

***** INVITATION *****

**to our bring and share lunch on Vision Sunday/Annual Meeting
on 28th April
from 12.30pm at Northcourt Road.**



Christ Church
Abingdon

Being Disciples, Making Disciples

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 28th April 2019



April 2019

Dear friends in Christ

Can I commend this annual report to you as it captures some of what the Lord has been doing among us during 2018 over both sites – Long Furlong and Northcourt Road. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the report.

Deuteronomy 8:2 says *Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way through the wilderness these forty years.* We've seen the goodness and faithfulness of God in leading us through a varied and challenging year: the pain and sadness associated with the events around the Tribunal, and the season of listening, review and healing in its aftermath; the appointment of the (new!) clergy team in the summer and subsequently the whole church engaging in the Vision Process during the autumn. Thank you for *your* prayerfulness and steadfast devotion to God throughout the year.

Looking ahead, the PCC have revised the Vision Document with the helpful feedback from the church, and we'll have this available on Vision Sunday on 28 April. At its heart we believe God is calling us to grow as disciples of Jesus by being a church family that prioritises being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and living for Jesus; that all flows from a foundation of being devoted to God, filled with his Spirit and rooted in the Bible. We'll use 2019 to work through the implications of this for us as a church.

It's a joy leading as part of a team, and I want to acknowledge my sincere gratitude and dependency on each member of the church, the clergy, wardens, ministers and ministry area leaders, as we serve God together using the gifts He's given to us.

To God be the glory!

With my love in Jesus

Keith

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CHRIST CHURCH ABINGDON – REPORT FROM THE WARDENS FOR THE YEAR 2018

Christ Church has been through some massive changes during the year, and it has been a privilege for us to work alongside the Bishops, Keith, the other clergy, the Standing Committee and the PCC to keep the church on an even keel. However, despite the changes, in many ways it feels as though the church has simply kept on functioning in so many different aspects of its ministry without blinking. We are grateful to each member of the church who has played his or her part in building up the body of Christ, and being a blessing to our community.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of North Abingdon is responsible for the activities at Christ Church, operating on two sites in North Abingdon (the church site on Northcourt Road, and within Long Furlong Primary School).

The Peachcroft Christian Centre is located within the Parish of North Abingdon. It is an ecumenical church, recognized by the Baptist Union, the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. The incumbent of Christ Church and a former churchwarden sit on the Joint Council of the Peachcroft Christian Centre. However, the Peachcroft Christian Centre is independent of the PCC and its activities and finances are not included in this report.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and registered with the Charity Commission. The governing documents for the PCC are the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

Trustees of the PCC are either *ex officio* or lay members who are elected in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules. Lay members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held in April. Elected lay members serve for a three-year term, with approximately one-third retiring each year. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. On appointment, PCC members receive a document which outlines their legal responsibilities as trustees. In addition, the Chairman provides an introduction to the structures of the Church of England and the role of the PCC during the first meeting following the APCM.

The *Standing Committee* (comprising the Incumbent (Vicar), Associate Vicar, church wardens, deputy wardens and treasurer) has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

Membership of the PCC for the church year 2018/19 is shown in the table below. Highlighted names are members of the Standing Committee.

Incumbent Clergy	Revd Keith Dunnett Revd Kath Cooke Revd Phil Cooke Revd Nessa Watts Revd Rebecca Peters Revd Simon Steer	Inducted as Vicar on 3 rd July 2018 Licensed as Associate Vicar on 3 rd July 2018 Licensed as Associate Vicar on 3 rd July 2018 Ordained as Priest (curate) on 15 th April 2018 Peachcroft Christian Centre Chaplain, Abingdon School
LLM Representative Wardens	Miss Anne Taylor Mr Roland Knight Mrs. Sue Gibbins	
Deanery Synod	Mr. Ron Clark Mr. Ian de Villiers Dr. David Hancock Mr. Emil Jeevaratnam Mr. Terry O'Neill Mr. Tim Shipman Mr Martin Steel Mr Andy Voyce	(Treasurer)
Elected Members	Mr. Phil Adams Mr. Jaz Bance Mr Philip Bingham Mr Paul Brombley Mrs Val Challis	From April 2018 (Chair)(Deputy Warden)(Re-elected Apr 2018) Deputy Warden

Dr Andrew J Dent	Secretary (re-elected April 2018)
Mr Andrew Dubock	Deputy Warden
Mr. Chris Hodgson	
Mr Hermann Matheson	
Mrs Sandra Pike	
Mrs. Clare Proudman	
Mrs Sue Robbins	
Mrs Lynn Ross	From April 2018
Mrs Pat Rowe	From April 2018
Mrs Sandar Wade	

The PCC operates through a number of Working Groups, which meet as required between full meetings of the PCC. The chair of each Group is responsible for reporting back to the PCC, but need not be a member of the PCC. Other members of the Working Groups may be from the PCC or from the wider church body.

- The *Mission Support Group* (MSG) manages the budget and other support given to mission partners working overseas and in the UK and short-term mission activities by church members. The MSG seeks to raise awareness of the world-wide church and to encourage every member of the church to participate through prayer, giving or direct involvement.
- The *Buildings Group* supports the wardens in their responsibility to maintain the fabric and contents of church buildings. The group works to identify, prioritise, and oversee/undertake the upkeep and maintenance of the church site at Northcourt Road and the curate's and youth pastor's houses. A master list of maintenance and repair tasks has been used to support a Five Year plan to assist in the phasing and budgeting of major expenditure.
- The *Human Resources Group* oversees the recruitment of staff and other personnel matters and supports the PCC in developing good personnel policies and practice in the church.
- The *Finance Committee* oversees the financial activities of the parish, prepares the annual budget and financial statements.
- The *Health and Safety Group* monitors all matters relating to health and safety and ensures that relevant policies are kept up to date and risk assessments carried out.
- The *IT Group* oversees the church's IT equipment (software and hardware) and develops the use of the church websites and social media.
- The *EcoChurch Group* was established in 2017 to guide the church in ways that our life together may be more sustainable.
- *The GDPR Group* - During the early part of 2018, a group led by Mike Warner studied the implications of GDPR for the church and produced new Policies on Data Protection. This process eventually led to the adoption of Church Suite as the principal database for church activities, which maintains our GDPR compliance, and the group is now dormant.

The day-to-day operations of the church are delegated to the staff team employed by the PCC under the direction of the Incumbent or, in his absence, by the Associate Vicar.

The PCC is exposed to risks associated with buildings, finance, legislative compliance and food safety.

- Buildings are insured and regularly inspected. The PCC continues to budget for and carry out a rolling programme of repairs and maintenance. The Long Furlong congregation meets weekly in Long Furlong Primary School (under a formal Transfer of Control Agreement entered into by the School and the PCC) with the children's work, Godzkidz, taking place in the nearby Long Furlong Community Centre. These arrangements have worked well for many years and appear to be of mutual benefit.
- Finances are managed by the parish treasurer within a budget approved by the PCC and performance is regularly reported to the PCC. The majority of our income comes, under God, from the regular giving of our current members, so the importance of prayer and also communication with donors is recognised. The church has an annual "Focus on Giving" early each financial year when the congregation is asked to review their financial support for the year. Information on financial performance is reported to the congregation at the autumn meeting and at the APCM. All regular donors are thanked at least annually.
- Legislative compliance. The PCC is committed to fully meeting its responsibilities relating to Health and Safety, Data Protection, Safeguarding, employment law and other pertinent legislation.
- Policies are in place for Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, Use of Social Media in Youth Work, Data Protection and Health & Safety.

- The Barns Café Ltd follows the “Safer Food, Better Business” food management system. The operations, systems and procedures of the Barns Café were inspected in June 2013 and awarded a five star rating – this was renewed in December 2014, and again in Feb 2017 and Feb 2018. All staff and volunteers are appropriately trained in food safety and preparation, and receive training in health and safety procedures. Staff and supervisors are also trained in first aid. To mitigate risks to the PCC, the Barns Café Ltd is incorporated as a Private Limited Company (Company No. 08794014), with the PCC of the Parish of North Abingdon as the sole shareholder. The Vicar and wardens are *ex-officio* directors with up to three others appointed by the shareholder at PCC meetings.

The charity trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have reviewed those risks and established systems and procedures to manage those risks.

Objectives and Activities

The main objective of the PCC is (in accordance with the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended) to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The main areas of activity this includes are:

- Regular public worship open to all.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved.
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and the distribution of literature.
- The provision of Christian youth activities.
- Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other groups.
- Supporting other Christian charities in the UK and overseas.
- To provide a service to the community by allowing local groups to hire rooms on the site for their legitimate activities.

Over the last few years, there has been a clear sense that God is calling the church to face outwards, engaging with and serving our local community. The Barns Café, the Foodbank (hosted by Christ Church), Street Pastors (under the auspices of the interdenominational Church in Abingdon) and hospitality activities such as Prime Time, Thursday Fellowship, Footprints and Friendly Cuppa are all examples of such engagement. A significant number of volunteers from the church serve in all these activities. In addition, as reported in the next section, this community focus is reflected throughout the life of the church, with many groups experiencing greater involvement with the wider community. This activity is led by the Holy Spirit and flows from a deepening dependence on God and the priority given to individual and corporate worship and prayer.

Volunteers

Since its inception, Christ Church has had a strong tradition of lay involvement and leadership in all areas of ministry. Members are actively encouraged to use the gifts, skills and passions that God has given them for service within and outside the church. The role of the church leadership is to provide oversight and to equip volunteers to fulfil their calling. The PCC recognises the essential contribution of volunteers in the giving of time and finance to the life of the church. An impressive number of volunteers are regularly involved in leading or supporting preaching, worship, children’s work, youth work, Foodbank, The Barns Cafe, Prime Time, pastoral ministry, setting up Long Furlong School each week, hospitality, welcome and many other areas of church life.

Grant-making

The PCC believes that it is right to use part of our income to support people and projects engaged in Christian mission outside the church. Through the Church in Abingdon, we contribute to mission and social action projects around Abingdon, such as Street Pastors and The Abingdon Bridge. Through the Mission Support Group, we use approximately 15% of our disposable income to support several long-term mission partners, and church members undertaking short-term mission projects in UK or overseas.

Public Benefit

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit in “The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit” and have regard to it in their administration of the Parish. Examples of this public benefit can be found in the activities reported above and other parts of this report.

Achievements and Performance

Membership and Attendance

At April 2018, the Electoral Roll (membership) of Christ Church was 536 adults with a further 26 Anglican adult members based at the Peachcroft Christian Centre, giving a total of 562 adults for the Parish of North Abingdon. The Electoral Roll will be refreshed from scratch (in common with all Anglican Parishes on a 6-year rolling schedule) in March 2019. Attendance is almost impossible to gauge as it would include both children and adults attending a variety of events during the week as well as services on Sunday. Total attendance on a Sunday is probably around 460 and attendance during the week, including The Barns Café, would be over 1000.

PCC Meetings

The operational running of the church is largely delegated to the staff team and wardens, enabling the PCC to focus on matters of policy and strategic direction. PCC meetings also include time for reflecting on God's word and prayer for the life of the church.

At the first meeting of the year on 11th January the PCC discussed the implications of the tribunal decision relating the Clergy Disciplinary Measure against our previous incumbent, Revd Tim Davis. The penalty was still pending. The PCC received annual reports from the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Health and Safety Group, and the Mission Support Group, and approved the MSG Budget for 2018. A new Director for The Barns Café (Mr. Dave Greenaway) was appointed, and plans were established to ensure that the church would be ready to implement the requirements of GDPR. The terrier, inventory and maintenance log were presented (annual event).

At the March meeting (19/03/2018), the PCC noted the Penalty Decision announced by the CDM Tribunal which had been announced on 10th March 2018. From that date, Tim Davis was officially put out of office as incumbent of the Parish, and that there was therefore a vacancy. The Wardens reported that discussions with Bishop Steven had taken place and they were reassured that there were methods to streamline the appointment of a successor to Tim if the PCC chose to opt for a "single candidate" approach. The PCC unanimously approved this Section 11 process and agreed to recommend Keith Dunnett as sole candidate for the vacancy.

The APCM/AGM took place during the 4 main services on both sites on 22nd April. During the meeting a letter from Bishop Colin of Dorchester was read out which announced that Keith Dunnett had accepted the Bishop's invitation to become Vicar of the Parish, and that his Induction, Collation and Installation was scheduled for 3rd July, following a mini-sabbatical. There were 2 nominations for the 2 vacancies as Church Warden (elected annually), and 9 nominations for the 5 vacancies created by PCC members coming to the end of their term. Votes were counted the following day and 3 new members and 2 previous members (standing for re-election) were announced. Annual accounts were presented by the Treasurer and approved. A bring-and-share lunch followed the 11.15 service at Northcourt Road when there was an opportunity to ask questions of the Clergy, Wardens and Treasurer.

The May meeting (14/05/2018) welcomed new members of the PCC, elected PCC officers, appointed the PCC sub-groups and approved the Safeguarding Policy. Bishop Colin attended part of the meeting as he was in Abingdon anyway for a confirmation. A progress report on GDPR compliance was received, including approval of a new Data Protection Policy and Privacy Statement. A report from the CCPAS Safeguarding Audit had been received that day and was received, but not debated.

In July (09/07/2018) the PCC set out the groundwork for examining the Vision Process for the church's future. New staff appointments were reported (Clint McVea as Operations Manager, Hannah Brewer as Children's Intern and Ben Ffrench as Youth Intern). It was announced that a Growing Leaders course would be run for 9 months from the autumn. Reports were received from the Church in Abingdon (CiA) representative, and from the Treasurer. Reports from the IT group, the HR group, and the Safeguarding Guidelines were deferred.

