

## Priest in Charge APCM Report 2017

Sitting down to write this report, I realised that I have only been here with you for eight weeks! That this came as a bit of a surprise is testament to the amazing welcome that I have received. Stopping and reflecting on those weeks is also a gift. APCM's can feel like a chore but I hope that tonight will give us a chance both to celebrate and to reflect on all that has been and to dream of what might be in the 12 months ahead.

I have to begin with a huge thank you to all those who worked so hard during the appointment, interview and licensing process. These things may appear just to happen but of course they involve huge amounts of hard work behind the scenes and I would like to thank the PCC and in particular Doreen and Norma for their commitment to working with the rest of the benefice and making the process so seamless. A commitment that I hope we all share, as we look to planning of services, sharing resources and growing together.

Worship in the village hall has been a delight. Whilst many outside of the church have commiserated with me on not having a church as I start my ministry here, I have been able to tell them wholeheartedly that I do have a church and a thriving one at that. Your openness to experiments, your forgiveness of mistakes and your willingness to learn and grow in small groups and as a congregation has been wonderful. I also believe that it points the way ahead for us in the coming year. I hope to be able to say at the next APCM that we have had a parish vision day, established study groups, fully reviewed our pattern of worship and established a stewardship programme that allows us to contribute not just to the life of the church through parish share but to links elsewhere in the community and indeed the world. The rebuilding of the church is a massive project and I am hugely thankful to those whose commitment and sheer hard work has meant that it is moving towards being a reality, not least of course, Andy, but as it becomes more and more a reality we must remember also our commitment to growing this church, made up of these people, seeking to follow God in this place.

As this is no doubt the shortest report I shall ever have an excuse to deliver, I shall end there. Thank you for all that you are and all that you do, I look forward to continuing to seek God's will for this place with you in the year ahead.

Clare