



Inside this issue:

A record of the past twelve months in the life of our church

<i>Interregnum</i>	1
<i>Communications and Visitors</i>	1
<i>The Choir</i>	2
<i>Age Concern/ Church Partnership</i>	2
<i>St Mary's House Group</i>	3
<i>The Prayer Group</i>	3
<i>Flower Arrangers</i>	3
<i>St Helen's Berrick Salome</i>	4
<i>The John Hampden Hall</i>	4
<i>Events</i>	5
<i>Methodist Partnership</i>	6
<i>Friends</i>	6
<i>Bell Ringing</i>	7
<i>Caretaking</i>	7
<i>Stewardship</i>	7
<i>Lost for Words Teas</i>	8
<i>Ride & Stride</i>	8
<i>Traideraft</i>	8
<i>USPG</i>	8

Interregnum

Twelve months without a Vicar is a long time! But, thanks to the efforts of Revd Julian Dunn, Revd John Anderson, our Churchwardens, PCC and members of the congregation, and an enthusiastic group of retired priests, we survived and thrived!

We also had considerable support from the folks down the road at St Helen's, working with them on the rota of visiting priests and the all-important Benefice Profile, to name just two items. So it was all very much a team effort, which has paid off, as they say, handsomely.

We are extremely grateful to them all and to Bishop Colin, the Parish Development Adviser Revd Charles Chadwick and their teams at Church House.

It was with great joy and celebration that we welcomed Fr Michael Lakey, Kirsty and their children to the Benefice at the service of Induction, Institution and Installation in St Mary's by Bishop Colin on 1 August 2019. This Yearbook covers the second half of the interregnum and Fr Michael's first year in office (and what a year), and it is fitting that our 'Cover photo' is of Fr Michael, Kirsty and Bishop Colin.

Bob Heath-Whyte



Communications and Visitors

The website was updated fourteen times during the year, just over once a month, which kept it mostly up to date. It was encouraging to hear a second-hand comment that it was an 'excellent website'. During the 'lockdown' we transferred to a different host to take advantage of their free SSL certificate, which all websites are advised to have now for extra security - it provides the padlock icon in the web address and the added 's' to the 'https://'.

A total of eleven groups, totalling 260 people, booked visits to the church, seven of them opting for the PowerPoint presentation about the wall paintings, and the others for a guided tour. Other visitors, including during Art Weeks, totalled 333, plus another 130 for the two concerts in September. So, not counting those who came to Fr Michael's Induction, we had some 723 visitors during the visiting 'season' from April to September 2019. Our team of Church Guides took it in turns to be on hand on Sunday afternoons to show people around, and a big thank you to them! If you would like to become a Church Guide please contact either Lynn Baker or Bob, we'd love to have you join us.

Since March 2020 the church has been closed to visitors and the planned visits by 6 groups have all been cancelled, with one tentatively re-booked for March 2021.

Bob Heath-Whyte

"It was encouraging to hear a second-hand comment that it was an 'excellent website'."

The Choir

Well this is a surprise, both for you and more so for me!

I thought when I retired in 2014 I had written my last choir report. How wrong can you be! In 2018 I felt very privileged when Chris asked me to look after the choir for Ian's last service; Ian and I had always been friends and we spent many happy Saturday mornings putting the world to rights and it was only when I handed over the reins to Chris I realised how much I missed it and those Saturday mornings. After that memorable service Chris said with his move to live in Chinnor, combined with family and work commitments he was finding it difficult to manage the choir as well and he asked if I would return and lend a hand. So here I am!

"I cannot praise the members highly enough for their commitment and of course Chris for his excellent playing..."

The choir is a small and almost perfectly formed group, but we are on the limit of our capabilities and when even one member is away we miss that voice so much. Choosing music suitable for the services in the different seasons is now being done with the KIS method in mind. The biggest service this past year was of course Fr Michael's induction, and we were lucky to call in a couple of favours from friends who happen to be excellent singers, but who have other commitments on Sunday mornings (there are other churches available). Since then we have seen Janet Hickmore, one of our leading sopranos, move away from the village and although she does return on a bi-weekly basis it is one more voice that we have lost.