The September meeting (24/09/2018) heard a detailed report from the various ministries involved with older members of the congregations (Prime Time, Thursday Fellowship, and pastoral care). Further plans were made for the Vision Process

At a half-yearly congregational meeting on Sunday November 11th, there was a report on the activities of the PCC during the year and a financial report from the Treasurer, followed by Questions and Answers from the floor.

Review of the Year

At Northcourt Road there is a regular pattern of 3 or 4 services every Sunday (8am, 9.30am, 11.15am and 6.30pm). These have continued with prayers, worship, and relevant biblical preaching from the staff and lay individuals from the church membership. Long Furlong continued with a regular morning service (10am) and a monthly service in a more contemplative style, called Wellspring.

The first third of the year contained a large element of response to the judgement and removal of our former vicar, Tim Davis. Bishop Steven came for two separate evening gatherings of the church and sensitively answered questions from the floor for up to two hours each time. The PCC decided to invite CCPAS to carry out an independent audit on the safeguarding policies and practices extant in the church, with the aim of reassuring the church membership and the wider community that our safeguarding was "best practice". The audit took place on 28th and 29th March and the report was publicised when it had been prepared. The PCC also decided to invite Acorn Listening Trust for a day when individuals could express to trained confidential listeners their own experiences of the situation. Over 40 individuals took the opportunity on 20th April and Acorn produced an anonymised report at the end of the process.

We are blessed in our Sunday services to have a number of gifted church members who lead services, lead the music and preach. A number of young people are involved in the music and are encouraged to lead services. Behind the scenes, many more church members are involved in welcoming people, serving refreshments, sound and projection, setting up and clearing away (Long Furlong) and driving people to church (Northcourt Road). A new initiative during 2018 has been the establishment of a Welcome Corner after the 9.30 and 11.15 services, aimed at giving newcomers somewhere to ask questions about the church and receive a welcome.

Prayer is central to our life as a church. There is a regular time of contemplative prayer called "Meeting God in Silence" and monthly "Hungry for God" worship evenings, in addition to an intercessors group. Intercession is offered to anyone who wants it during communion services at Northcourt Road and at the end of all services at Long Furlong.

Many adults are involved in a midweek Life Group: these are places of belonging, learning together from God's word, fellowship and prayer. As ever New Wine was an opportunity to gather as a whole church from both sites and all 5 regular services - with over 100 attending this year. This gives the opportunity to become a different kind of community during a week of worship, workshops, prayer, and socialising – all as part of God's family.

MWM activities for retired men has flourished over the year - deepening fellowship, friendship and support over meals, walks, visits and discussions - meeting monthly to develop an honest and refreshing discipleship. Our "51 Fellowship" seniors group changed its name during the year to "Thursday Fellowship" as the history of the previous name was no longer relevant. This group meets fortnightly on Thursdays, drawing in many members from both within and outside the church, with a focus on offering love and friendship and to help each one to come to know Jesus as their personal Saviour at regular times of fellowship, teaching and worship. On the alternate Thursdays a group meets to pray specifically for the members of Thursday Fellowship.

In addition to the natural personal support offered by members of the fellowship to each other, Pastoral Care Teams (visiting newcomers, pastoral prayer, prayer ministry, care home, bereavement support and intercessory prayer) have provided a backbone structure of additional support. Long Furlong has also developed a Pastoral Care Team.

The children's work has continued to flourish under Heather Hughes' leadership, with Anne Taylor coordinating at Long Furlong. Over 150 volunteers are involved in this work across both sites, either regularly or occasionally, each of whom is recruited safely in accordance with Parish Guidelines, including a DBS check. At Northcourt Road the under 5s meet in the Hall at 9:20am as a group called **Sparks**, enjoying play, craft, story, refreshments, singing and prayer. Children of primary school age meet in the Barn at the same time, known as **Ignite**. The children enjoy regular biblical teaching, worship and fun each week and usually split off into age-appropriate groups for teaching. We have 100 children on the various registers.

The annual **holiday club** in August saw 117 children with a team of 100 (of which 37 were youth) attending with the theme of "Space" – Onward and Upward. There are occasional special events, such as "light party", and "sleepovers", etc. Members of the children's team lead assemblies in four primary schools twice per term, and hold week-long Prayer Space events. They also host occasional school visits to church. Hannah Brewer supports Heather in her role as Children's Intern. Apprentice, a mid-week life group for children in Years 5 and 6 continues to meet monthly.

The Youth ministry continued to flourish under the leadership of Bea Ellaby, supported by Ben Ffrench as Youth Intern and a team of volunteers. **Genesis** (for 11-14s) is the umbrella name for the activities of the younger age group. Young people from both sites meet on Thursday evenings for Genesis games, social and bible teaching activities. On Sundays they meet as Pathfinders at Northcourt Road, and as Lazars at Long Furlong. Many teenagers assist the adult leaders with the younger children's groups at 9.30. Older teenagers (15-18) meet on Sunday evenings for **Space**, or **Space Band** and on Friday evenings for **Space Fridays**. These activities provide important spaces for learning, fun, worship and growth. Numbers are variable, but the chart below (covering the first quarter of 2019, rather than 2018) give the scope.

Groups Running (Term Time Only)	Youth on Register	Max Attendance (Jan 19-Apr 19)	Avg Attendance (Jan 19 – Apr 19)	Adult Leaders On Team Inc Staff (Total)	Adult Leaders (Avg Per Week)
Pathfinders (11-14, NCR, Sunday, Weekly)	23	16	10	5	3
Lazars (11-14, LF, Sunday, Weekly)	15			5	2
Space Sunday (14-18, NCR, Sunday, Weekly)	34	9	4	2	2
Space Band (14-18, NCR, Sunday, Fortnightly)	16	8	5	4	3
4Filled (14-18, LF, Sunday, Fortnightly)	9	8	6	4	2
Genesis (11-14, NCR + LF, Weekly)	39	21	17	6	5
Space Friday (14-18, NCR + LF, Weekly)	49	17	13	11	4
Youth Weekend (11-18, NCR + LF, Annual)	-	45	-	13	-

As for the Children's Groups, all leaders are safely recruited in accordance with Parish Safeguarding policies, including Enhanced DBSs. The Genesis and Space weekends away have again been significant for our teenagers' journey in faith. Bea and other members of the Desire network have enjoyed opportunities in most of the secondary schools in Abingdon, leading assemblies, teaching classes, holding lunch clubs, and creating prayer spaces. An annual event is the visit from teams of young people from Youth For Christ who come for a School's Week, organised by Desire and including combined youth outreach activities. This year their visit was to Fitzharrys School. At New Wine, the youth camp and share activities together, but many are heavily involved in various ministry teams. A slightly smaller group attended one of the last Soul Survivor camps, this year using the new site at the Peterborough Show Ground. Many of the teenagers also help with our annual Holiday Club in August.

Christ Church continues to offer support for parents in a variety of ways. **LINK** (at Northcourt Road) meets weekly for parents and carers of babies and toddlers to share the journey of parenting together whilst the little ones enjoy a play, a snack and a singsong. Numbers have increased significantly since the closure of the Children's Centre at Dunmore School (following funding cuts). **Singing Circle** (at Long Furlong) for pre-school children and their carers also meets weekly. In addition there are a number of support networks - "Home for Good" for those involved in foster care and adoption, "Shift" (which we host) for parents with children with additional needs and "Food Ministry" to provide support at times of crisis (e.g. post-operative, or following child-birth) Paul and Karen Brombley ran a **Marriage Course**, a valuable tool for strengthening marriages in a climate where faithfulness is under attack on all sides.

Prime Time's ministry to those over 50 continued. The Prime Time Activity week in August drew in well over 200 attendees, many of them not members of the Church, but it was decided that this activity would take a sabbatical during 2019 to provide a break for the hard-working volunteers who organise and run it, and to encourage others to become involved. The Prime Time Holiday took place in May, with 43 enjoying a week of holiday in a sea-front hotel in Worthing with bible teaching provided by Michael Sams and Michael Warner. Friendly Cuppa at Long Furlong provides a monthly space for members of the local community to meet, enjoy a drink and games and make friends. Several activities have grown out of the Prime Time summer activity week - Alpha, Life Groups and Bible study groups, as well as outings, socials, walks and table tennis afternoons.

The Barns Café, now over five years old, continued to flourish as a welcoming place for the local community and the setting for a wide range of groups to meet. For the first time, the Café was used as the venue for Alpha, which enhanced the mission of the Café. Over 40 volunteers and staff offer a warm welcome and serve wonderful food and drink (with a 5* food safety rating), and the café is often full. The Café has increased the number of salaried staff during the year from 1 ½ staff members and an intern at the start of the year to 6 full or part-time employees at the end of the year. Details of these appointments are including in the staffing section of this report, below.

The church hosts or is involved in a range of projects in and for the community. **The Abingdon Emergency Foodbank** is based at Northcourt Road and provides emergency food for people in real need; several of our members are involved in **Archway** which ministers to those hurt by loneliness; **Street Pastors** (organised by the Church in Abingdon) are out in the town centre every Saturday night and have **Prayer Pastors** praying for our town at the same time.

Our connection with and support of the **Church in Abingdon** includes shared events (Good Friday Procession, Fun in the Park, Bereavement Service, Prayer Spaces in our Primary Schools) and support of a number of projects (the Desire Youth Network, the Abingdon Bridge, Street Pastors, 35 Ock Street, Twinning), and is a key witness to the unity we enjoy in Christ. Our involvement with the local **Deanery** includes having our members Martin Steel as Deanery Treasurer and Karen Landon as Deanery Secretary. We also elect 8 members of our PCC to sit on the Deanery Synod.

A significant event in the summer was a weekend reunion of former members of the church CYFA group, which was very strong in the 1970s and 80s.

Staffing

Our previous incumbent, Rev. Tim Davis, was formally removed from this post by the judgement of the CofE Clergy Disciplinary Measure in March of 2018, even though he had been absent for all of the previous 2 ½ years due to ill health and suspension. In his absence the staff team was ably led by Associate Vicar Rev. Keith Dunnett, Assistant Vicars Kath and Phil Cooke and Lay Minister Nessa Watts.

As indicated in the PCC section above, following the announcement of the penalty for Tim Davis, an agreed process quickly led to an announcement that Keith should be the sole nominee for the vacancy as Incumbent and he was inducted on July 3rd at a joyful service led by Bishop Colin. At the same service Kath and Phil Cooke were inducted as Associate Vicars. Nessa had previously been ordained as Curate at a service here on 15th April led by Bishop Colin, and then priested with other Curates at a service in Dorchester Abbey on June 24th. Prior to his Induction, Keith was able to take a mini-sabbatical to refresh himself for the task ahead.

Full-time members of the staff during the year have been – Heather Hughes as Children’s Minister, Bea Ellaby as Youth Pastor, Christine Talbot, Administrator and Vicar’s PA, Alison Grieve as Facilities Administrator, and Hannah Kitchener as Café Manager. Alex Lister was Assistant Manager of the Café on a 2/3-time contract. Hannah Brewer (Children’s Intern) and Ben Ffrench (Youth Intern) were appointed for a 1 year term starting in September, replacing James Elward, who had been combining the two roles. During a prolonged period in the summer, when James was absent due to a serious injury, Mark Jarvis stepped in as acting Children’s and Youth Intern. Several other individuals form part of the staff team in a part-time or honorary capacity. These include: Ros Steel (Pastoral Coordinator); Sarah Fry (Communities); Ed Wiles (Worship Coordinator) and Jackie Sheppard (Publicity and Admin). Stuart Twinn, Mark Chapman and Naomi Challis have continued as cleaning staff keeping the premises clean and welcoming for regular users and visitors. Simon Powdrill, who ensured security of the premises each evening, gave notice in September and was replaced by Jason Kelly.

During the year, the PCC and the Barns Directors approved an increase to the compliment of paid staff in the Café. Two half-time supervisors were appointed in August (Jo Greenaway and Chris Ellaby) and two Saturday staff were appointed in October (Anna Cook and Lindsay Seonaid). These appointments were designed to plug gaps that had started to appear in the availability of volunteers at critical times. In addition, during the year Hannah shared the news that she would be expecting a baby in early 2019. Following a proper appointment process, Alex Lister was confirmed as candidate for Acting Manager (Maternity Cover) and Phil Adams as Acting Assistant Manager, both starting at the beginning of 2019.

A significant staff development in September 2018 was the appointment of Clint McVea as Operations Manager. He replaced Alison Grieve in her role as acting Facilities Administrator, but has assumed many other roles as laid out in his Job Description. His contribution to the smooth running of the church and its properties has considerably reduced the load on at least one of the Church Wardens, and the introduction of Church Suite as the church’s main database is already making administration of the church, and communication with the congregation much easier.

The staff team meets weekly on Monday mornings for prayer and discussion and has at various points in the year taken time away together, all of which is important in building the team.

The Human Resources Group of the PCC is working to produce policies to harmonise the employment contracts and conditions for all staff. Staff appraisals are carried out annually.

We want to give our sincere thanks to God for all He is doing among and through us, and to thank our staff team, the leaders and members of our ministries, those who preach and lead services, our cleaning staff, the network of volunteers who help as unsung heroes in so many ways and the members and officers of the PCC and the various PCC sub-groups for their dedicated service.

