

ST. MARY'S WOLLATON PARK ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

29TH APRIL 2018, 12:00PM

AGENDA & WRITTEN REPORTS

1. Apologies
2. Election of Churchwardens (2)
3. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives (2)
4. Election of PCC members (2)
5. Vicar's report and vision – Q&A
6. Finance Report
7. Presentation of Written Reports
 - a. Motion to accept reports
8. Any Other Business (To be notified in advance)
9. Closing Prayer



ST. MARY'S
WOLLATON PARK

WRITTEN REPORTS

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ELECTORAL ROLL

Adsley	Rosie	Larsson	Jonathan
Argyle	Elizabeth	Miller	Jean
Argyle	Peter	Minott	Del
Ayre	Struan	Monny Maria	Anna
Bainbridge	David	Müller	Ilona
Bainbridge	Rachel	Mutch	Stacey
Bauhahn	Daniel	Ndiriwepi	Tsitsi
Bauhahn	Camille	Norris	Mary
Beranek	Ben	Norris	Gerald
Bowyer	Val	O'Brien	Alice
Bulleid	Katherine	Parkin	Betty
Burnham	Marian	Parsons	Mamie
Bush	Peter	Partridge	Brenda
Bush	Dorothy	Payne	David
Cooper	Doreen	Ratib	Heddy
Cooper	Joyce	Robinson	Brian
Cornish	Moyra	Robinson	Vicki
Curran	Kate	Roggendorf	Sarah
Darling	Kay	Sanders	Diana
Davies	Muriel	Schwarz	Anita
Devas	Emily	Sim	Sarah
Diamantis	Elias	Strong	Barbara
Drew	Chris	Tyers	Vera
Drew	Gemma	Voisey	Cliff
Eagles	Ellen	Voisey	Maureen
Fothergill	George	Ward	Lawrence
Gavin	Sean	Ward	Monica
George	Andrew	Weden	Hannah
George	Vyara	West	Tom
Gibson	David	Wilkes	Dawn
Gillott	Margaret	Williams	Cathy
Gomm	Andrew	Wills	Brian
Gomm	Beth	Wills	Kyra
Haines	Rebecca	Withers	John
Harrison	John	Young	Joan
Hart	Ross		
Hills	Joan		
Houghton	Fiona		
Howe	Becka		
Hubbard	Kathryn		
Hunt	Debs		
King	Alec		
King	Rachel		
Knight	Ian		
Knowles	Laura		

Total: 80

Revised 16th April 2018

Since last revision, when there were 83 on the roll, 7 members have left, 1 was removed from the roll as he was on it in error, and 5 have joined.

Kate Curran (Electoral Roll Officer)

ACCOUNTS 2017

Profit and Loss Account

	2016 Declaration	Budget 2017	2017 Year	Variance to 2017 Budget	Notes
INCOME					
Regular Donations (Gift Aid)	42,438	32,800	33,880	1,080	
Regular Donations (Non-Gift Aid)	10,069	11,700	10,988	712-	
Collections at Services	4,523	4,700	4,142	558-	
Special Appeals	650	600	327	273-	
One-off Donations (Gift Aid)	988	300	50	250-	
One-off Donations (Non-Gift Aid)	2,889	2,800	2,297	503-	
Tax Recovered Through Gift Aid	7,710	9,350	12,741	3,391	1
Community Outreach Events	578	250	832	582	
Dividends, Interest	51	0	5	5	2
Wedding / Funeral Fees	1,645	500	1,075	575	
Hall Lettings	10,496	10,500	11,398	898	3
Car Parking	2,113	1,750	2,235	485	3
Book Sales Etc.	20	100	0	100-	
Total Income	84,170	75,350	79,969	4,619	
EXPENDITURE					
Community Outreach Costs	1,032	1,000	168	832	
Mission Partners	17,000	17,230	18,604	-1,374	
Donations	568	600	853	-253	
Parish Share	31,920	33,500	33,500	0	
Salaries / Wages	4,526	4,500	4,560	-60	
Vicar's & Curate's expenses	2,489	2,400	2,646	-246	4
Ministry Assistants Expenses	30	400	46	354	
Mission and Evangelism Projects	437	500	629	-129	
Church Running Expenses	7,520	8,230	7,752	478	5
Sunday Ministry	1,762	1,500	1,032	468	
Midweek Ministry	975	500	298	202	6
Church Grounds	0	200	120	80	
Church Utility Bills	2,551	2,900	4,192	-1,292	7
Hall Utility Bills	5,658	4,600	4,619	-19	7
Printing & Stationery	0	0	2,776	-2,776	8
Book Sales etc.	0	100	318	-218	9
Hall Running Expenses	1,632	1,771	2,019	-248	10
Assigned Fees	738	500	285	215	
Major Repairs to the Church	131	2,000	1,935	65	11
Major Repairs to the Hall	168	1,000	318	682	12
New Building Work	0	0	0	0	
Total Expenditure	79,137	83,431	86,668	-3,237	
Net Increase/Decrease in Reserves	5,033	-8,081	-6,699	1,382	13