When I first wrote this report, no one knew how the rest of 2020 would be devastated by Covid-19 (this is the 2nd edition), so in the light of the above I thought I would re-write part of it. Sadly, it looks very much as though there will be no singing in church for many months to come; who would have believed this could happen. Some choirs are managing to record music in solitary confinement, but neither Chris nor myself have the technology to do this - at the moment. There are a number of software packages out there, but using them is also not so easy and unfortunately the majority of our choir members do not have the wherewithal to use them. So while I am experimenting, it is only myself at the moment. Perhaps one of our best options will be to join with Benson and Watlington to form a 'benefice choir' and record for the special services - Christmas, Easter etc for the future.



The Church decorated for a July Wedding

On a positive note I cannot praise the members highly enough for their commitment and of course Chris for his excellent playing (when he remembers his glasses) and to Patricia for playing for the family services and standing in on occasions at the last minute. Also to Tracy; many of you have commented on how nice it is to see the choir cross carried again. Ceremony has always played a major part in church history and when Fr Michael's service was being planned I realised that there would be a good deal of procession involved, so I asked Tracy if she would become our Crucifer for the occasion. She was pleased to be asked and after that service because of the really positive comments, I felt that it should be re-introduced on a permanent basis. So there you have it. I am back and with the support of Chris, and Fr Michael there is nothing I would like better than to rebuild the choir, but we do not know when we can even contemplate that at the moment.

Michael is the second Vicar I have seen inducted here and planned the music for. Hopefully I won't have to do it again!

Peter Hunt, Choirmaster

Age Concern/Church Partnership

As ever, I'm very pleased to contribute to the Yearbook on behalf of Age Concern Chalgrove, as a mark of the close ties we have with St Mary's. The relationship between Age Concern and St Mary's has always been strong and we have been delighted that Fr Michael has visited us so often on Tuesdays to chat with members over coffee, and to have him join us for the Tuesday Club's Christmas Party. His presence with us is always appreciated.

We are most grateful that the services held during our Tuesday sessions at the various church festivals continued during the vacancy, thanks to Julian and Bob, and it has been a pleasure to welcome Fr Michael to lead us since his arrival in Chalgrove. The opportunity to take communion afterwards continues to be a real boon to those unable to attend church services because of their increasing infirmity.

Our members are also invited to the Friends' Strawberry Tea, thanks to Age Concern's Corporate Membership of Friends of St Mary's; they also receive copies of *The Friends Quarterly*. We really value our links with St Mary's.

Judith Bennett, Vice Chair of Trustees

"The relationship between Age Concern and St Mary's has always been strong..."

St Mary's House Group

The house group has continued to meet throughout the year although slightly less over the summer months due to members taking holidays, moving house and the small matter of the interregnum with arrangements and meetings to plan Michael's installation and welcome on 1 August. We have found it very beneficial to welcome both Revd John Anderson and Fr Michael Lakey to the group meetings, when they are able to come, and the contribution they make to our discussion sessions and in leading house communions.

We were sad to lose Janet Hickmore when she moved to Long Crendon as she had helped to establish the group in 2001 and has helped to keep us on track with the organisation and planning of meetings. It has been great to welcome new members too and we continue to have eight members meeting as regularly as we can.

In addition to keeping abreast of articles in the Pathways Magazine and receiving information by email from the Diocesan website about new initiatives, we have followed more of Bishop Steven's reflections produced in pamphlets for group work. Alive in Christ, the third in the series focussed on Colossians and we have another one to consider called Principles of Deep Water Fishing based upon Acts.