Fabric

Northcourt Road Site

The buildings available across the site are elderly and varied and we seek to maximise the use of rooms, both for regular and occasional individual and community groups, as well as church groups. The premises are a valuable community asset and rental charges, when appropriate, contribute to our financial revenue. We have updated the hire agreement documents including Terms and Conditions in line with best practice. Supervision of the room bookings is carried out by the Operations Manager. There are often four or five separate groups meeting at the same time in various rooms around the site, both daytime and evening.

We acknowledge the gift of two matching communion chalices as a memorial to Tom and Nancy Wittington, long-time members of the congregation. An additional communion silver platter was also donated, anonymously.

Geoffrey Palmer has taken over as chair of the Buildings Committee and he, together with the Church Warden and Operations Manager, have overseen the management of the upkeep and maintenance of the church site at Northcourt Road and other properties for which Christ Church is responsible (in Mattock Way, Geoffrey Barbour Road and Bowyer Road) - including regular testing of electrical equipment, fire extinguishers, boilers etc. Regular review and prioritisation of any work or repairs, purchases that may be required to maintain the site and properties are undertaken within budget guidelines supplied by the Treasurer. 33 Mattock Way ("the Curate's house") has been leased commercially for the past 3 years; 34 Geoffrey Barbour Road is assigned as the Youth Pastor's house; and 61 Bowyer Road is leased commercially for our curate, Nessa, and her family. The income from 33MW is used to partially subsidise the rent on 61BR.

During the year it was agreed that the old Vicarage at 69 Northcourt Road should be sold and a new Vicarage bought. The new vicarage is at 33 North Avenue. The negotiations for this were undertaken by the Buildings Department of the Diocese with input from Keith and the Wardens. Keith will move into the Vicarage in 2019 and subsequently the Cookes will move into the Long Furlong Vicarage on Gibson Close.

In addition to many routine maintenance task carried out around the property, the significant tasks undertaken to church buildings during the year include:

- 1) Repairs to the roofing above the Vestry and Boiler Room, and re-location of the boiler chimney
- 2) Upgrade to radiator controls in the Staff Offices (Barns 3 and 4)
- 3) A team of volunteers worked to re-cover the green chairs in the Hall and Corner Suite with blue fabric donated to Hilary Beale.
- 4) Steam cleaning of carpets in Barn 2 and the Cafe
- 5) Significant repairs and re-decoration of the entrance hall, stairway and one bedroom at 34 Geoffrey Barbour Road
- 6) Plumbing and electrical work at 34 GBR.
- 7) Plumbing and electrical repairs at 61 Bowyer Road

Long Furlong

Long Furlong Primary School continues to be used as an established place of worship every Sunday. In addition, we are able to use the school for additional courses or events on some weekday evenings. The children's work, Godzkidz, takes place in the nearby Community Centre. Whilst we are freed from the responsibilities of property maintenance, a heavier burden falls on the teams of volunteers needed to ensure that both buildings are prepared and cleared for each service and event.

Financial Review

This is covered in a separate report from the Treasurer.

Future Plans

During the Autumn of 2018, the whole church engaged in a process of discerning God's purpose and vision for the future of Christ Church. Sermons in Church, small groups and special gatherings were used to provide teaching and appropriate material, seeking to answer the questions – "Why?" (why does Christ Church exist?); "How?" (what are our core values); and "What?" (what are we to do?). The collated submissions amounted to over 70 pages of text which were refined and distilled by a core group from the PCC and then studied at a full day gathering of the PCC on 24th November. The process has led to a two-sided Vision Document which will be distributed to the church and will provide a framework for evaluating the direction of travel for the church and for determining new activities we might embark upon, or those which we should cease. The document does not constitute a concise "Vision Statement", but will be a dynamic and changing pattern for what lies ahead.

Plans will be developed for refurbishing the Tythe Barn (Church) in the next year or two, and we will look for ways to establish a worship centre in the middle of the new housing development in North Abingdon.

It is certain that Christ Church will continue to be a place where Jesus is honoured and preached, where individuals are encouraged to build a relationship with Him, where hurt individuals can experience love, acceptance and healing, and where the needs of our community are acknowledged and met where possible.

Roland Knight and Sue Gibbins, Wardens

LONG FURLONG ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Long Furlong congregation continues to grow in number, love, joy and compassion. It is very much a body in which all ages are part of its vibrant life. There are a wealth of gifts and, generally, an intrinsic willingness to serve. Many are involved in set-up, welcome, children and youth ministry, leading, preaching, prayer ministry, coffee, sound, music, etc. It's been wonderful this year to see the formation of a new youth band and technical team now regularly leading Sunday worship. The leadership team continue to meet monthly, we are grateful for the wisdom Stu Wilson brought to the team before stepping down during this year. We are thankful for those who serve faithfully on the many and varied teams. This is not, though, to say there are not gaps and challenges to meet, whether in resourcing gathered activities or encouraging others in their discipleship and mission when dispersed in places of home, work and recreation.

The year began with a Sunday series exploring the Beatitudes, followed by a focus on Jesus and our life together. During the summer we went on 'Adventures with Abraham', including a walk (indoors due to rain!), café-style worship and 'messy church'. In the autumn we engaged in listening to God and looking at the Early Church in Acts, part of CCA's ongoing discernment of God's vision. There were several special united services throughout the year including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday at LF school and the licensing of Keith, Phil and Kath. We have valued visits from Mission Partners including the Warner family, Tabitha and the Wilson family. It's a joy having Sheila Furlong from Archway and Mark and Cian Stavers from Viva as part of the regular LF congregation.

One highlight of the year was *A Grand Day Out* on 24th June, when 115 people of all ages spent the day together in glorious sunshine at Windmill Farm. We enjoyed worship, tandem bike rides, laughter workshops, watching the World Cup, knitting, walking, time in the prayer tent, a Sunday Paper corner and (of course) lots of ice-cream. A perfect opportunity to relax and get to know each other better. Particular thanks to the amazing organising team of Cherry & James Tweed, Gill Turner and Julie Kemp-Harper.

This year, our contemplative Sunday gathering, Wellspring, has continued each month. Wellspring begins with tea/coffee, building a greater sense of community. It is much valued by those seeking a more contemplative way of worshipping and provides a safe space for reflection, listening and discussion. We also meet termly in the school to pray together and listen to God. In March we enjoyed a Quiet Day, when Ros Steel helped us explore Psalm 1 in the peaceful environment of St. Mary's Convent, Freeland. Each Sunday gathering is preceded by prayer, and prayer ministry is offered each week.

Christmas is a special time at Long Furlong. We had planned a community event 'Carols in the Park' – but due to atrocious weather it turned into 'Carols in the Community Centre!' As usual, no-one complained, instead decorating the community centre and welcoming folk in the rain, so we could all enjoy carols, readings and Sarah Smith's excellent poem, drinking mulled wine and eating mince pies. The Christingle was again held in a packed community centre and we also enjoyed

Christmas morning celebrations.

Hospitality is an important element of the LF DNA – this year we've had Italian and curry evenings (though not at the same time!), pre-service breakfast, 'hospitality month' in November and a Sunday 'Link-up Lunch.' 'Beer and Banter' and 'Wine and Women' also offered space for people to gather and connect. Coffee Break continues to meet fortnightly on Tuesday mornings in various homes and offers another welcome opportunity for folk to get to know each other better.

A significant part of LF is its Lifegroups. During 2018, seven groups have been meeting regularly with about half of the LF congregation involved. Two of these groups were newly-formed this year, emerging from temporary groups formed during Lent. All groups have covered a range of topics based on Scripture, and in the Autumn have engaged significantly in the vision process. Andrew Turner supports the leaders through termly gatherings for encouragement, sharing of ideas and resources. Pastoral support is a key feature of our groups, including prayer, practical help and simply having fun together. The Friday group has a termly outreach brunch and most of the groups have 'adopted' Mission partners. The Bible journaling group now meets weekly and this creative group is greatly appreciated by people of ages. In addition, there are a number of prayer partnerships which focus on prayer and mutual pastoral support.

The pastoral care core team (currently Diana Bingham, Jane Robinson, Andrew Turner, Janice Wenninger and Kath Cooke) meets regularly to pray and plan. Ros Steel offers first-class support and supervision. There is much informal care shown in and through the LF congregation. Our Food Ministry is greatly appreciated, co-ordinated by Chloe Wilson who with her team of cooks do an amazing job providing meals for those who have had a baby, are unwell, or simply need blessing. We've also continued to grow the pastoral visiting team, which is another fantastic way of demonstrating God's love to those in need. We now have a welcome pack for newcomers, as well as holding welcome teas/lunches to enable newer people to feel connected.

Long Furlong congregation is also outward-looking, reaching out to the local community in various ways. A new small group called 'Big Questions' has started this year, ably facilitated by Viv Illingworth and James Tweed. It is a place where people from the community can come to discuss any of life's big questions. We continue to be thankful for the good relationship with staff at LF School which has grown over many years. Several folk from LF congregation serve as school governors, both at Long Furlong and other local schools. Heather Hughes and team go into LF school for Assemblies and also facilitate a week-long prayer space.

Singing Circle continues to thrive, with steady attendance of between 15-20 families. Of these, about half live on the Long Furlong estate and often have no other church connection. The Christmas/Easter gifts of Bible story book for children and small present for adults are well received. The summer weather was ideal for the annual adults' social activity of walking across to the Flowing Well. One new development for 2018 was the setting up of a larger leadership team, triggered by attendance at a training morning for pre-school groups organised by Oxfordshire County Council and Viva. The team now meet termly to plan and pray together – often with lunch! Thanks to Jane, Jill, Tania, Emma, Tina, Kath and Graham for their weekly service to this group.

Friendly Cuppa has gently grown this year, with between 9 and 19 people attending. Sadly, one member died very suddenly but Kath was able to take her funeral service having sat next to her at Friendly Cuppa just the week before. Her daughter kindly gave a donation for the group in memory of her mother as she said how much her mother had enjoyed coming. Cuppa Lunch continues to be popular each fortnight, with the Spread Eagle the 'local' of choice! There were 27 people from Cuppa who enjoyed the Christmas lunch there in December. Thanks are due to the team who work so hard to make it happen - Helen Craig, Judy Riggs and Jane Robinson.

We are so thankful for God's faithfulness over the past year and are looking forward with hope and expectation for all that God has in store for us as we enter Long Furlong's 25th Anniversary year in 2019.

Phil and Kath Cooke and Long Furlong Leadership Team (Diana Bingham, Julie Kemp-Harper, David Lever, Jane Robinson, Anne Taylor, Del Walker)

SUNDAYS AT NORTHCOURT ROAD

Sundays are the Day of Resurrection! We gather to worship God together as the people of God. We're immensely thankful for all who enable our Sunday services to happen – those visible "up front" and the many more serving in the many teams needed each week.

We've had a wide range of themes over the year. In January and February we explored Growing in Christlikeness, the mornings looking at the Beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel and the evenings at the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians. During the Spring we focussed on The Way of the Cross, Resurrection Life, Ascension and Pentecost, basing ourselves in the Gospels and Acts. During the summer we were processing the Tribunal outcome, so we explored Life Together, in Colossians in the mornings and a variety of themes in the evening. We had great fun Together in early July - an united service on the cricket field.

Over the summer in August the mornings were Adventures with Abraham (Genesis 12-21), and the evenings Authentic Jesus (part 3!) working through Mark 9-10. The major focus in the Autumn was the Vision Series - Real Churches Real Lives, when we travelled around the Mediterranean looking at the early churches through the book of Acts. The Life groups (including some temporary ones set up for the term) followed up the material, seeking what God was saying into the life of the church.

We've had lots of visiting speakers: Emma Worrall from Open Doors spoke about the Persecuted church; Wes Sutton from Acorn led us in a service of healing and reconciliation on the back of the Listening Process; we interviewed Leonard Gcabashe from Embo/ MAI; Bishop Steven Croft spoke in April; Jane Jerrard from CMS was our Mission Sunday speaker in May; Bishop Colin led the Baptism and Confirmation in June; and we welcomed back David Archer, a former CCA curate, to speak at an evening service in September.

Keith Dunnett

WORSHIP

“Worship starts with seeing You, our hearts respond to Your revelation” (Matt Redman)

At the heart of the music ministry at Christ Church is a desire to see God's people released into true praise and worship of our Father God and Jesus our Saviour. In our Sunday services, we seek through the Holy Spirit to create an environment where we can encounter God and respond to Him with heartfelt worship. One practical way in which we do this is to maintain a music group folder of 100 songs, which we refresh every year to ensure that what we sing reflects our beliefs and direction as a church. As worship leaders, we also keep listening to God during times of sung worship to discern what direction He would like us to take; this may involve something quite different from what we planned during rehearsal!

We continue to be blessed by having many people willing to give their time to the music ministry here. There are 60 active members in total: 36 musicians (including 9 worship leaders), 16 sound people, and 14 projector operators. The group has increased by 20 in the last 2 years which is absolutely wonderful. Space band (14-18s) continues to thrive – we're very grateful for all who have helped to run it this year, including Rebekah Tennyson, Chris Ellaby, Mark Jarvis, Dave Millgate and Ben Ffrench.

The music group engages in various activities outside of Sunday services. The monthly Hungry evenings are a chance to soak in God's presence and come close to him through worship. Members of the group continue to be involved in Burn 24/7 Oxford events – Christ Church now hosts this extended worship event roughly twice a year. Finally, many thanks to all who were involved in the music (particularly the choir) for the very successful Carol Service last December.

As ever, we'd greatly appreciate all your prayers for this ministry.

Ed Wiles, Worship Coordinator

SUNDAY DRIVING MINISTRY

During 2018, there have been a few changes to the system whereby three cars collect one, two or three passengers each, and bring them to the 11.15 Service and to return them home afterwards. One driver has had to relinquish her place on the rota after many years of service, but the gap has been filled. One passenger has withdrawn from the service due to health, but another has joined. The passengers are all church members who would otherwise struggle to get to Church.