Notes to the Accounts

Specific Notes to Heads

- 1 An accrual has been made for material Gift Income Tax not yet received but claimed and known to be recoverable at the year end
- 2 Being the interest received in the 2017 year on the Barclay's deposit account
- 3 No adjustments have been made for either Hall Lettings or Parking
- 4 December 2017 claims owing have been provided for
- 5 An estimate has been included for the Quinquennial Survey fee, the bill for which has not been received
- 6 Christingle costs outstanding at 31st. December 2017 have been provided for
- 7 These accounts provide for Energy Costs relating to December 2017 but not invoiced/paid until January 2018. Corresponding provisions had not previously been made
- 8 Printing & Stationery had previously variously appeared in Church or Hall running costs. It is now afforded a unique head.
- 9 A creditor at the year end related to the purchase of St. Mark's Gospel books
- 10 A creditor for window cleaning has been provided for
- 11 Church repairs are substantially those to the pipe organ, but this cost was mitigated by ringfenced donations received of £624
- 12 Hall repairs were mainly the fitting of a new trap door to the cellar
- 13 The Year 2017 has a deficit of £6699

General Notes to the Accounts

- 1 These accounts have this year been prepared on an Accruals basis which more precisely reflects transactions relating to the financial year, whether paid/received or otherwise.
- 2 Creditors at the 2017 year end, and material debtors, have been provided for.
- 3 Previously Postage and Stationary was analysed inconsistently, but as it is of a material value a unique head has now been created for it.
- 4 Fixed Assets (a desktop pc and a vacuum cleaner) were purchased during the year. The total value is too insignificant to capitalise and subsequently depreciate so they have been expensed.
- 5 The Accounts for the 2017 Financial Year disclose a favourable variance to budget of £1382. However, an effective Loss for the Year of £6699 is disclosed.

Balance Sheet

	2017	2016
Fixed Assets	0	0
Current Assets: -		
Stock	100	-
Debtors (per schedule)	3437	-
Prepayments	0	-
Deposit Accounts	6309	6309
Liquid Accounts	22630	31228
	32476	37537
Total of Current Assets	32476	37537
Current Liabilities: -		
Creditors & Accruals	1634	168
Income Received in advance	0	0
	1634	168
Net Current Liabilities	1634	168
Nett Assets	30842	37369
Represented by ; -		
Total Funds	30842	37369

..... Mr Lawrence Ward – Treasurer

..... Rev Henry Curran - Vicar

Certificate from the Independent Examiner

I have examined the books and vouchers of St Mary’s Church, Wollaton Park and can certify that the accounts on the attached sheets are, in my opinion, correct.