We have all really enjoyed using some more of the study packs from the Diocese of Norwich and studied 'Mapping Luke' - exploring Luke's gospel through reflection, art, poetry and music. The presentation on a double-sided sheet inspires members to look further at the artistic and musical ideas and we usually come home having found out something new.

Fellowship and spiritual growth has been our main focus during the many years we have been meeting together and we are looking forward to new developments with the Parish Lent sessions and ideas which may emerge from the Parish Development Group. If you would like to know more please contact Wendy Poile on 890732 or Heather Topping on 890650.

Heather Topping

The Prayer Group

Step out of life for a moment,
Out of the shout and the glare,
Into that silent sanctuary,
Into the peace of prayer.

Although there are few of us our little group continues to meet regularly twice a month. We are blessed to be able to enjoy Bob and Carole's warm welcome on every occasion and to be able to join together in a quiet time of prayer and reflection. It can be easy to be overwhelmed by all the world's issues, problems and disasters as by the health problems and concerns of all whom we care about. We can however lift all these things to God, the One who knows and cares deeply about us all.

It was with shock and deep sadness that we heard of the sudden death of David Viall in August this year. David was a faithful member of our prayer group and hardly ever missed a meeting. His prayers revealed someone strong in faith with a big heart full of compassion, love and care for others. Because of Covid we haven't been able to meet in the normal way but when we are able to do so again his presence will be deeply missed. May he rest in God's loving arms. Our prayers and concern are now for Jean.

We continue to pray as we all do, but if you would like to share any particular concern with us we are still here to respond. Contact Bob, Carole or myself.

Wendy Poile

Flower Arrangers

A quieter year with all the regular festivals plus just one wedding. My thanks to everyone on the rota for all their help. We have a lovely group of arrangers but if anyone would like to join us they will be most welcome. Lack of experience is no problem as help will be given. We are looking forward to a busier year. No doubt with all the rain we have had recently there will be plenty of foliage available.

Claire Ing

"Fellowship and spiritual growth has been our main focus during the many years we have been meeting together..."



Art Weeks

"It can be easy to be overwhelmed by all the world's issues problems and disasters..."



Easter Flowers

St Helen's Berrick Salome

A pre-Covid-19 reflection on the interregnum

This now feels like a parallel universe, but can now be read as a snapshot of life at the time, preserved like an insect in its Cretaceous amber!

It was the best of times – it was the worst of times. But oh, what a lot we all learnt!

Once Ian had departed westwards, the various elements of the two parishes sprang into action, finding solace and companionship in each other's skills and experiences. Thus, with Bob's help we learnt how to compile an accurate list of lessons:

"Help, Bob – your list is different from what the Lectionary says!"

"Yes, but look... if you turn over the page, you'll find another five options for different kinds of Easter services! I've chosen x because... You might be better with y as..."

Fathoming the idiosyncrasies of the Lectionary did not come naturally to those devoid of LLM training. This handy volume had hitherto only been consulted in Berrick as an *aide memoire* for displaying the right ecclesiastical colour to use on any given Sunday. We did, after all, have to display at least a façade of competence to our wonderful visiting clergy who helped us out with such grace and humour.

This was just one example, but there were legion others. If one looked hard enough, one could always find someone somewhere in the Benefice who had just the advice needed. Putting together the Benefice Profile, the document where we showcased our parishes to attract the right incumbent, was a wonderful exercise in teamwork. And look, it worked – it delivered Fr Michael to our doorstep!

Although we have now settled back into our individual parish routines, and tend to see a bit less of each other, the sense of familiarity and solidarity has lasted. I hope Chalgrove knows that it can rely on Berrick as much as I know we shall be tapping into Chalgrovian support from time to time.

Thanks, St Mary's – great to be linked with you!

Marian Shaw, Churchwarden

The John Hampden Hall

The Committee met four times during 2019 in January, April, July and October, with the AGM taking place in May. I was again elected Chairman, Terry Fisher as Treasurer and Barry Spicer as Minute Secretary. The other serving members retained were Tricia Fryer, Don Belcher, Ann Reed, Gill Spicer and Andrew Davis.