We are grateful to the 11 drivers currently on the list, who are on the rota, usually, for one Sunday per month. There are several other drivers on the reserve list, willing to step into the breach in an emergency, but unable to commit to a regular slot.

Roland Knight, Coordinator

CHILDREN'S WORK

OVERVIEW

We've had a great year in Christ Church Kids. We have 108 volunteers on our regular Sunday team across both sites, which is a mixture of 18+ leaders and 11-17 year olds. Plus all the extra volunteers who help with seasonal events, assemblies, prayer spaces and LINK. James Elward assisted with the leading of the Children's Ministry until the end of August, splitting his time equally between children and youth. In September 2018 Hannah Brewer joined as the Children's Intern.

A massive thanks for your support and prayers across the year and a special thanks to our volunteers of all ages who work alongside our 0-11s.

SUNDAY GROUPS

Northcourt Road

In Ignite (5 – 11 year olds) in 2018 we looked at:

- The Beatitudes (alongside Long Furlong)
- Peter's Path, looking at the life of Peter and his ups and downs
- 'Today I declare' looking at statements we believe about ourselves and God (e.g. 'God loves me just as I am')

All the material is written in-house, which is hard work, but enables us to tailor it to our format and children.

Sparks (under 5s) have continued to follow the Beginner's Bible curriculum and enjoy stories and songs. The group continues to be a great space providing a safe fun place for our under 5s to grow in faith.

Long Furlong

Every month I go and join the Long Furlong kids team. I love spending time with the children at Long Furlong and feeling like part of the Long Furlong family. A huge thanks to Anne Taylor, who oversees the day-to-day running of the groups on that site, for her leadership. Please read her report for further details.

SEASONAL EVENTS

Sleepover

The annual sleepover is for years 4, 5 and 6. In 2018 we had 15 children for the event. Our focus for the day was on Palm Sunday with worship, puppets and drama workshops. The children also enjoyed a wide game, takeaway and a movie. We also enjoyed simply hanging out together.

Light Party

The Light Party in 2018 started with a bring-your-own picnic tea. Our theme was 'Shining God's light in the world'. Many families of all ages were there worshipping together from both sites and from outside of the church. As usual it was a lot of fun and such a lovely way to worship Jesus, the Light of the World.

Holiday Club

Holiday Club 2018 received 117 children with a team of 100 (of which 37 were youth). We wrote our own material around the theme of Onwards and Upwards. We looked at the life of Daniel and how he kept on going with his eyes fixed on God. The week ended as usual with a fantastic party and final celebration in church.

We have an amazing Core Team who lead the event, including 'Youth Apprentices' who lead alongside the adults, being trained in leadership and given opportunities to give talks and run activities.

Apprentice

Apprentice is our Life Group for Years 5 and 6. We meet once a month for 1.5hrs and it's a great opportunity for the children to ask questions and dig deeper. We have between 10 and 17 children each month, from across both sites. It's been great seeing the children grow in faith over the 18 months it's been running for so far.

Heather Hughes

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS

We are blessed to be surrounded by great schools that have an open door for us to go in and support them.

Schools Ministry, however, isn't just about coming in occasionally and providing an assembly or lesson. Many people from Christ Church are governors, members of the Parent Teacher Associations, help in classes, or work at the local schools. Please pray for them as they witness day to day. There are also parent prayer meetings in Dunmore, Rush Common, Thomas Reade and St Nicolas Schools.

Assemblies

During the Year the Open The Book Team have taken fun, interactive assemblies in Rush Common, Dunmore, Long Furlong and St Nicolas. We are blessed with a great, enthusiastic team and the children always enjoy the assemblies. In 2017/18 we looked at 'Living well with each other' looking at Jesus' teaching on good relationships. In 2018/19 we are looking at stories from the Old Testament.

Peachcroft Christian Centre serves Thomas Reade and Rush Common.

Prayer Spaces

A Prayer Space is a space for children to take time out for prayer and reflection. The children move round the space in small groups with a volunteer from one of the local churches.

Across Abingdon the churches run lots of prayer spaces. In an average academic year the Abingdon team will have run 10 primary prayer spaces and 1 secondary one. Due to the vast quantity of events of the year the role of the volunteers is vital, along with the necessity of churches working together.

The themes for the prayer space are varied due how new the school is to prayer spaces and the type of school. In order to cut down the amount of work in preparation we have recently changed the way we organise the prayer spaces. In 2017/18 we used the theme of 'Under the Sea' across all of our schools and for 2018/19 we are using the theme of 'Space'. This means that we have saved on preparation time and are able to use good quality props that were made for Holiday Club. Most of our prayer spaces fit with the S.T.O.P prayer model (Sorry, Thanks, Others, Please).

Please be praying for this ongoing ministry, that it would continue to be a blessing to the school and that more people would get involved to enable it to happen.

In September 2018 Sarah Fry stepped down from co-leading Prayer Spaces to concentrate on other areas of her 'Community Worker' role. We are so grateful for the years of dedication she put in to building up this ministry and are looking forward to what God is going to do through her next and seeing who He brings on to the team in her place.

School Visits

During 2018 we had the annual visits to Christ Church from Abingdon Prep for talks on Baptism and Communion, visits from Rush Common, St Nicolas, Dunmore and St Hugh's school.

Heather Hughes

GODZKIDZ AT LONG FURLONG

We have 3 groups of children: Bubbles (pre-school); Splash (reception to year 2); X stream (year 3 to year 6). Anne Taylor is the children's worker for Long Furlong.

We currently have 6 children in Bubbles; 10 children in Splash and 21 children in X stream. We also have some visiting children.

Splash and X stream have been looking at the following topics since April 2018: Biblical Characters and Parables. Bubbles are also looking at the Parables.

There are some social events that the children go to. Year 6 are going to a Pizza Restaurant in March and we often have night hikes. Some of our years 5 and 6 children go to the Apprentice group and a number of our children go to Holiday club and the annual sleepover at Northcourt Road.

We have a very dedicated team who serve in all 3 groups and I would like to thank all of them. I would particularly like to thank Mat Hornsby for helping in Bubbles until December 2018. Also thank you to Jo and Pat Greenaway, Jenny Lindsay and Jessica Bingham for joining the Bubbles team and Jan Matheson joining the Splash team. Lauren S has been helping in Splash most Sundays, as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award.

Anne Taylor

YOUTH MINISTRY

We started 2018 with our first combined youth weekend away for years 7-13. We took 40 young people and 8 leaders to Northamptonshire, and we had visiting speakers from Kerith Community Church teaching on being equipped with the Truth. This was a wonderful time of fellowship, discipleship and ministry which gave us significant momentum into the year ahead and reviewing our vision for the Youth Ministry at CCA.

In March we supported Desire to run the Youth for Christ Schools Week in Larkmead. Despite heavy snow we saw 30 young people attend the Thursday night outreach at CCA, and 11 give their lives to Jesus. We followed up our work in the school with a Prayer Space in November and lunch time "Grill a Christian" sessions which were well attended. 2 young people from CCA also volunteered to share their faith with their peers and be questioned on it – something which has inspired others in Space to do the same.

In May and June we had the privilege of partnering with Michael Green to run 3 Uni Prep sessions for Year 13 students – an important time to tackle deep theological truths and questions. We continue to pray for these students, and are blessed by several who have chosen to stay in Abingdon this year and support the work of the church. Our intern, Ben Ffrench being one of them.

In June we celebrated with 8 young people who were baptised and/or confirmed – for 2019 we have chosen to move this service to the Spring Term to avoid the clash with exams and hopefully allow for better discipleship before and after the service.

Summer kicked off with a large group of youth going to New Wine. A highlight from the week was spending time with Paul, the Impact Spoken Word artist, and 5 of the young people being invited to perform a spoken word piece in Impact which he'd written. We also took a group to Soul Survivor in Peterborough and finished the summer with an amazing week serving on the CCA Holiday Club team.

In September we launched a new youth programme following the Breath In, Breath Out rhythm which Keith spoke about, and we engaged with the whole church vision process. Older youth now runs on Friday nights with young people leading the worship or talks and taking on other roles alongside adult volunteers. We also offer Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 4Filled and Sunday evenings at Space. Younger youth continues to meet on Thursdays for Genesis and Sundays for Lazars or Pathfinders. We are still in the process of reviewing this programme, with some significant learning points, and also some wonderful encouragement coming from it – most notably that we've had several new visitors to Older Youth and young people are loving the opportunities to lead.

All of this work would not be possible if it weren't for the wonderful volunteer team which God has put in place. We are so thankful for them, and we continue to pray for more team for our Sunday groups across both sites in particular.

Bea Ellaby

PRAYER AND BIBLE READING

Jesus both taught and modelled the centrality of dependency on God expressed through prayer. So it was heartening to see the centrality of prayer bubbling up as a core value during the vision process in the Autumn. Prayer undergirds many of the groups that gather in CCA, on a regular basis and also occasional prayer gatherings. We also have several corporate prayer meetings – the monthly Hungry Prayer and Praise, the twice monthly Meeting God in the Silence, regular Long Furlong prayer gatherings, and in the Autumn a weekly early morning prayer meeting started on Wednesdays. We hosted Burn Oxford in May (and extended time of worship and prayer) and several from church are regulars at the Oxfordshire

Burns. We've had prayer meetings around specific issues including the new housing estate, the Tribunal and post-Tribunal process. Prayer lies at the heart of the weekly staff team gatherings, and throughout the year the clergy, wardens and Ros (LLM) have been meeting to pray on Tuesday afternoons.

Scripture is foundational to Christ Church. We gather around God's Word as we gather on Sundays and midweek, and encourage every church member to be rooted in the Bible daily. Many people use online daily readings such as Bible In One Year, and others use printed bible reading notes – many thanks to Lesley Chapman for coordinating the supplying these each term.

Keith Dunnett

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Midweek small groups (Life Groups) are a vibrant part of many church members discipleship support network, encouraging one another to grow in faith in God. We started the year with 26 groups and ended the year with 27 groups (20 at NCR and 7 at LF), with 320 members. The Pastures Green group (led by Judy and Spencer White) came to a natural end; Joan Aspley and Edith Evans handed on leadership of their group; and Chris Rowe passed on co-leadership to Gwenda Sams – we want to express our huge gratitude for all those leaders. Two life groups started at Long Furlong (led by the McCabes and Janice Wenninger). Another 50 people were also part of four temporary life groups meeting during the Autumn as part of the Vision Process. We are immensely thankful to all the life group leaders for their love and care and example to group members.

Northcourt Road Life Group leaders met with Keith three times during the year for support, training and encouragement. Andrew Turner meets with the Long Furlong life group leaders regularly (see the Long Furlong report).

Everyone is welcome to join a life group – see the displays in the entrance areas, or look on the small group section of the church websites.

Keith Dunnett

WELCOME CORNER

In January 2018, we began a new initiative to welcome and encourage newcomers to Christ Church, by providing an identifiable area in the entrance hall where refreshments, information and friendly personal contact would be offered between the morning services. A team of six people work in pairs, week by week, concentrating on the morning services at Northcourt Road, supplemented by Welcome lunches and teas, to which we invite all newcomers. We help our guests to find out more about our church community and to find their place within that fellowship, so that they can put down roots, establish friendships and grow and develop as followers of Jesus.

In 2018 we welcomed approximately 100 adults and 20 children to Christ Church, Northcourt Road, of whom 45 adults and 7 children have stayed with us. This means that on average, more than 2 people are coming for the first time each Sunday. Nearly half the newcomers decide to stay at Christ Church and 34 of the newcomers in 2018 have been to one of our welcome lunches/teas.

Janice Gordon

Jesus said, "All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."

GROWING LEADERS

In September we launched a one year long Growing Leaders course, using material from CPAS. The aim is to train leaders to be *To be led more by Jesus, to lead more like Jesus, to lead more to Jesus*. It's a good size group - 25 people from Christ Church signed up, with 25 others agreeing to act as mentors, a presenting team of 5 and catering team of 3. We meet monthly as a group exploring firm foundations, key skills, and keeping faithful in Christian leadership. In between sessions participants meet with their mentors, which is an invaluable part of the process.

John, Keith, Kath, Nessa, Phil

PASTORAL MINISTRY

My thanks go as ever, to the team leaders and members, who unfailingly offer this ministry of kindness and love in the name of Jesus. It is a ministry which we are all called to exercise with and for one another, as Jesus commands. (John 13:34, 35) As you read the reports below, please would you pray for both the teams and the people they serve. If you find your heart being stirred to come and join one of the teams, please do get in touch and let's explore this further.

Ros Steel, Coordinator of Pastoral Care

Prayer Ministry continues to be offered at the 9.30am, 11.15am and 6.30pm Communion services and there is now a dedicated team of 21 members serving. Prayer Ministry is now a regular fixture in the evening service and it is good to see more people coming forward for prayer. We continue to use the model from the Sandy Millar Prayer Ministry training series that we all attended at Church.

In a recent training evening we looked at our role and had time to focus on what God was wanting from the team. Some of the phrases that emerged were:

Standing alongside people as the Holy Spirit does the work, holding the space, holding them in His love, blessing whatever he is doing

Enabling each other to access the love of Jesus

Sharing each other's burdens

Listening to God

Praying for healings and miracles

Helping to facilitate Hebrews 4 v 16 ***Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need***

We feel God is moving and active in the Prayer Ministry team and we are open to new members joining us. As we make ourselves available to be led by God over the coming season, we are excited and expectant about this growing Ministry.