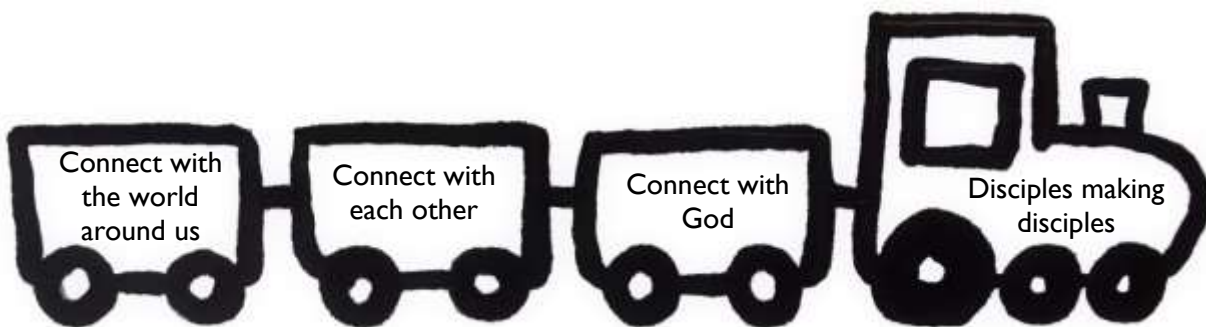
..... Mr John Harrison – Independent Examiner

CONNECT GROUPS

Connect Groups is the name for our midweek small groups that were relaunched in March 2018. We currently have three evening groups: **Wollaton Park Parish, Beeston, and Young Adults**. Alongside these are the Monday ladies Bible study and Wednesday afternoon group which overlap with much of the vision for Connect Groups. I am excited by what has been happening in all of these groups and am prayerful that God will work through them to grow us spiritually and numerically.

Connect Groups developed out of the vision statement adopted in the autumn of 2016. I praise God for how house groups built up many in the church family in their faith but with adoption of the vision statement the PCC saw the need for our midweek small groups to expand their focus to include calling in and sending out.

In order to do this House Groups were brought to an end and after a time of praying, discerning, and planning, Connect Groups were launched. The vision is that these are groups driven by **being disciples who make disciples** and for the groups to be places where we **connect with God, connect with each other, and connect with the world around us**. The picture below tries to illustrate this.



These leads Connect Groups to be different to previous house groups in a number of ways. Our prayer is for Connect Groups to be outward looking, have a sense of an extended family sharing life together, and rather than being leader led the whole group takes responsibility for the life of the group. Much of this was already being modelled by the Monday ladies Bible study!

In the coming year my prayer is that we will continue to raise up, encourage, and equip new Connect Group leaders, for a new group to begin and for more members of the church family to belong. But above all this my prayer is that these groups will help us reach those living and working in the communities around us who with good news of Jesus and to many come to faith.

Praise God for:

- the different house groups and leaders over many years which have built many up in their faith
- the launch of three new evening Connect Groups
- what God has been doing through the Monday ladies Bible study and the Wednesday afternoon group

Please pray for:

- God will work through Connect Groups to grow St. Mary's spiritually
- Connect Groups to equip, encourage, and enable sharing the Gospel with the world around us
- new leaders to be raised up, encouraged, and equipped

Tom Devas

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY GROUPS

Currently we have 11 regular children who attend St Mary's Wollaton Park, as well as some slightly older children who join us occasionally over in the hall on a Sunday morning. It has been a delight this year to see them learn and grow in their faith and knowledge of God through the stories and craft times. The Salt group (0-4 year olds) and the Light group (4-8 year olds) have been looking at a variety of different topics in this last year, including the Christmas and Easter story and a Bible Overview.

This year we had to change the way we run the groups slightly. In previous years, we have had both a Children's Group Leader, whose job it is to teach the Bible and prepare a craft for the session, and a Children's Group Helper, who supports with delivering that on a Sunday. Unfortunately, we no longer had enough children's group leaders to lead both Salt and Light group every week. Instead, the children's group helpers in Salt group have been working together to deliver a program of stories and activities devised by Gemma Drew based on the 'My First Bible Stories' book. The children have loved these, and it has reduced the amount of preparation the helpers need to do in the week. We have also included a time every week where children and their leaders and helpers sing together before the children go to their groups. We have also been continuing to have a kids' prayer and praise once a term lead by Becca Haines.

