The churches again led the annual service of remembrance at the Studley war memorial – which can now be heard by all present thanks to Chris Hopkins' work setting up a sound system in the road.

Christmas was a very busy time (when isn't it?). The churches were asked to help with carol singing outside the village hall before the lights switch on and lead singing inside the hall after switch on. The village carol service again included children from the 'blue' and the 'red' schools – though we mustn't clash with the Lions Father Christmas visit to Studley another year! Just before Christmas a group went carol singing in the Railway and Little Lark pubs and collected £100 for Acorns Hospice. Once again we advertised all the churches Christmas services on one poster hopefully showing that we may not be one yet but we do value each other and are not in competition.

On-going during the year a group takes services at the Woodlands care home on Alcester road. We have welcomed Warners to the village and given them leaflets with details of all the village churches. Personnel on the Churches Together committee has varied during the year. We had to say good-bye to Ann Smith the Methodist minister in the summer and then welcomed our curate, Dan Corlett, and the new Methodist minister, Latika Singh in September. I have also been joined on the committee by Mark Herauville, Erica Hayton and David O'Dell to represent Arden Marches churches. Unfortunately the Baptist church has no minister and the RC priest is not well but we are very grateful for the continued leadership of our rector. Hilary Volrath

Christmas Party.

Tony Drake

JUNIOR CHURCH - Studley

Junior church in Studley is run on the first and third Sundays in each month. For the past year, the first Sunday has been led by Ruth Lowe, who often has to scabble to find a helper as I miss this service - Messy Church is on in the afternoon, at which I play an active role. It would be helpful if we could have a rota or list of names of people who would be willing and who could be asked to help in these situations. I then take the lead on third Sundays. Sharon and Bill Acres have taken a few services, but they aren't always reliable as they are away a lot. But they do it when they can.

We generally have between 2-6 children each week, and the format follows a similar pattern. A story and discussion about the lesson, followed by a craft activity to back it up, and (hopefully) act as reminder when they go home. The children are always well behaved, and join in with whatever they are asked to do.

We tend to use our own resources, though pens, scissors etc are in plentiful supply in the drawers. Most of what we do costs very little. I usually find my ideas on the internet - and I liaise with the the church service leader (most recently Dan), to get the theme for the day.

Ann Bond

TRAMPS WALKING GROUP 2019

The Tramps walking group once again enjoyed walking on Wednesday evenings from May through to the end of August. Regular leaders and those leading for the first time took us through lovely countryside and villages on walks around areas which were not far to get to. Those that can, stay on after the walks for a further chat and drink at a local pub. Thankfully only one walk needed to be cancelled this year due to the weather!

We rounded off our summer walks with an evening meal gathering at the end of August.

In addition, we had an Autumn morning walk in Welford upon Avon followed by meal and there was a Christmas walk with a lunch time meal in the middle of the walk!

We would welcome anyone to join us. Details of our walks are on the Church newsletter or on the church website.

Each week walkers make a donation to our chosen charity and in 2019, having heard so much about their worthwhile work from Kate, it was the Amasango School in South Africa. We were pleased to be able to donate £180.00 to them.

Caroline Martin