Michael Litt and Alex Horlock

There have been many calls on the support that we provide as **Pastoral Visitors** and we have done our best to respond promptly to them. We rely heavily on Life Groups and other Church groups and individuals to be actively involved in supporting each other pastorally. I would particularly like to thank Chris Waite and Maggie Snowball for their continued support of so many of our Church family. We aim to grow and develop our team ministry and are keen for more men and women to come forward to be part of this important and vital way of loving and supporting people when they are in need. We welcome Susan Hammersley as she has just begun in this role as a visitor on behalf of Christ Church.

Gabrielle Dent

The **Pastoral Prayer Ministry** team have had the privilege of listening to and praying with several members of the Christ Church family who have been facing difficult situations in their lives. We offer a series initially of 4 listening sessions and in this time we have been able to see a clear change and breakthrough of strongholds in the client. We continue to have regular supervision evenings and have met jointly with the Prayer Ministry team exchanging ideas and praying for each team. From this we have been joined by some new members of the team which is huge answer to prayer

Christine Bell

The **Intercessors** continue to pray faithfully for the pastoral needs of the church, and support the pastoral teams in prayer. It is a quiet, powerful, Spirit-filled ministry and such a blessing to us all.

Jeremy Starling and Richard Howard

FOOTPRINTS

Footprints is the group set up 5 years ago to offer Christian hospitality and friendship to people who have been bereaved. We have about 50 guests on our books, with typically 25 - 30 attending and one new person each month. About half have some connection with the church, some are members of other churches and about a third have no church connection. Our guests tell us they look forward to the monthly meeting and really miss it when they are unable to come. New guests are very often introduced by other guests or have come through for example the café or Prime Time.

Our programme is a mixture of more serious meetings thinking about loss, sometimes with a speaker, together with fun meetings and ones with more Christian content. Guests also very much appreciated a Summer Garden party and several pub lunches.

Footprints has a very committed team of 11 people, only some of whom have themselves suffered significant bereavement. We very much valued an Awayday as a team, led by Kath Cook, on the exciting day for the church of the induction and licensing of our clergy. Sometimes we are stretched as a team to welcome and listen to our guests, especially when team members are away, and would therefore welcome an additional team member who feels called to this ministry. As the group has grown it has also become much harder for the team to get to know each individual and their circumstances, and to make them feel valued.

During the year we have been encouraged by the sense that our guests are increasingly at home within the church community. They engage with others in the group whom they don't know and friendships have developed among the guests. They meet up between meetings and become very supportive and concerned for each other. Some guests came to Prime Time, one or two have joined small groups exploring the Christian faith and we were thrilled to welcome more to the very well attended Advent Service for those living with loss. We pray that our guests may become increasingly open to the challenge and the joys of our faith.

Pauline Croucher and Hilary Hart

ALPHA 2018

In 2018, for the first time, Alpha was run in the Barns Café in partnership with the café team. The café team were excited about this way of fulfilling the vision of the café being a safe and welcoming place for people to come and meet with Jesus, as they partnered with another church ministry, and were delighted to be able to invite café regulars to come to Alpha in a context they were already at home in.

The aim was to enable ongoing relationships between café volunteers and those who came on the course, as they popped into the café at other times of the week, and to provide a chilled-out café vibe to the evening, with the café open for guests to buy drinks. It was a joy to plan the course together and partner in this, and a wonderful relaxed environment for groups to gather and chat in.

The practical team, led by Pat Rowe and Tina Feeney, and the café team, offered a wonderful welcome and warm hospitality which was commented on and appreciated by guests, as was the delicious food provided by our amazing life groups. We were also all generously gifted a café drink one night by one of the congregation, which was a lovely treat for everyone. It is wonderful to see the whole church partnering together as we offer hospitality to those exploring faith. Thank you to all involved.

Different aspects of Christian life and faith were explored each week, using the Alpha film series and occasional live talk, and then discussions happened around tables as the issues raised were unpacked together. The table hosts did a fantastic job of making guests feel at home and feel able to ask the questions they wanted to. Some deep issues and questions were grappled with, in amongst laughter, fun and friendship and, as ever, those of us on team, as well as the guests, found ourselves learning and growing in our faith in the process.

Huge thanks to all, especially to David Hancock, who co-hosted with Nessa, for the seamless way that they enabled the course to continue when Nessa was taken ill part way through the course.

The Alpha Day Away was held at Rippon College, Cuddesdon, and provided guests the opportunity to hear from three live speakers, as well as have time to reflect in their small groups. The groups were well established by this point and guests seemed to feel comfortable and confident in discussing issues that arose on the day or questions they still had regarding Christian faith. A sandwich lunch was offered and guests had opportunity to interact with each other as well as explore the peaceful grounds.

At the end of the course a couple of the guests joined life groups, another is continuing in the youth group and another was confirmed. Another guest is now preparing for baptism this year. It is a privilege and joy for all of us involved to walk this journey of exploration with people and we look forward to another course running later this year.

Nessa Watts

BAPTISMS AND CONFIRMATIONS 2018

The confirmation and baptism service took place on a very hot Sunday 24th June with Bishop Colin. There were seven young people confirmed and five were baptised. There were also three adult candidates confirmed, two adults joined us from Cumnor parish and it was lovely to have a number of folk from their church joining the celebration. It was a wonderful service with moving testimonies shared and journeys of faith celebrated. After the service friends and family enjoyed refreshments in the hall.

We've also had the delight of baptising four little ones this year, having services of thanksgiving for four more, and welcoming three brought by their parents for dedication. It's a great joy to be able to celebrate and thank God for each of these new lives, with their families, and to entrust these children and their families to Him as they grow.

Kath Cooke and Nessa Watts

FAMILY LIFE

Paul and Karen Brombley ran the Marriage Course for 7 couples in April to June, and the Marriage Preparation Course for 2 couples in May. Once again it was a privilege to spend time with couples who were investing in their marriage, and seeking to put God at the centre of their relationship. Whether they were just beginning their marriage, or had been married for many years. Thank you to the team who supported this with catering, serving and setting up.

Paul & Karen Brombley

HOME FOR GOOD

Home For Good has had a quietly positive year. We meet about eight times each year, alternating whole family day time events with adult evenings for prayer and conversation.

Particular highlights of the year would include a summer picnic at the Abbey Meadows, which was well attended by church families and others, and our most recent Sunday afternoon event at church, at which we welcomed two new families, one with their new adopted child, and one couple just starting the process.

Our evening events have sometimes been very quiet, but our most recent evening was well attended, with people finding it a useful safe space to discuss some of the challenges particular to parenting through adoption and fostering, in a safe space with others who understand.

Our aims for the year ahead include gaining formal recognition within the official Home For Good Network, as we continue to provide support and friendship to those with an interest in fostering and adoption, both within Christ Church and within the wider community. We look forwards to welcoming Krish Kandiah, founder of the Home for Good Network you speaking at church in June, and are discussing ways to expand what we can do to support families and raise awareness within the church.

Tania Beale

LINK

Link continues to thrive with regular attendance on Wednesday mornings of 50-60 children, plus adults. The vision of the group is to be alongside parents/carers – sharing God's love, showing welcome to all, building relationships of trust and shining with Jesus' light. Link is a very international group with nationalities such as Latvian, Polish, Indian, Brazilian and Nepalese - many arrive in Abingdon not knowing anyone so are extremely glad of the warm welcome they discover. Each week the group provides toys for the children to play with, delicious snacks and drinks for both adults and children and Jill leads an amazing singing session with nursery rhymes and Christian songs.

Special events during the past year have included:

- Harvest, Christmas, Easter and summer celebrations in church facilitated by Heather – Easter included Monty the donkey again!
- ‘Swap-Shop’ –an opportunity to exchange toys and clothes.
- Team members attended ‘Flourishing under-5s’ training morning facilitated by Viva, Oxford County Council and Oxford Diocese.
- Social evenings for parents/carers
- Craft mornings e.g. Advent crafts, biscuit decorating, Father’s Day cards.

The team has grown this year and there are now 12 wonderful people who are part of the team, Jason continues to set-up and clear-up each week which makes an incredible difference. The team meet regularly for prayer and planning, as well as thoroughly enjoying a summer lunch and Christmas meal together. They really do shine with God’s love and their patience, kindness, wisdom and amazing good humour ensure that Link is a special place to be.

We continue to think and pray together about developing Link and recently handed out a survey to parents/carers. We are also aiming to run a CAP money course in the near future. The prayer box is still well used and it is a privilege to pray for all those who come to Link. It is a deeply incarnational ministry, walking alongside people and sharing Jesus’ love, so we are thankful to God for all the many blessings of Link.

Kath Cooke

PRIME TIME

Aims of Prime Time:

1. To provide for older and often lonely members of the Church throughout the year. The activity week has been providing a time of enjoyment and friendship at a time when other activities close in August.
2. To provide a service for the community.
3. To reach out to non Church people and do some pre-evangelism

Prime Time has been running for 13 years and we still feel we are fulfilling these aims throughout the year. After much prayer and discussion the present Prime Time committee with the Church leadership decided that the Activity Week in August should have a sabbatical in 2019. Most of the committee had been serving for at least 10 years and felt in need of a break. A group of younger volunteers are now needed especially for the activity week.

We will continue to seek what God is saying in the early months of the year about the future of Prime Time.

The present committee believe we should continue to run all the other activities in the year and maybe add to them. We have now sent out a year programme of events to all Prime Timers and will see how this works.

Hot news: John Earwicker is running a big weekend in August to which all Prime Timers are welcome.

2018 was a very busy year and the PT Activity week continued to attract 270 people. We had an exciting programme covering a huge variety of talks and outings. John Earwicker gave excellent short talks each day on the cultural challenges we face today as we follow Jesus.

The PT holiday week away to Worthing was well led by Neil and Maureen Weston and happy times were had by all.

Later in the year David and Elizabeth Wadham took a PT rambling group away to Long Mynd.

We have also continued the monthly walks from Christ Church with a pub lunch.

Coffee, Cake and Chat on the last Friday each month continues to be well attended and Tea Time Treats has started on the second Wednesday afternoon each month.

Three Bible studies that have come out of PT week originally still meet. Just Looking met in the Autumn and some have now gone to join one of the Bible studies.

Scrabble continues to meet in the café but sadly the table tennis has stopped for the time being, it is in need of a leader. A big thank you to Alyson Mason who ran this for many years.

We are always ready to hear of any new initiative there could be to meet the needs of the older people.

Lastly a very big **thank you** to Eileen for all her superb administration and to the committee:

Chris Waite, Di Bryan, John Rogers, Michael Chown, Susan Hammersley, Deborah Harford, Janice Gordon, Ian Snowball, Maureen Weston, Rob Beale, David Turner. Some of these people are still meeting to develop a plan for 2019 with me.

Maggie Snowball

PRIME TIME HOLIDAY

Our holiday in 2018 took us to the Chatsworth Hotel in Worthing. Facing delightful gardens and close to the pier, this was a larger hotel where our party of 43 filled only about half of the rooms, but the other guests didn't seem to impinge on us very much. We had our own meeting rooms where we held the Thought for the Day in the morning and the Epilogue in the evening, led respectively by Michael Sams and Mike Warner. Michael's theme was "The Glory of Jesus in the Gospel of John", with extracts from an excellent film based on the Good News Bible text. Mike spoke on "When evening approached...", looking at a selection of incidents in the life of Jesus which took place in the evening. Both were enlightening and thought-provoking and greatly appreciated by all. On our outward journey we had a delightful break at Southsea. Our outings took us to Arundel Wetland Centre (wildfowl galore) and Petworth House, to Sheffield Park Gardens via a ride on the Bluebell Railway (steam engine, of course!), and to Chichester for free time and a tour of the Cathedral with a brief stop on the harbour at Bosham on the way. We had two free days with a variety of suggestions of things to do; some explored Arundel and Brighton while others took long walks on the Downs. For Sunday, details of local churches were provided. In the evenings as well as the customary Songs of Praise, "DIY Show" and, on Sunday, Holy Communion, Rob Beale gave a fascinating illustrated talk on his visit with Hilary to the MAI work at Embo. On the way back we stopped at Winchester for some free time; again, some strode energetically around the city centre and cathedral while others chose to sample the coffee shops and restaurants! Altogether a wonderful time was had by all, with a marvellous atmosphere of true Christian fellowship.

Neil & Maureen Weston (Leaders)

MWM

MWM is a group for older male members of the church, particularly those who are free to take part in daytime activities during the week. Its aims include enabling men of the church and on the fringe to get to know one another better, to enjoy one another's company through a range of activities and to support one another as needs arise. MWM has no formal membership as such, but there is an email list of over 50, used for keeping in touch and particularly to publicise the monthly events. We are always pleased to welcome newcomers.

As in past years, 2018 saw a varied programme, including indoor meetings and outdoor visits. These events are held on different days of the week so that those who have regular commitments on a particular day (or days) are not completely excluded. Most of us have other concerns and interests, so numbers attending are usually between 10 and 20.

The year started with an interesting talk by Revd Geoffrey Maughan (a former Vicar of Christ Church) on 'The work of a Spiritual Director'. February saw 15 of us visiting the BMW Mini plant at Cowley; this was an eye-opener to those of us unfamiliar with highly automated manufacturing. The following month over a dozen of us were given an informed guided tour of largely Biblical exhibits at the Ashmolean Museum by James Grieg. On a different scale was the Mechanical Music Museum in Northleach; here, in April, we had their own enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide demonstrating many of their exhibits.