Over the last two rotas there have been a few weeks where we have not had enough helpers and leaders to run children's groups during the services on a Sunday. We have seen a number of people leave the team, and very few people join it. On some weeks where we do run children's groups, parents are having to stay in the room with their children, so we have enough adults to keep the children safe. In order to keep running the children's groups and teach God's word during them, we need more helpers and leaders to join the team soon.

At the end of August, I will be stepping down from overall leading of the children's groups. This is for three main reasons. Firstly, since starting my new job at Crosstech full-time, I have far less time to commit to the role, and have found myself unable to do anything more than the bare minimum to keep the groups running. I feel that this is unfair on the children, the team and the wider church. Secondly, to allow me to serve in church more fully in other ways, such as with Safeguarding, on the preaching team and on a Sunday. And thirdly, there have been really exciting opportunities to build relationships and talk about Jesus in my neighbourhood and I'd like to have more time to take up these. Me stepping away from the overall leader's role means that, unless other people step up, we are unsure how are children's work can continue into September.

Praise God for:

- How he is at work, even in our youngest members, growing and revealing himself to them.
- The encouragement of seeing our children love reading the Bible and responding to God's word.

Please pray for:

- More helpers and leaders to join the children's work team.
- Wisdom for the future of our children's work.

Debs Hunt

EXPLORERS

Every Tuesday morning during school term time in the church hall there is a mixture of cuteness and chaos. Over the last few terms we have welcomed around 32 children aged 0-4 and their parents and carers to Explorers. Explorers is one of strongest connections St. Mary's has with the surrounding local community, many of whom have no other link to St. Mary's or any Christian faith.

We don't just want to run a high-quality toddler group but our prayer is that everyone who comes to have the chance to hear and respond to the message of Jesus. The highlight of every session is the story from the Bible. In recent months we have had some Oscar deserving acting and some giant visual aids.

Since September we have sought to put on a number of events to give those who come to Explorers the chance to hear more about Jesus and bridge the gap between Explorers and the rest of church family life. In October we held a well-attended light party (an alternative to Halloween) and on Good Friday we had a Kids Easter Fun morning. The team also put on a Christmas craft evening to have something to invite the adults who come to Explorers to. Although none of adults from Explorers were able to come we welcomed many others.



None of this could happen without the wonderful servant hearted Explorers team. Some come to set up before going to work or doing the tasks of the day while others faithfully serve in the kitchen. Some of the team have rearranged their week to be able to come and be involved with Explorers and share Jesus. Over the last few months we have seen God answering our prayers for deepening relationships and conversations between the team and those who come to Explorers.

We enter an uncertain season this term. In the summer four out of the remaining five leaders are likely to move on and we don't have other leaders lined up yet. This could be God leading us to the end of Explorers, in readiness for something new, but we need to discern God's leading.

We invite the whole church family to be praying about the future of Explorers. We'd also ask all in the church family to consider whether they could be involved. It might involve stepping into a ministry you feel is out of your comfort zone or rearranging your week so you can be available on Tuesdays. Those on the team can all testify to the joy of serving, the incredible opportunities to share Jesus, and the real sense of fun.

Praise God for:

- all the children and adults who have heard Jesus faithfully spoken about over the last five years
- the light party and kids Easter fun
- a servant hearted team of leaders and helpers
- deepening friendships and conversations at Explorers

Please pray for:

- this coming term, that we might see people putting their faith in Jesus and getting involved with St. Mary's
- the future of St. Mary's
- whether Explorers is a part of the church's life you can be a part of

Anita Schwarz and Tom Devas on behalf of the Explorers Team

SCHOOLS WORK

We have a primary and a secondary school in our parish and I praise God for the good relationship we have with both that gives us many opportunities to support these schools and share the message of Jesus with students and staff. In all our work with schools I am deeply grateful to God for our partnership with Crosstech Nottingham and Debs Hunt who has shared with us her time, wisdom, and resources.