The regular users at present are as follows – Age Concern, the Local History Group, the Brownies, the Dance Class, the Scrabble Club, Tots Music, Little Masters, The WI, the Flower Club and the Quilting Group. All these hire the Hall at a reduced rate as their funds are limited and the church is pleased to help these groups as part of our service to the Village. Children's parties and the church's teas and lunches took place throughout the year. The Hall's hire rates were increased slightly in 2019, but there will be no increase for regular users in 2020.

Our Treasurer had reported that the hire fees had shown an improvement in 2019 of £800 over the previous 12 months, but the cost of essential maintenance was £2K higher due to a lighting upgrade and re-plastering work. These factors resulted in a deficit for the year of £1,338.

The Committee members took part in two garden tidy mornings and the brook was thoroughly cleared in October. They also shared the task of tidying the garden throughout the growing season.

The general maintenance that was carried out on the building included new thermostats on the radiators that were often vandalised, annual checks on the boiler and heating system and the damaged plaster on the foyer front wall being replaced at last. All lights in the main Hall were replaced with LEDs as the original lights were becoming difficult to obtain and they were frequently dying. The Committee's thanks go to Wheelers of Cholsey for their concessions.

My other thanks this year go especially to Mr and Mrs Davis who stepped in to carry on the caretaker's work when Gill was recuperating, to Andrew and Jonathan for tackling the brook and to all Committee members for their great support.

Gill Lester, Chairman.

"It was the best of times - it was the worst of times. But oh, what a lot we all learnt!"



The Oxford Psalmody

"The Committee members took part in two garden tidy mornings and the brook was thoroughly cleared in October."

Events

We have a framework of 'annual events' in between which a variety of different events occur, not quite at random but as they are suggested or promoted. So this year the 22nd Annual Progressive Supper began the round, literally, with everyone moving from home to home in between courses. It is an ideal way to meet new and old friends and enjoy different conversations and delightful food and wine. Organised with military precision by Andy and Olga, overseen as always by Jeanette, it was a wonderful way to launch the year's events.



The Labyrinth Closure

The day after the Supper, in the evening, we had a quiet service at the labyrinth to close it and say farewell. Lynn and Charles Baker had designed and marked out both this 'clamshell' design and its predecessor, a complete circular design, and they had maintained them with the help of a small team of dedicated mowers for several years. As the churchyard began to fill with graves, the circular design was changed to the clamshell, but now the time had come when the space filled by the labyrinth was needed for more graves. We illuminated the labyrinth with nightlights in jam jars, and walked around it for the last time. Then we stood by the millennium yew at the centre for the short service of readings, a Taize chant and prayers.

On May Day at the Village Festival, our stall was conveniently near that of our local gin distillery, OX44, which made for a jolly time! Plenty of muffins were given away to visitors and some good conversations had about our church and future events.

The Art Weeks exhibition in church in May allowed our local artists to display their excellent creations, and attracted many visitors.

Things were a bit quiet in June and July while we concentrated on The Event of the Year which took place on the first day of August!

In September we opened the church to the walkers and cyclists of the OHCT StRide, and also to those who visited as part of the Heritage Open Days to see the special Audio-Visual presentation on the wall paintings. We also had two concerts. First forty members of Oxford Psalmody visited at the beginning of a tour of four churches in our area. Arriving before 10 am, accompanied by their own small band of strings and woodwind, they gave the audience three quarters of an hour of wonderful West Gallery Music, the anthems and metrical versions of the Psalms of David set to the music that once filled our churches in the eighteenth century. And they certainly filled St Mary's with that music! What a treat! Many thanks to all who helped to host this event, but especially to Oxford Psalmody for their generosity. Secondly, we were treated to music by our own musicians - Chris Devonport, organ, Faye O'Hara, cornet, Roger Derbyshire, organ, Will Grainger, euphonium, and Alice Derbyshire, flute. They had selected just eight pieces for us which gave them a chance to demonstrate their respective talents and gave us the chance to hear some great music, some well known, by Albinoni, Mozart, Elgar, Bach, and others less well known or even new to us by Verpeaux, Thalben-Ball, Williams and Donizetti. Thank you to all who helped to make this such an enjoyable afternoon, and especially to our musicians.