In the summer there were walks around Iffley, Snelsmore Common and Whitecross Green Wood - in each case followed by a pub lunch. In the Autumn a few of us went punting on the Isis, and over 20 visited the Houses of Parliament and were privileged to see both Houses in action, including the Prime Minister and other senior figures. Finally, we had two indoor meetings in November (re trips to Ghana and Vietnam) and December (chatting about personal experiences etc.).

We continue to be grateful to those on the small MWM planning group, whose committed members take their share in leading events.

Michael Chown

THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP

It is my privilege to lead this shared ministry to older people and I thank God for His faithfulness to us through another year. I am supported and encouraged by a faithful group of Committee members and helpers and the love and prayers of many others. It is a loving, caring, welcoming group interested in and supporting one another.

Our numbers are currently around 70 with an average attendance of 40-45 from within The Christ Church Family, other Churches in the area and for some it is their Church. Several members have died and some moved to live nearer family and we have welcomed new members. We visit and keep in touch with a further 8 members now housebound or in care, as well.

We are grateful to all who come to speak at our services, both Clergy and Lay, who bring God's word to us. Themes for the 3 Terms this past year have been:

The Creed "I believe in..."

Learning to be...including "prayerful", "forgiving", "content" and currently a selection of passages in Isaiah including chapter 53 as we get nearer to Good Friday "The Suffering Servant". We have a Service of Holy Communion in Church once each term.

On alternate weeks a small group meet in Elizabeth's home for Prayer Fellowship, a time to share, plan and pray for the ministry and any special needs. We have a team of drivers for those needing lifts but are always grateful for any offers to help, or to be on a reserve list. (Those bringing wheelchairs or walkers will need adequate boot space)

We are very grateful to Clint who now puts out chairs/tables for us before our meeting (helped by Stuart when possible) and who is helpful in many ways. We are grateful to Ernie and Alison who still prepare our lunches twice a Term and others who help setting up serving and washing up. We are delighted to have welcomed Pat Herbert among us, who was our mission partner in Ghana for so many years, but now living nearby and worshipping at Christ Church

We continue to support the Warner family in Spain, The Leprosy Mission, Tearfund, NSPCC and TAB. Some of us are also involved in various Prime Time Activities Study Groups and The Annual Holiday. It would be encouraging to have some slightly younger church members to help with and encourage this ministry into the future.

Our prayer is that everyone who attends Thursday Fellowship will feel welcome, accepted, loved and cared for and will respond to God's love for them and grow in faith.

Doreen Cooper

GENTS WHO LUNCH



This is an informal group of men (either "between jobs" or retired), that meets monthly to develop friendship and share support over an inexpensive lunch together at 12:30 in the Spread Eagle on Northcourt Road (on the third Tuesday of each month except for December). We are drawn from both Long Furlong and Northcourt Road plus friends who are not members of Christ Church, but have links with us.

During this last year we have grown from 18 "regulars" to 25 – with our typical gatherings increasing from 6-10 last year to 16 by the end of the 2018!

Andrew Turner

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Abingdon Court

Abingdon Court is a Care Home on Marcham Road, catering mainly for residents with various degrees of dementia. A small team from Christ Church has been going in once a month for about ten years to take a short (20 – 30 minute) service for the residents. The number of residents attending varies greatly. A rough average would be 6, and the maximum 13. Numbers on a particular day depend on the current state of health of the residents and how many staff are available to bring them along.

The team consists of John & Gill Shore, Barbara Gyde, Maggie Baker-Rawle (guitar), Judy Riggs, Joyce Higgs, Dorothy Warner (piano), John Hedderley. The team members take it in turns to plan and lead the services.

Since the beginning the services have started at about 10:30 am - a brief experimental change to 2pm was not successful.

The theme of the service is chosen by the leader, and always includes a number of hymns, choruses or worship songs, plus short bible readings, (very) short talks and prayers. Over the years the talks have got shorter and the amount of singing greater! Most of the residents are not obviously responsive, though some will react to songs and hymns that they have known in their younger days. It is of course usually impossible to know how much residents are 'taking in': we can only pray for the Holy Spirit's presence and power. He can communicate in ways that we cannot. Some residents can take part in conversations to a limited degree.

We must record our grateful thanks for the co-operation of the staff' particularly the Activities Coordinator, without whom this ministry could not take place, and for those church members who use the church prayer diary to pray for us.

John & Gill Shore

Fountain Court

A service is held for the residents of Fountain Court on the 1st Wednesday of each month, with a Communion Service once a Term. The service is always followed by refreshments which gives time for meaningful conversations to be had on a personal level. We have been blessed to have the continued support of Rev Kath Cooke who joins us to lead the Communion Services, and as always, the residents love having her.

The team now consists of Anne Moon, Methlyn Regisford and Leilani Jeevaratnam. We endeavour to meet together for prayer on the Monday before each service.

The highlight of the year was the special daytime Service in December, which we've been having instead of the usual evening Carol Service. This was followed by a snack lunch which was enjoyed by all. The service was again led by Rev Kath Cooke.

Following the event in December one of the residents commented "That was a lovely spread. You always do us proud". The lady who doesn't speak English continues to join us, and it has been encouraging to have her daughter come too. Although the daughter does not interpret while we speak, she said that she explains it all to her mum later. The numbers attending are very few, but they do look forward to having us 'the church', and we look forward to seeing them. There is now a wonderful sense of God's presence in that place, and we are so grateful for the changes we are seeing, and will continue to sow seeds of God's love.

Leilani Jeevaratnam

THE FATHER'S TABLE (SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES)

The Father's table encompasses a range of projects in and for the community through which we hope to share the love of Jesus in practical ways.

The Abingdon Bridge

The Abingdon Bridge has just commemorated 25 years since it was set up by the Church in Abingdon to support vulnerable young people who find themselves in challenging circumstances. As well as helping young people who have problems with alcohol and substance abuse, anti-social behaviour and low self-esteem, TAB is now more focussed on the well-being and mental health needs of young people who are suffering from anxiety, stress and depression - particularly for girls. Our Social Media Anxiety Resilience Team (SMART) continues to have a massive impact. The Corner Suite provides a discrete setting for some of our counselling work.

TAB could not continue this essential work without the generous support of local churches, schools, businesses, voluntary organisations, charitable trusts as well as individual donors. TAB has become a lifeline for those young people who need our help and support in order to refocus their lives and get back on track. TAB also values the prayers of those who support this challenging work. Together, we can bridge the gap.

Chris Bryan, Chair of the Trustees

The Archway Foundation

Archway's small but growing staff team and over 130 volunteers are privileged to be alongside those who for a variety of reasons are lonely and in many instances are dealing with complex physical, mental, financial and social challenges. Whilst there are no quick fixes and dramatic outcomes we are constantly reminded of the powerful impact of "listening" and "being" and the small yet hugely significant transformations that are happening in what can appear to be the smallest steps of progress in a person's life.

We are grateful for God's provision and pray for faith to trust for the future as significant grants end this year.

Sheila Furlong

The Abingdon Foodbank

Foodbank continues to attract a wide variety and increasing number of referrals. Citizen's Advice, the Job Centre and the housing associations are our main points of contact although many other agencies hold our vouchers.

There is now a third weekly foodbank session held on Wednesdays, 1.00pm - 2.30 pm, in Preston Road Community Centre. This is run by the south Abingdon churches with our support.

We are well supported by our community with donations of both food and finances and have been able to pass surplus donations to Host Abingdon, Asylum Welcome and the Oxford Foodbank.

During the summer holidays we were able to give 70 school meal replacement packs to families nominated by local schools and at Christmas we gave out 250 special parcels (with help from Sophos), through our referring agencies to bless those struggling in our community.

We now have a prayer meeting on the first Friday of each month, in the Quiet Room at Christ Church Northcourt Road, all are welcome to join us.

Sarah Fry and Hilary Beale

Abingdon Street Pastors

During the evenings in Abingdon town centre the situation often changes later on. After spending the evening drinking in the pubs and clubs, the behaviour of some people deteriorates. As Saturday nights are usually the busiest, a team of Street Pastors go out on duty onto the streets of Abingdon to care for, to listen to and support people of all ages. The Street Pastors work closely with Thames Valley Police and other agencies for the benefit of everyone. In March 2018 the new Administrator, Grace D. Williamson was appointed who also took on the role of coordinator when Dorothy Baldwin stepped down in November. There is an urgent need for more Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors to join the team and full training will be given to individuals who are willing to volunteer a few hours of their time once every month.

Grace Williamson

THE BARN'S CAFE



Our vision is for the café 'to be a welcoming place that is a pleasure to come to, which demonstrates the love and values of Jesus and succeeds as a business'. We have five Missional Aims to help us focus on this: to be the best hosts we can be, to show kindness, to aim for excellence, to provide a place of sanctuary, and to act as one.

The café is open Tuesday-Friday 9am-4:30pm and Saturdays 9am-2pm, run by a superb team of around 40 volunteers (6 of whom are café supervisors) from churches in and around Abingdon, two Saturday staff, two paid part time supervisors, a deputy manager, a manager, and our cleaner. We have been welcoming a whole range of customers from across Abingdon and a lot of the volunteers say one of their favourite aspects of serving at The Barn's is getting to know our different regular customers each week.

Three times a year we gather as a whole team to eat together, worship, seek God's will and pray for the community, the café and each other. Each day, the team on shift pray together in the morning and evening, inviting the Holy Spirit in to the café, and interceding for each other. Every week we see how God has his hand in all the details, giving us all we need and enabling us to show His love and care in a practical way. It's amazing to hear customers comment on the peaceful atmosphere they experience in the café. We have continued to do our 'random act of kindness' giveaways, and are finding more and more ways to introduce our customers to the person of Jesus, and his unconditional love.

Our café activity groups continue to flourish, and we are praying about how to go deeper in these relationships to reveal God to the group members. A list of our activities programme is on our website www.thebarnscafe.co.uk. Resonate Lounge has been running for the entire year and has been going successfully with plans to change it to weekly in 2019. We saw the introduction of the Micro Exhibition Space in 2018 giving a chance for different local artists to share their work. The customers and volunteers alike have been enjoying seeing the different art and look forward to each time it changes. We also celebrated our 5th Birthday in 2018. Lots of people came and were excited to take part in the birthday events for the cafe. This built a good sense of community here in the café as people were telling stories of how they found us and how they've seen it change over the years.

Every year we get busier and busier! We took £116,000 last year after VAT, and we have given a tithe donation of our profits to BEAM (Business Enterprise as Mission).

Find us on [facebook.com/barnscafe](https://www.facebook.com/barnscafe) or follow us on instagram and twitter @thebarnscafe if you'd like to keep up with what's going on!

Alex Lister

MISSION SUPPORT GROUP (MSG)

The MSG is a sub-group of the Church Council, and seeks to:

- promote mission beyond the borders of Abingdon
- create a greater awareness of the world church
- ensure prayer and financial support for selected Mission Partners
- encourage church members to participate in short-term mission
- distribute the church budget for mission

The church has supported 8 Mission Partners for the full year and Pat Herbert for part of the year prior to her retirement from Wycliffe Bible Translators mid-way through the year. 84% of the budget of £64,322.00 was used for regular financial support of our mission partners with the remainder allocated to short-term mission projects, student work and a matching grant for the Children's Ministry appeal for famine relief in Yemen.

Over the year MSG met with Tabitha Jordan, Ashleigh Gibb, Gabrielle Dent (following her short-term mission trip with Mercy Ships) and Mark Stavers (of Viva Network).

We have continued to encourage short-term mission trips and financially and prayerfully supported Catherine Moon (India), Ruth Foulsham (Zambia), Beth Dunnett and Emma Stonebridge (Spain for the Benicassim Festival), Sally Mears (Uganda) and Calum Steer (Tanzania 2019). We also provided some support to Dom Palmer who served as Chapel Assistant at Magdalene College Cambridge for 6 months during the first half of the year. Three members of the congregation travelled to Spain to encourage Andy and Andrea Warner and their ministry, which was largely self-funded. We also supported Mission Weeks at Nottingham and Warwick Universities and the student work of IFES Belarus. We held a Missions Weekend in May, when Jane Jerrard of CMS spoke at Northcourt Road in the morning while Peter Dunn of BMS spoke at Long Furlong in the morning and at Northcourt Road in the evening. The Missions Weekend included a "bring and share" lunch which included presentations on Chris and Suzy Wilson and their work in Gambella, education in Pakistan, a report from the Vagla Bible Dedication in Ghana and a report on the visit to Andy and Andrea Warner in Spain. In conjunction with the Missions Weekend, we published a bookmark featuring each of our Mission Partners.

MSG also hosted two retirement lunches: one in January to mark the retirement of John Earwicker from his leadership role with MAI and the other in October to welcome Pat Herbert back to Abingdon after 45 years serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Ghana.

The "Mission of the Month" leaflet which we launched in 2017 has continued to be published on a monthly basis and we also launched a "Small Charities Forum" as an occasional meeting opportunity for members of the congregation who are involved in the leadership of small charities.

Members of the MSG during 2018 were John Rogers (chair), Jim Barker, Janice Gordon, Emil Jeevaratnam, Andrew Kitchener, Roland Knight, Jenny McLennan, Sue Robbins and Maureen Weston.

Mission Support Group

CHURCHES IN ABINGDON

The Churches in Abingdon (CiA), is made up of a group of churches from across the town, of which we are one. All the churches work together to bless the people of Abingdon. We all respect and honour each other and serve the Lord together.

What's happened in 2018:

We started the year with a New Year's Day walk for the Christian Aid's Christmas appeal.