This year St. Mary's have continued to take whole school assemblies four times a year at Middleton Primary school and welcomed year 2 into the church building for their annual church experience. I personally have been able to be more involved with the school and have got to know some of the staff and other parents. This summer sees the arrival of a new headteacher so please pray that we might be able to continue and grow our relationship with that school.

Our relationship with Bluecoat Wollaton Academy has grown this year. I was able to meet with the principal last summer and talk through ways we can work together. As a result, we welcomed three year groups for Christmas and Easter services at St. Mary's (giving 550 students two opportunities to engage with the Gospel) and have begun a termly prayer meeting for anyone linked to the school is welcome to come to. We began with three people and our last prayer meeting had 16 (the next prayer meeting is on Monday 30th April, 8-9pm in church).

We have continued to partner with Crossteach Nottingham to lead an Easter Experience in the school for year 7 and have helped with occasional Acts of Worship (assemblies).



Praise God for:

- good relationship with both Middleton and Bluecoat
- our partnership with Crossteach Nottingham
- that close to 1000 children and young people and a number of staff have heard the message of Jesus several times this year
- our termly prayer meeting for Bluecoat

Please pray for:

- continued strong and trusting relationship between St. Mary's and the schools
- the ongoing witness of children and parents from St. Mary's involved with Middleton & Bluecoat
- the new head teacher at Middleton starting in the summer

Tom Devas

SAFEGUARDING

Our safeguarding policy complies with the current House of Bishops guidance. The PCC approved some updates to the policy relating to vulnerable adults.

Debs Hunt

CURACY

During the last three years I have had to describe to a number of people who don't have links to any church or are unfamiliar with the Church of England what I do. The description that seems to have made most sense is that I am a vicar with 'L' plates on. According to a recent letter from the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham I have reached the point where my 'L' plate can be taken off, as I have now completed my curacy.

A curacy is an on-the-job training post and so from the beginning we knew as a family our time at St. Mary's would only be for three to four years. We are now actively looking at where God might be leading us next. At the moment we don't know where this will be or when we will go, other than we will likely have moved by this time next year. As a family we would really value your prayers and encouragement for this next step, that we would make wise decisions in finding a church community where we can belong and serve as a family.

The whole of team Devas praise God for our time at St. Mary's, for how God has grown us and I pray has grown the church family through us. We feel St Mary's is a church family that has grown in the last few years in its ability not to take itself too seriously whilst taking God seriously. We praise God for the way you have welcomed us into your, homes, your lives, and your hearts. We rejoice in the friendships that have grown and how generous you have been to us.



In the time between drinking Henry's coffee, trying to come up with good ideas, and telling everyone to take up running I have grown in the skills and gifts God has given me. I feel I have grown as a pastor. A pastor's work

might sound simple – serving God’s people through prayer and the ministry of the word. What sounds simple is varied, demanding, and full of joys and sorrows.

I have loved belonging to a church that takes God’s Word seriously and continues to help me develop my preaching (thank you for listening to so many of my sermons). I am grateful to you for letting me take a lead in different parts of the life of St. Mary’s, most recently in launching our Connect Groups. I thrilled to belong to a church where I have seen God at work first hand in all that is going on, from children and families, students, amongst our midweek groups and among our older folk. The greatest joy of all has been seeing the Spirit bringing people to faith in Jesus and empowering others to get serious about their faith.

There have also been moments when the demands have felt overwhelming and task beyond me. I have seen the impact of my sin and the sin of others and am reminded that my ‘L’ plates might be coming off but I will always be a work in progress as pastor and as a follower of Jesus. I pray I am coming to the end of my curacy with a greater humility than when I arrived, a greater dependence on the Holy Spirit, and a greater certainty that my risen Saviour will return.

When we are sent on by you in the coming months, we will take treasured memories of our time at St. Mary’s with us and will continue to pray for you. At this time our prayer is that St. Mary’s will be a church family that continues to hear the call to whole life discipleship, shaped by God’s Word and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and will be a church that continues to send, invite, and welcome.