"None of this would be possible without the encouragement of the PCC and the dedication of members of the congregation..."

In October Jeanette treated us all to a wonderful banquet. The theme was the anniversary earlier in the year of the first moon landing and the church decoration and the menu were both arranged accordingly. It was a great occasion and greatly enjoyed by all.

In November we had another 'home-grown' event, the Mixed Medley and More concert in which Bucks Voices, Marian and Massimo Nicolosi, Glynn Leaney and Chalgrove Band kept us highly entertained for an hour and a half of music, song and recital.

And then it was time again for the St Nick's Fayre! Andrew and his team had the Village Hall all arranged in time for the arrival of Santa and the crowds who came to enjoy, play and buy.



St Nick's Fayre

To crown the year of events, the Quiz Night in February was another success with Quiz guru Judith, supported by scorekeeper Matt and Quizmeister Peter, giving us all a splendid evening. Seventeen teams took part and all teams scored above 63% correct answers. The winners scored 97%, 2nd scored 91%, 3rd scored 90%, and eleven teams scored above 80%.

None of the above would be possible without the encouragement of the PCC and the dedication of members of the congregation who help whenever possible. A huge Thank You to you all! And we hope and pray that we can soon start planning and enjoying our events once again.

Bob Heath-Whyte

Methodist Partnership

"We enjoy worshipping and joining in the life of St Mary's and feel an integral part of the community."

2019 saw a number of changes in the Methodist circuit, and 2020 will bring further changes. We enjoy worshipping and joining in the life and work of St Mary's and feel an integral part of the community. It has been a pleasure to welcome and get to know Fr Michael and his family.

It may be of interest to give an update about the wider Methodist circuit. Revd John Anderson has been with the circuit team for just over a year now, with responsibility for St Mary's Chalgrove, Watlington and Great Milton churches. He has become an integral part of the ministry here, leading one service a month and bringing both enthusiasm for the gospel and a distinctly Methodist feel to his liturgy and preaching.

Watlington chapel's congregation continues to provide warm Christian outreach through worship, monthly lunch clubs, and occasional drama or musical events. Their main focus over the next few years though will have to be replacing the roof; the Welsh slate tiles have reached the end of their life and the rain is beginning to seep through into the building. So we will have more opportunity to join them for their excellent fundraising events.

Great Milton's congregation has finished a refurbishment project at the chapel, remodelling the porch to install a toilet and new front entrance and creating a kitchenette in the back of the church. This makes a significant difference to those on the coffee rota and visiting, and allows the church to be used for social and community events.



Friends' Strawberry Tea

The wider circuit – 10 Methodist churches stretching from Woodstock to Watlington - continues to be very active, providing a large number of services and events throughout the year; in this quarter ministers, local preachers, and the church congregations themselves will lead nearly 180 regular services, plus special services arranged around Easter.

Revd Dr Martin Wellings's appointment as Oxford Circuit Superintendent comes to an end in the summer of 2020. This means that in the autumn the circuit will be welcoming a new Superintendent to manage the churches (plus the work at St Mary's) and the current ordained, lay and administrative staff. Watch out for details in the next few months.

You are always very welcome to join the Methodist congregations for their services or events; look out for details in the newsletters and expect a warm welcome wherever you venture.

Jennifer Thompson

Friends

"Membership from within the congregation and the wider community now stands at 51..."