In January we had a Week of prayer for Christian Unity, with various events taking place over the week, such as the interchurch quiz and mid-day prayers at St Nicolas' church. The week concluded with a united service held, here at Christchurch with approx. 150 people attending from all the churches across the town.

In March 'Experience Easter' took place at Trinity Church. This is for the schoolchildren of the town, church groups and the public. The idea is to enable folks to come and hear the Easter story. Also in March we had a series of Lent lectures by Rev. Dr Paul Goodliff entitled "wait and see". These were held at Abingdon Baptist Church.

On Good Friday the churches of the town did their procession of witness from Abingdon Library to St. Nicolas' church for a service at 12 noon.

In April St Edmund's invited us to a series looking at "Encountering the Holy Spirit" to help us deepen our relationship with Him.

The South Abingdon Play and activity day took place in July. The aim of the event is to bring communities together. Abingdon Vineyard Church, the Community Church and the CiA administrator worked together to provide a variety of activities for this event.

In November the CiA had its annual bereavement service, this was held at St Edmund's church.

Other regular events that the CiA supports both financially and practically.

The Street Pastors.	Back to 35
The Abingdon Bridge	The Christian Aid group
The Church Twinning group	The DESIRE network for the youth of the town.
Abingdon Emergency Food Bank	Thrive in the South of Abingdon for the young people

Looking ahead:

Abingdon Passion Play will take place on 6th April, 2019

Sandra Pike

NEW WINE 2018

Last summer saw us at New Wine week 1, at Shepton Mallet for the last time before a move to Peterborough. As always the week is a precious opportunity for 120+ people from every congregation at Christchurch, Long Furlong and Northcourt Road, to gather together as 'one' community.

Community – sharing a cream tea, cheese and wine, board games, wide games. A chance to chat with old friends and new. The teaching and worship were, as ever, amazing, with lots of variety to suit all. Children and youth, young and old. The weather was mixed, with a couple of days of rain but nothing can dampen God's Spirit and the work He has planned. It was lovely to hear the stories that people shared with Keith afterwards. Stories of healing, pictures from God, words of encouragement, friendships deepened, and fantastic worship times.

We look forward to gathering at New Wine again this summer. We hope to see you there.

Paul & Karen Brombley

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Unrestricted income in 2018 was £614,000 of which £503,000 came, under God, from giving by members and the Gift Aid that can be reclaimed on these donations. This is a £59,000 increase in unrestricted income from 2017.

Unrestricted expenditure totalled £553,000. The majority of unrestricted expenditure relates to Parish Share, staff salaries and Mission Support grants. Unrestricted expenditure also includes £20,000 of depreciation. Unrestricted expenditure increased by £5,000 compared with 2017.

Overall, the accounts show a surplus of £61,000 of unrestricted funds which includes the £20,000 of depreciation. On a cash basis the church generated a surplus, which was as per the intention of the PCC for the year. The budget for 2019 is intended to run to a deficit considering the surplus in 2018, but in general future years budgets are intended to “break even”.

The Barns Café Ltd commenced trading on 24th November 2014. The PCC is the sole shareholder, with a share value of £1.

A total of £61,000 was donated for restricted purposes.

Thank you

Thank you for your continued financial support for the work at Christ Church. Please do continue to pray for the finances – give thanks for God’s faithful provision; pray for wisdom and good stewardship; and pray for every member of the church that He would release in us a spirit of joyful and generous giving – through money, time and use of gifts.

Tim Shipman, Treasurer

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

First: I am indebted to my predecessor, Andrew Turner for his diligence in the role of Committee Chair over many years; and to the indefatigable Roland Knight for holding the fort during the interregnum between Andrew stepping down, and me becoming available in September.

Second: on behalf of everyone at Christ Church, a warm ‘thank you’ to the motivated and talented volunteer workforce, whose endeavours have resulted in the overwhelming majority of smaller maintenance tasks being addressed, leaving me with an excellent start.

Third: 2018 has been a year of significant change, not least of which we were delighted to welcome our new Operations Manager, Clint McVea. He and I have taken the opportunity to review how we approach the care of Christ Church’s buildings, and how we can reduce the demands on our wonderful volunteers - although there are always opportunities for people to serve, so please contact Clint or me.

As faithful stewards of the resources God has so generously provided, we are working to ensure that the tasks we undertake resolve the root cause of a problem, not just fix the superficial issue. That has been evidenced by the solution we found for the major leaks in the lobby roof, which have now been resolved.

2019 will see us turning our attention to other leaking roofs (how very typical of a church!), looking into a longer-term refurbishment of the lobby roof to resolve outstanding minor leaks, and addressing some long-standing issues with our Youth Pastor’s house. We have already improved the budgeting and reporting system in the church accounts, so we can see clearly what we spend and why. And, we plan to investigate options for insulating the Tithe Barn roof, to reduce heat loss in the winter, and keep it cooler in the summer. As always, we are reliant upon God for funding, and we will be working hard to secure best value for the ministry of the church when we take financial decisions.

Geoff Palmer

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is an activity which happens quietly in the background, but is of vital importance to every member of our church, and the wider community. We aim to make sure that every child and adult is free to participate in church activities safe from any abuse or even accusations of abuse. Safeguarding relates to the work we do with Children and Young People (CYP), but also with Vulnerable Adults (VA) (= Adults at Risk)

The scope of safeguarding at Christ Church Abingdon (CCA):

- Safe recruitment of volunteers and paid staff, including the obtaining of DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks
- Organising safeguarding training
- Writing and maintaining safeguarding policies and guidelines
- Monitoring use of Social Media in the Youth Department
- Giving guidance to volunteers and staff when safeguarding questions arise
- Responding promptly and appropriately if/when reports of abuse are disclosed or observed.

The safeguarding team

Roland Knight has been Parish Safeguarding Officer for a number of years, and was joined in 2018 by Karen Brombley as Safeguarding Advisor. Karen works as a senior safeguarding professional. From January 2019 Val Challis will join the team. Val previously led the children's work at CCA and is an approved safeguarding trainer for the Diocese of Oxford. The team work closely with the Children's Minister (Heather Hughes), the Youth Pastor (Bea Ellaby), the clergy, and the Coordinator for Pastoral Ministries (Ros Steel)

Final responsibility for Safeguarding in CCA lies with the Church Council,

Safeguarding Audit

The judgement of the Church of England (CofE) Tribunal against our former Vicar, Tim Davis (TD), was announced in December 2017. The Clergy Disciplinary Measure focussed on safeguarding, and judged that TD acted contrary to Christ Church and Diocesan safeguarding policies and practice and he was consequently removed from his post as incumbent. Although Tim's actions were effectively invisible to those who might have prevented them, the church leadership decided to commission an independent audit so that we could learn from the experience, prevent a repetition and restore the confidence of our community. The audit was carried out in April 2018 by CCPAS (The Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service). The report found that our safeguarding is robust and well ahead of many churches of similar size, whilst identifying a few areas where the church could enhance its policies and practice.

Safe Recruitment

Ensuring that the right people are recruited to the various ministries conducted by the church, is vital to maintaining a safe environment. During 2018, 44 individuals were processed through the "Safe Recruitment" process for the first time and another 24 had their DBS checks renewed, in accordance with the Diocesan policy.

Training

Training is an important factor in keeping all our volunteers aware of the need for safeguarding, and the processes we need to follow. The Diocese recommends that all staff and volunteers receive training at appointment and every three years thereafter. Staff and volunteers are trained according to the National CofE training courses, provided by two official diocesan trainers worshipping in our church. Anne Taylor has now stepped back from this role, but Val Challis is continuing to train, not only in our church, but in many other churches around the Diocese. In 2018 we held 4 training sessions, with a total of 93 individuals attending. This means that 94% of those eligible for training (249) have now received it, but 84 of those already trained will be due for refresher training in 2019.

Policy Documents

In accordance with CofE recommendations CCA has a one page Safeguarding Policy Document which is reviewed annually and displayed prominently. We also have a set of Guidelines for Children and Young People, and Vulnerable Adults, based on documents produced by the Diocese and the CofE safeguarding team. These are in the process of being updated to reflect changes of personnel details, and in response to new CofE guidance and incorporating actions from the CCPAS audit. The revisions will be ready for approval by the PCC early in 2019.

Incidents

Actual safeguarding incidents, or reports of abuse, are very rare but when they occur they need to be treated seriously and every effort made to ensure that everyone involved is cared for in a loving and careful manner. There have been fewer than 5 reports during the year that have required appropriate investigation, of which the case against TD remains the most serious.

Roland Knight, Parish Safeguarding Officer

HEALTH & SAFETY

Much of the work this year has been reactive to specific needs.

Accident Reporting – We have had 18 incidents in 2018. Whilst this is an increase on previous years this is due partly to better reporting of incidents.

There were 14 First Aid cases, 3 Non-Injury and 1 Lost Time Incident. The bulk of incidents are exuberant minors and unfortunate adults succumbing to behavioural aberration. 4 of the First Aid Cases were associated with equipment and the way it was used and some additional precautions have been made as a result. The Lost Time Incident was an unfortunate result of an injury when sneezing. This occurred off-site but is recorded in our statistics.

With the appointment of the Operations Manager we have now started the update to the Health, Safety and Welfare Manual. The insurance assessor picked up on the need to cover Lone Workers in the manual and this will also be included in the update.

P Brombley (Chair – Health & Safety subgroup)

IT GROUP

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became law in May-2018 and much great work was done by the GDPR Group to ensure relevant statements and privacy policies were introduced.
- Also in May we had a slight catastrophe with the file storage device in the church office that failed. Touch-and-go for a while, but data was recovered thanks to the hard work of Paul Brombley. A new storage device was purchased, and these are now deployed in active/reserve mode so that should one fail in future, the other holds a copy of data.
- July, computer network cabling was installed to extend the wired network into Clint's office.
- In August we went-live on ChurchSuite, a foundational step forward in gathering assorted communications and schedules into a single management tool. We look forward to developing this tool further over 2019 specifically being able to present data from ChurchSuite on our CCA website.
- CCA Office was using an older version of Google Apps (email), and in September we upgraded to the full G-Suite for Non-Profits. Future work will be done to make the most of the various tools and functions of the full suite, particularly to enable staff to operate more flexibly out of the office, and begin to gather into a secure environment sensitive documents.
- We have an ongoing project overseen by Jackie Sheppard planning for a new CCA website, this project is being handed over to Mike Haywood to carry forward, more on this project to follow shortly. Timeline for replacing the website is late-2019
- The church camera system was a success project and we have been able to use the cameras to introduce a video feed of the 6:30 service to Michael Litt at home, due to his health deterioration he is unable to come to church.
- December, a new laptop was purchased for Heather from an end-of-year surplus on the IT budget.

Simon Farres

HR GROUP

1. Annual Staff Reviews: All employees at Christ Church now have an annual review with their line manager. This provides an opportunity to reflect on the previous year and to set appropriate agreed targets for the year ahead. Exit interviews are now also arranged when staff who are leaving are provided with an opportunity to reflect on the impact they have had as well as offering any thoughts for the future. It seeks to ensure both closure and continuity.

2. Talks have been held with the Diocesan Director of HR and the Area Dean to explore ways in which parishes are able to align their HR policies with those adopted by the diocese. Although progress has been slow, we have benefitted by examining these policies in detail and we shall be making some recommendations to the PCC.
3. The process has also identified some gaps in our existing policies so this now needs to become a priority. We are seeking to introduce a Dignity at Work policy and a Whistleblowing policy which promote acceptable practice for all employees.

Chris Bryan, HR Group Coordinator

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT FOR THE PARISH OF NORTH ABINGDON

Every six years we have to prepare a new church Electoral Roll, and this year is one of those years. The deadline for returning applications for inclusion in voting for 2019's APCM was the 31st March.

- Northcourt Road and Long Furlong: 438 members
- Peachcroft Christian Centre: 18 members
- Parish total: 456 members

Clint McVea, Electoral Roll Officer

1st April 2019

CHRIST CHURCH NORTH ABINGDON PCC ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 22ND APRIL 2018

Introduction: Roland Knight (NCR am & eve)/ Philip Bingham (LF)

The AGM was being held as part of the services during the day i.e. 9.30am, 11.15am and 6.30pm at the Northcourt Road site and the 10am service at Long Furlong School.

Roland/Philip explained that this is Vision Sunday, when we look back with praise for what God has done, and forward to catch a glimpse of what his plans are next. We have two formal meetings to complete here this morning (evening): Officially, the first meeting (Annual Meeting of Parishioners) is open to anyone on the Church Electoral Roll **and** anyone resident in the Parish and entered on the local government electoral register. Anyone in those two groups is eligible to attend the AMP and to vote. The second meeting is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), and those whose names are on the Church Electoral Roll may attend and vote. Anyone else may attend, but is not eligible to vote, but can pray: no-one is excluded. The APCM is also referred to as the AGM and certain business must be completed.

An attendance log of parishioners and Electoral Roll Members was available at each service with people asked to sign in as a formal record of attendance. For NCR: 216 Electoral Roll members signed in and 28 non-roll members attended. For LF: 75 Electoral Roll members signed in and 8 non-roll members.

There was also a bring share lunch at 12.30 at Northcourt Road with a question and answer session with the clergy & church wardens.

AMP: Election of Church Wardens

There were 2 vacancies for Church Warden and 2 candidates: Roland Knight and Sue Gibbins. They were both formally elected by acclaim. The AMP was closed.