Tom, Emily, Joel, Luke, & Bump Devas

MINISTRY ASSISTANT

I’ve really enjoyed my year here so far, getting to know everyone and getting stuck in. I’ve been thrown in to doing lots of things, and have been learning lots about my strengths and weaknesses, and developing different skills. This year, I’ve been helping out with the Explorers Toddler Group on Tuesday’s, the Midweek group on Wednesdays, as well as being involved in the music, and leading services on Sunday’s (which is slightly less scary now than it was in September)! I also meet up 1-2-1 with one of our students, attend MMTC, and do lots and lots of reading. MMTC has been a great chance to learn more about the bible, and how to teach it, as well as develop skills in writing talks, and teaching bible studies.

My main project this year has been working with the students. We had our first big meet up on March 10th, where we had a student day in the hall. We met up at about 11.30am and stayed till just after dinner. We spent the day looking at the first 3 chapters in Ephesians, led by Tom, over 2 sessions. We also ate a lot of food and went for a walk around Wollaton Park. Six of our students came, including 2 post grad students, as well as Tom and myself. The next student event we are hoping to plan is student evening in the summer term, continuing to look at the Ephesians. I’d appreciate prayer that this would be a group that keeps growing, and will be valuable to our students, both in their spiritual growth and in encouraging their personal evangelism.

Sarah Sim

LADIES’ PRAYER BREAKFASTS

The aim of the ladies’ prayer breakfasts is to give the ladies at St. Mary’s a space four times a year to meet together to encourage each other, grow in friendship, and to spur one another on in living for Jesus.

This year there have been three breakfasts, and although it breaks with the title, one evening pudding and prayer. Each session has had a particular theme (God’s wisdom, encouragement, hope) and different members of the church family have given a short talk or reflection before a time to chat and pray together in smaller groups.

Praise God for the refreshment and encouragement God has given through these times to a number of ladies at St. Mary’s and for the friendships that have grown especially between those of different ages.

Pray for God’s future direction as Emily prepares to move on in the coming months, that there will continue to be activities that help the ladies of the church family grow together and explore what it means to be women of God.

LADIES SMALL GROUP

Every Monday morning a group of between 2 and 7 ladies and up to 9 small children meet together in each other's homes to open the Bible, pray and encourage one another, accompanied by cups of tea and fruit snacks and toys for the children. Although all ladies currently attending are mums with children, this small group is open to all ladies of any age, with or without children and you don't have to come every week to join in. It has been particularly helpful for those who struggle to get out on an evening.

Over the past year this group has studied the Psalms, Parables, women of the Bible, a series on the bible-centred family and a book entitled "Ordinary Mum, Extraordinary Mission". It has been a particularly encouraging year as we have really grown in our friendships by being in touch with each other throughout the week, helping one another practically and praying for one another. We've all felt the great benefit of that prayer support when it has come to reaching out to our colleagues, family, neighbours and friends with the gospel and we've seen many answers to prayer.

Here are some quotes from members of the group:

"I love the way that the group roots my week in scripture and prayer. Knowing that the ladies are praying for me throughout the week has been such a comfort as I've navigated the first couple of years of motherhood"

"This group has ensured my faith is fully integrated and very real in the ups and downs of life. I feel very blessed to journey alongside these godly ladies"

"I have felt able to open up to this caring and wise group of ladies about hard situations and through prayer, friendship and encouragement from the Bible I've seen God heal areas of my heart that I thought were impossible to heal! I'm so amazed every week that despite the chaos of children playing and interrupted conversations that we still manage to have such meaningful bible studies and see wonderful answers to prayer."



"This group is so life-enriching. I love that the children get front row seats on Christian community: enthusiastic Bible studies, life-changing prayer and 'real' human relationships. I have never been in such an open and honest group that is so driven to supporting one another in the day-to-day practicalities and spiritual growth. There is not a single week where I am not challenged to be a better Christian Mum by these inspiring women."