Since the launch of the current Friends' scheme in 2017 there has been a pattern of steady growth. Membership from within the congregation and the wider community now stands at 51, a small increase over the past year. Membership donations generated an income of just over £2,635. Income raised from Friends' events was £3,104 – again an increase over the previous year.

It is a real pleasure to report that this year, on agreement with the PCC, Friends' monies have been donated or promised for items that will support the life, work and fabric of the church. We achieved our commitment to pay for the necessary upgrade of St Mary's sound system and we have also made a further commitment to pay for three specialist sound recording devices to help visually impaired visitors enjoy St Mary's wonderful heritage features to the full.

Looking ahead to 2020, the calendar of Friends' events has begun well with the very successful Church quiz which generated much fun as well as funds of £1,118. More events are planned to which all are welcome so we hope they will be well supported.

Those of us who help to run the Friends' scheme are hugely grateful to everyone who supports Friends in any way. But on this occasion, we want to pay special tribute to Bob Heath-Whyte who was one of the founder committee members when the initial Friends' scheme was set up in 2005. Bob has continued to support Friends wholeheartedly but now needs to relinquish his roles in Friends in order to take up other tasks within the life of St Mary's. So – THANK YOU Bob for your contribution to Friends over so many years.



May Day Stall

Lynn Baker

Bell Ringing

The last year has been quite an eventful one, our newer ringers steadily progressing with Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles. Sunday ringing tends to be well struck call changes as the brains haven't always been fully awake by 9 am. Margaret had a setback health-wise but is now back with us able to ring for short spells. I am indebted to Jonathan who assists with my Steeple Keeping duties including keeping the clock wound and setting 'Chalgrove Time' as the weather changes the pendulum length.

On 1 August we celebrated the arrival of Fr Michael and the bells rang out across the village in the evening prior to his inauguration. The first service for Michael was another memorable occasion as on Saturday 3 August two of our ringers tied the knot. Congratulations to Faye and Jonathan; the bells rang out after Chalgrove (and friends) brass band had played a special arrangement of the wedding march that included 'Sussex by the Sea'. Both Faye and her mother are members of the band having moved from Sussex. It was a truly special day for the couple, the ringers, choir and congregation who joined in the celebration in church and at the reception afterwards.

Having learnt rope splicing on a Guild course I have finally put the technique into practice as our Tenor rope tail end wore out. I can highly recommend the course and the purchase of a 'Swedish Fid' to make splicing easier.

Emilia practised making the Bob, running in and running out, then rang her first quarter peal in December, Plain Bob Doubles on the second with a band ably assisted by Gordon who regularly joins out practice nights.

A chance encounter in the Red Lion with Faye, flicking an elastic band at her husband, missing, but hitting a lady new to the village, resulted in another new recruit! After one practice night she came along for a session with a couple of the bells silenced and is handling the bell hand and back in time with the other one! I am a great believer in silencing bells for training, ours are easy to fit and avoid annoying the neighbours with a single bell tolling. Sadly the cost of renting in Chalgrove has meant our new recruit has since moved away.

The village Facebook page is updated when we ring for special events. The feedback is always positive, we are lucky to live in a community which values the church and its bells.

Andrew Davis

Caretaking

The winter weather has been a challenge as it has been so wet and heating times had to be increased to overcome the damp building fabric. There are on-going tasks to keep myself busy, some work to do in the tower and the driveway needs repair having been washed away in places.

Thanks, as always, for the help from Jonathan and Barry.

Andrew Davis

Stewardship

One of the joys of arriving in Chalgrove was seeing how this church community has given faithfully and sacrificially over many years in order to prepare our beautiful building for the work of God in this village. First of all, let me say thank you to all of you who have contributed. With no major building works on the horizon, the question of stewardship of our money, time, and effort is now one of how we build the church community and its ministry. This is as important as the building. St Paul talks of us having gifts as diverse as helping, teaching, caring, and financial support. This is not just about cash: whatever you have to offer God's work here is valued.