Letter from Colin, Bishop of Dorchester

A letter from the Bishop was read out to everyone; it is reproduced below:

Announcement to be made at Christ Church Abingdon – Northcourt Road and Long Furlong
22nd April 2018

I am delighted to be able to announce that Keith Dunnett has accepted my invitation to become your next vicar. *(There were loud cheers and applause at this point.)*

I have been very impressed by the way in which he has ministered so effectively and sensitively in what has been a difficult time over the past few years and I am very grateful both as your patron and as a bishop that the PCC was willing to shorten the normal appointment processes allowing me to approach Keith as the single candidate for the post.

He will formally be collated, inducted and installed in this new role at a service at Christ Church on Tuesday, 3rd July at 7.30pm. Before then he will be having a mini-sabbatical between 21st May and 17th June and I have also asked him to make sure that he builds in time both for his normal family holidays later in the year and four weeks that enables Lynne and himself to move from their present house and move into their new home over the summer. His hope, and mine, is that by doing this we will make sure that he is in a good place with you all to listen to God and to take the parish forward into the next stage of its exciting life and ministry.

My thanks, as ever, to the Churchwardens and staff for all their help and I look forward to working closely with Keith and you all in the coming years.

**The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher OBE
Bishop of Dorchester**

Roland took the opportunity to thank Keith and Lynne for their faithful service during this difficult time and gave them a small gift as we looked forward to the future. Keith also gave thanks to the wardens and in particular to Roland who was also presented with a gift.

APCM

1) Election of new PCC members.

Roland (Philip) explained the structure of the PCC, for those who are less familiar with our local structures:- Clergy and churchwardens are automatically members of PCC. (Keith, Simon, Kath and Phil, Nessa, Rebecca Peters) plus (Sue & Roland)

Rebecca Peters is the minister at Peachcroft is invited to attend PCC meetings, especially when there are matters of joint interest.

Anne Taylor is the representative of the Local Lay Ministers in the Parish.

The Deanery Synod looks after a wider area including all of Abingdon and the surrounding villages. There are 8 Deanery posts which were elected last year.

PCC - Parish Church Council – relates to North of Abingdon. Due to the size of Christ Church there are 15 lay posts, of which 5 retire each year.

The numbers of Deanery Synod Reps and PCC Lay Reps are dictated by our Electoral Roll numbers.

PCC Elections

Five PCC lay members were retiring as they had served 3 years. They are: Andy Dent (who was thanked for serving as PCC secretary), Philip Bingham (who was thanked for chairing PCC meetings), Janice Gordon, Andrew Kitchener and Lizzie Shipman who were also thanked for their faithful work. Nine people had been nominated for these vacancies: Phil Adams, Philip Bingham, Diana Bingham, Andy Dent, Andrew Kitchener, Andy McCabe, Lynn Ross, Pat Rowe and Howard Spencer. A minutes silence for prayer was taken and to allow voting.

Electoral Roll Information

The summary of the numbers of church members on the electoral roll are as follows:

Worship Centre	from 2nd April 2017	New	Remove	Transfers	Net Change	Roll at 22nd April 2018
NCR	396	+33	-30	+4	+7	403
LF	136	+8	-7	-4	-3	133
Christ Church Total	532	+41	-37	0	+4	536
Peachcroft	26	0	0	0	0	26
Parish Total	558	+41	-37	0	+4	562

Thanks to Alison Grieve for her service in administering the Electoral Roll.

Annual Report

Roland/Philip then highlighted the yellow Annual Report document which gave a much fuller account of the work of the Church and encouraged everyone to read it and pray for the work.

This was available from the church website and also in hard copy format. There were also copies in the Lobby of the financial report which had been already submitted to the Charity Commissioners. The church wardens thanked Keith especially for his leadership over the last year and all members of the congregation for their service to the church in all areas of ministry. Roland then finished his report by thanking Tim for taking up the role of Treasurer last year; "However, before I hand over to Tim, I want to give him a special thank you for taking on the task of Treasurer from Mark this time last year, and to have undertaken the very steep learning curve that was required. I also need to congratulate him on becoming a father last week. Now he will have even less time on his hands to serve as Treasurer and will need all the support we can give him!!"

Financial Report

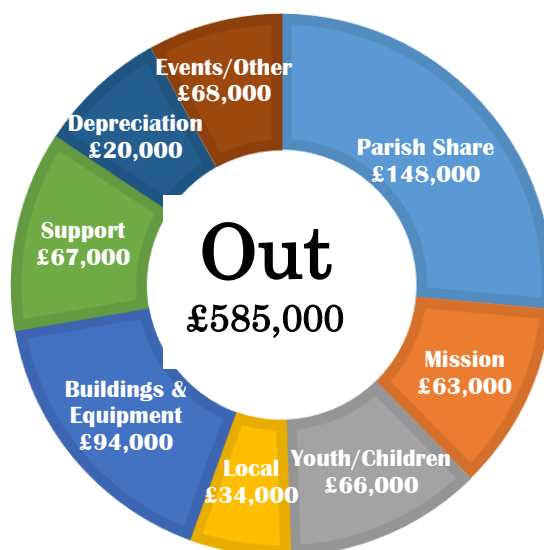
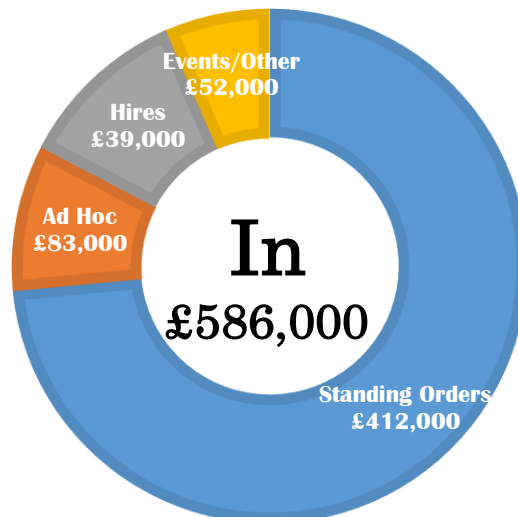
Presented by Tim Shipman, Treasurer.

Tim started by showing pictures of his 9 day old daughter Charlotte! He then quoted from Phil 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." He has produced the accounts in a simplified format and a summary is given below:

2017: What actually happened

2018: What we plan and pray will happen.

2017 – Last Year



	Unrestricted Funds 2017	Restricted Funds 2017	Total 2017
FIXED ASSETS	£2,417,249	£0	£2,417,249
CURRENT ASSETS	£247,109	069£34,	£281,178
LIABILITIES	£1,500	£800	£2,300
NET ASSETS	£2,662,858	£33,269	£2,696,127

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2017

2018 – This Year

Predicted income of at least £553,000 which is higher than the budget approved by PCC in November 2017 of £500,000. The amount includes income from hires and events.

Anticipated expenses of £563,000, which again is higher than approved PCC budget of £509,000, as it includes events expenses.

Increase of our parish share to £180,000

13% allocated to mission support - £64,000

2% pay increase for staff

Employment of Operations Manager delayed until September

Some buildings work postponed until 2019

All budgets had to be trimmed to balance the budget.

Tim also pointed out that The Barns Cafe is run as a separate business, owned by the church and is run on a non-profit basis to serve the community. It does however pay the Church for services (e.g. electricity).

Tim thanked his co-workers on the finance team who were available to answer questions:

Andy Lowe (Utilities and general matters)

Gill Privett (Gift Aid and Payroll)

Christine Talbot (Payments and Book-keeping)

Neil Weston (Banking and general matters)

Tim Shipman (Treasurer)

Martin Steel (Deanery Treasurer)

Finally a formal decision was required to propose to continue to use Wenn Townsend as “Independent Examiners”.

Proposer: Paul Brombley; Seconded: Janice Gordon; Vote passed with a majority at each service.

Apologies for being unable to attend the meetings were received from Vicky and Nic Russell and Spencer and Judy White.

Vision Address 22 April 2018 Keith Dunnett

Keith expressed his gratitude to Bishop Colin for his invitation to become the next vicar of North Abingdon, and spoke about his love for Christ Church and his excitement at what the Lord has planned for us together. Keith thanked those who had served on the PCC, those who had lead and supported the many ministry areas, and the church wardens. He thanked those who had prayerfully allowed themselves to be nominated for the PCC elections, noting that having nine candidates for five places was a reflection of a growing healthy culture in this church.

Keith spoke about **Breathing** as one of the most natural rhythms of life. We have to breathe in to breathe out. Breathing is one of the core rhythms of being a disciple of Jesus. Mark 3:14 tells us Jesus appointed the twelve disciples *that they might be with him* (Breathing in) and *that he might send them out* (Breathing out).

Keith explored how Jesus reinstated Peter in John 21:15-19. Peter was going to be doing a lot of breathing out, as one of the apostles- a “sent one”, and Keith gave an overview of the missions Peter would be sent on. But in this passage we see Jesus calling Peter to breathe in.

Keith suggested three areas of Breathing In Jesus invited Peter to do. First *Jesus dealt with Peter’s past* – his three-fold denial of Jesus around the fire in the high priest’s courtyard - by inviting Peter to declare his love for him three times around another fire on the beach. God has been dealing with our recent past, through the Tribunal outcomes, the two meetings with the bishop, meetings with life group leaders and pastoral leaders, the safeguarding audit, and the Acorn listening process. Keith expressed the hope that most people can now lay the past down. Jesus then asked *Do you love me?* Love of God must come before love of service, so worship is a priority. And finally Jesus asks us to love one another,

feed my lambs, care for my sheep, feed my sheep. Keith spoke about the call of Jesus to serve in each of these areas. Christ Church needs to be a church famous for love. Learning the lessons that the various post-tribunal processes have highlighted is an important part of loving one another.

Like Peter, we must breathe in, so that we can then breathe out and love and serve the world Jesus died for.

Keith then spoke about the **Road Map** which the clergy and wardens have identified as they have prayed together. During May to July we will finish the post-tribunal process, putting into practice the lessons learned. We need to finish the clergy appointment process (see the bishops letter), including appointing the Associate Vicar's post. We need some fun together too - Keith floated the idea of a church family fun day. As we start back in September, we will seek God's vision together for the new chapter of Christ Church. The PCC will be key in this, but Keith hoped everyone could be involved in discerning what God is saying.

In terms of the **vision process**, Keith noted that a healthy church knows *why this church exists*, and *what God is calling us to do* at this time. He offered two tentative suggestions. First, that he anticipates we will continue along similar lines to the current direction of *making disciples of Jesus*. Second, as a way of framing 'what does that look like in practice?' Keith suggested the image of Breathing might help us, with its twin focus:

Breathe in: Be with Jesus. Build a strong base, of inspiring services, wholesome small groups, vibrant prayer, training leaders, and effective support ministries.

Breathe out: be sent out by Jesus to serve his kingdom purposes, on our **frontlines** -workplaces and families, together in our local **community**, and **globally** through our mission partners.

Question & Answer Session at bring and share lunch (Northcourt Road Hall).

Following questions were asked and the response from the clergy / church wardens as follows:

1. Sandra Pike: Sandra asked that in the result of the PCC elections it could be made sure that there were LF places. Keith replied that the PCC/ APCM could vote in a mechanism to allocate places to each congregation, but let's see what happens in these elections, trusting the Holy Spirit to lead His church. (Post meeting note: Of the 5 elected members 4 were NCR, 1 LF. LF has ¼ of the Electoral Roll numbers. In the new PCC ¼ of the fifteen elected lay reps are from LF; but all of the eight deanery reps are from NCR).
2. Andrew Turner: Andrew asked for further clarification on the depreciation that was spent in the budget and was this put aside for refurbishment of the buildings. Post Meeting Tim explain that in terms of difference between last year's depreciation of £43k, and £20k this year, this is because the barns fixtures and fittings – some £72K was brought into the accounts on 1st Jan 2014 and was depreciated at 33.3% -- i.e. ~£23K a year in 2014, 15 and 16. There was nothing left for 2017 – hence the difference. For reference from Tim: *Accrual accounting is an accounting method that measures the performance and position of a company by recognising economic events regardless of when cash transactions occur. The general idea is that economic events are recognised by matching revenues to expenses (the matching principle) at the time in which the transaction occurs rather than when payment is made (or received). This method allows the current cash inflows/outflows to be combined with future expected cash inflows/outflows to give a more accurate picture of a company's current financial condition.*
3. Howard Delafield: Howard asked for information on the new housing area and Christ Church's involvement? Keith replied that Christ Church had been involved at every stage with meetings every 15 weeks. The next one was on 9th May. The council had approved plans and the builders could start in late summer. So far two contractors are involved. There are discussions on the community building(s) (600 m²). This is likely to be two buildings (one near Peachcroft farm and one in the centre of the new development). We would like a team to start praying over a church plant, and Keith might ask for those involved with the setting up of LF could talk to the church about how it went forward. Roland also replied that the Parishes of Sunningwell, Radley and North Abingdon were in the process of agreeing a Parish Boundary change which would mean the new estate would all be within the North Abingdon Parish. (It still had to be formally ratified by Sunningwell, but this was not expected to be an issue.) There was also a 1.5-2 form primary school approved and the Diocese was planning to bid for it to be a Church School.
4. Esme Spencer: Esme asked about what was happening with the Vicarage? At this stage Keith couldn't say too much, but there were discussions happening next week. Jean Knight also asked about the timescales for Kath Cooke and the LF Associate Vicar? Keith replied that it was being discussed between Bishop Colin and Keith, but the PCC will be consulted. Keith also said that Phil now had a permanent full-time job with the Diocese (previously it had been temporary).
5. Lynn Ross: Lynn said it would be great to have the family fun day proposed by Keith. Keith replied it would be great to have an open air service, but it needs planning and someone to organise it!

The Q&A session ended with an open prayer time together.

Andy Dent, PCC Secretary