"I have found our group to be a great source of encouragement and it has really spurred me on to love and good works! It has been a privilege to serve and be served by this group of ladies"

Emily Devas

PCC

The Parochial Church Council met on seven occasions to share with the Vicar oversight of the church, both by discussing various matters and by spending longer periods in prayer. At our first meeting, we appointed Kate Curran as Secretary, Lawrence Ward as Treasurer and Daniel Bauhahn as Vice-Chairman. We agreed to change the formation of the Standing Committee to comprise the Clergy, Churchwardens and two lay members of PCC. Katherine Bulleid and Andrew Gomm were appointed as lay members of Standing Committee for this year. During the year, Claire Newton resigned as Churchwarden, and we appointed Rebecca Haines as Acting Churchwarden for the remainder of the year. John Harrison was appointed as auditor for our 2017 accounts. The Vicar took a sabbatical break for three months from Easter 2017, and Sarah Sim began work as a Ministry Assistant in September 2017.

Having commissioned the church staff at the start of 2017 to begin work on our new Vision Statement with areas B1 "Every member growing in faith and godliness and pressing on towards the day of Christ's return, and B2

“Every member feeling that they belong to a church family that supports, encourages and cares for them, and to the worldwide church,” we identified the next two priority areas to focus on in 2018, which were SI “Every member sent to live and speak for Jesus”, and B3 “Every member equipped to use their gifts to serve within the church and share the gospel in their daily lives.”

We commissioned the church staff to redesign house groups in order to give them a specific ministry focus, and received regular reports on progress. We also received regular reports from the Vicar and from the Standing Committee, as well as reports on other areas of ministry such as children’s ministry, home visiting and the evangelists’ group, on special events at Easter, Christmas and a Light Party alternative to Halloween, and on the Living Out conference about homosexuality and the church. We supported a proposal to improve our work with international students, and approved updates to the church Safeguarding Policy. We gave advice to the Vicar about concerns, such as the future of children’s ministries and a lack of willingness to serve among some in the congregation.

Lawrence brought us regular finance reports, a highlight of which was that giving increased by £5,000 through Membership Sunday, the exact amount needed to cover our projected deficit for 2017. Praise God! We agreed to pay £36,000 in Parish Share for 2018, which was less than the increase requested by the Deanery, but the most we felt able to pay. By God’s grace we found that the deanery had revised its request to less than £36,000. We agreed to keep the £2,000 budget surplus from 2017 in reserve. Lawrence drafted a budget for 2018, which we agreed. We completed a Giving for Life review provided by the diocese.

We reviewed our giving to mission partners. Ian Knight (Friends International) and Tom Parfitt (Bible training for ministry in the French-speaking world) finished their terms of service during the year, and we decided to appoint Nottingham University Christian Union as our third mission partner along with Debs Hunt (CrossTeach Nottingham) and Tony and Cath Swanson (Africa Inland Mission). We approved an extra gift to Ian Knight to help with a fundraising deficit, and a gift of £1,000 over two years to Tom Devas for the Arrow leadership training course.

Kate Curran (PCC Secretary)

FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

A quinquennial electrical installation test was completed in April 2017 and remedial work done. A quinquennial buildings survey was mostly completed in August 2017, though we are still waiting on the architect for the external survey and the results. A rotten trapdoor at the side of the church hall was replaced in October 2017. Annual gas safety, fire extinguisher and portable electrical appliance tests have been carried out during the year.

A clear up of the church hall cellar is proposed for this summer.

We are grateful for the weekly work given by church members to keep the church clean and decorated with fresh flowers. We employ a weekly cleaner for the church hall and a biweekly gardener for the grounds. Helen Perbet has given a large amount of time on improvements to the flower beds in front of the church hall, for which we are most grateful.

The Standing Committee approved the purchase of new microphones for the church and an office computer this year.