In terms of financial stewardship, headline figures from the draft 2019 accounts suggest that there is a small shortfall in our Net Resources. Taking the electoral roll as a guide, we could cover this with a modest increase of 2% in our giving – or perhaps a modest increase in our congregation! To put this in context, a 2% increase on a gift of £10 is 20p, and a proportionate increase in our congregation is between one and three people. Emphatically, this is not to ask everyone to give extra; some may need to give less. It is to point out that modest growth in these areas is a small challenge I am confident that with God's grace we can meet.

Fr Michael

"Congratulations to Faye and Jonathan; the bells rang out after Chalgrove brass band had played a special arrangement of the wedding march..."



Jeanette and Andrew at the Autumn Banquet

"... whatever you have to offer God's work here is valued."



Lost for Words Teas

We have gathered quarterly during the year and also celebrated Epiphany Tide with a shared lunch. These gatherings are valued by those who have struggled with bereavement, or with being lonely, all seeking company where memories can be shared over afternoon tea.

Thanks go to a small team making sandwiches, cakes, tea and running a taxi service.

Jeanette Barrington

Ride and Stride



*Patricia and Bob outside
St Leonards, Watlington*

The Ride and Stride took place on 14 September 2019 and we had two walkers: Patricia Hunt (Churchwarden) and Bob Heath-Whyte (LLM). They walked about 12 miles along footpaths and bridleways visiting the churches at Easington, Pyrton, Watlington (St Leonards, the Methodist Church and St Edmund Campion), Cuxham, Brightwell Baldwin and Chalgrove. It took over six hours and the pair were weary by the time they reached St Mary's at Chalgrove. Fourteen Striders visited Chalgrove and seven welcomers signed forms and offered refreshment.

Our StRiders raised £428 through sponsorship. Half of this sum is retained by Oxford Historic Churches Trust and half comes back to our church. Congratulations and thanks to all who took part and to those who supported their efforts.

Carole Heath-Whyte

Traidcraft

There is a display of Traidcraft goods in church: mainly tea, coffee, biscuits and cards. Catalogues are available which have a wide range of fairly traded goods - foods, gifts and clothing. The costs reflect the support given to producers so that they can make a living from their work. Christmas cards and Easter Eggs are best sellers and goods ordered from the catalogue are generally of a high quality so do pick one up and browse and find something you would like to order!

Traidcraft has taken on a new challenge: "Welcome to Transparency Coffee, grown by a women's co-operative of farmers in Honduras and from a co-operative in Sumatra that works hard to support independent women farmers amongst its members. If we had bought any old beans at today's hugely deflated world price, each bag of 227g coffee would have cost around 53p to buy. Had we paid minimum Fairtrade prices, we would have spent about 84p per bag (a huge, life-saving difference). In fact, we chose to pay £1.32, because we paid more premiums than normal and we value the quality of the coffee highly. (These prices are approximate and are based on a 15% roasting loss and an exchange rate of 0.77\$ to the £)". If you would like to try this organic ground coffee you can order from me: £4.95 for 227gms.

Carole Heath-Whyte

USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel)

We at St Mary's and St Helen's have supported USPG for many years and recently the focus has been on work with Church partners in Tanzania. Collections have been made during Advent and Lent for health projects in Tanzania.

Lately, interest has faded and so on 3 December 2019, an information meeting was held in Church and Dr Elizabeth Taylor visited St Mary's on Sunday 8 December, when she preached about USPG and brought a box full of informative resources. Since then, there has been a display in Church about the world wide reach of USPG and during Lent we studied a course on discipleship: 'Living an Authentic Life', produced by USPG.

In June we received a letter of heartfelt thanks from USPG for raising £116.00 for their work in 2019. Please pray for the work of the Society.

Carole Heath-Whyte

"... Christmas cards
and Easter Eggs are
best sellers..."

"... Collections have
been made during
Advent and Lent for
health projects in
Tanzania."