It would be very helpful if someone other than the Vicar could take responsibility for maintenance and repair of our buildings, as this has taken up Henry’s time this year and he is unable to manage all the jobs which may be desirable. I would suggest we pray and ask for a suitable person to come forward to take on responsibility for building matters.

Kate Curran (PCC Secretary)

DEANERY SYNOD

This year we have said goodbye to Rev'd John Tomlinson (leaving St John's, Carrington) and Rev'd Nick and Anne Ladd (St Barnabas, Inham Nook) and welcomed Rev'd Stephen Morris (transition priest at St Mary the Virgin, Lacemarket) and Rev'd Andy Tufnell (to Christ Church, Chilwell, with St Barnabas, Inham Nook). We also welcomed three curates to our Deanery Rev'd Michele Hampson (working with Megan Smith at Holy Trinity and The Priory, Lenton), Rev'd Garreth Frank (training with Steve Silvester at St Nic's) and Rev'd Naeem Bahadur (with Clive Burrows at St Stephen's, Hyson Green).

We held elections for our Deanery Leadership Team which now consists of:

Rev'd Steve Silvester (Area Dean), Sarah Holt (Lay Chair), Gary Stephenson (Deanery Treasurer), Peter Horne (Deanery Secretary), Mark Gilmore, Rev'd Colin Bourne, Rev'd Naomi Hill, Rev'd Megan Smith and Kirsty Cowley (Deanery Administrator).

We held three synods during the year: 23 February, 6 June and 22 November 2017.

In February we visited Nottingham St Saviour's – an appropriate venue to look at community engagement and social enterprise. Members of Synod gave presentations to help us think around this subject and we then broke into groups to consider:

- What has God resourced you with in your church?
- How are you currently engaging with needs of your community?
- What are you blessed with to bless your community?
- What or who is your community network?

Synod closed by praying for St Saviour's and St George's in the Meadows.

In June we met at St Michael's, Bramcote and were joined by the Dean of Southwell Minster, the Very Reverend Nicola Sullivan. She intends to visit all deaneries to share her vision for the minster and to ask the following questions:

- What do you think that the Cathedral is for? Does it fulfil your needs and expectations?
- How can the Minster better connect to YOUR parish and deanery, in service and partnership?

We swore in two church wardens who had not been able to make the visitation at the Minster in May. Mark Gilmore challenged Synod to discuss the suggestion that the only value we share as a Deanery is that we want to see our own church grow. Synod broke into groups to discuss this and these discussions fed into the formulation of our emerging values listed below.

We closed the meeting by praying for the parishes in vacancy in the Deanery.

Our final synod of the year was at St Ann with Emmanuel when we were joined by Jane Holloway from the World Prayer Centre in Birmingham who spoke on encouraging prayer in our parishes. We launched our Deanery Prayer Card (electronic copies available) and finished the evening by praying for each other. This was a Synod that was challenging and valued by all who attended. Members of the Deanery Leadership Team were also appointed without the need for an election at this meeting.

Each of our Synods offered the opportunity to speak in groups to build relationships, share good practice, consider actions to take back to our parishes and perhaps most importantly to pray for each other. This theme was continued in a large interdenominational celebration at Trent Vineyard on 3 June for the culmination of the Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative. The deanery confirmation at St John's, Beeston, on 18 November was also a time of great rejoicing as 40 candidates were confirmed, many of them first generation Christians from the Iranian community at St Stephen's.

Over the year we have also been looking at our Deanery values and have agreed that our emerging values are:

- We are the people of God and we will act as such
- We unite for the good of each other and the wider community
- We see each other as an asset not as competition
- We pray for and encourage one another in the mission of God

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” (1 Thess 5:11)

Several meetings on finance for incumbents and treasurers this year have widened participation in discussion on financial matters. The deanery has again paid a large percentage of its giving for ministry allocation (89.0%, compared to 97.6% in 2016). Every parish is to be thanked for their faithfulness and generosity in contributing to the ministry received in this deanery and diocese and is asked to engage in the ongoing consultations in 2018 about how we allocate in the future.

Kirsty Cowley (Deanery Administrator)