



Christ Church Chilwell

The Parish of Chilwell

Review of 2016

The Independent Examiner's report will be issued separately

Parochial Church Council for the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chilwell

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Review of 2016 and looking ahead to 2017

A report from the parish

Our vision

To be a people transformed by God, seeking to transform our communities with love

Our values

Loving everyone

Nurturing our children

Belonging together

Working in partnership with others

Teaching the gospel

Being a dynamic local church

The year 2016 began with the news that our vicar, Canon Alan Howe, would shortly be leaving us to take up new duties in Tollerton; and it ended with the retirement of our pastoral minister, Fran Beedell. We will all have vivid memories of their ministries here over many years. We wish them well (and also Carol Howe and Paul Beedell) and acknowledge the huge gap they have left.

Many people have responded to the vacancy by serving more and loving more, and the wardens have felt very upheld in prayer. Special mention should be made of the assistant wardens Tony Smith, Louise Rostron and Anne Willmot, of Gary Stephenson and Ruth Price our PCC Treasurer and Secretary, of Liam O'Boyle our Associate Minister, Frank Robinson and Mike Payne our retired clergy, and of Ryan Mellor and Chris Brignell who have collated this report. But there are many more who could be named. Thank you all!

The search for a new vicar has been a major task of the year, and is not yet complete. In this the wardens, as parish representatives, have been working together with the PCC, the Bishop and Archdeacon, the leadership at St Barnabas, and of course our patron, the Church Pastoral Aid Society, who lead the process. After a lot of work, we produced a parish profile which stated that we

place ourselves within a “confident yet generous evangelical tradition”, and are looking for a vicar who will

- have a missional heart and will put together a focussed strategy for mission comprising both evangelism and service in the local community while maintaining the existing functioning of the church;
- listen to God's direction for church and community, in conjunction with the staff and church councils, and then clearly lead;
- mentor and guide the existing staff team, encourage the many volunteers, and inspire those who could do more;
- hold strong convictions on scripture and theology, whilst valuing both the diversity of views and the people who hold them;
- discern and decisively lead a church seeking the Holy Spirit's direction, conviction and power, combining deep roots with God with sensitivity to people;
- teach and preach with authority, and also encourage and develop the existing and potential gifts within the congregation;
- have a strong commitment to prayer, with ideas and experience of different forms of prayer: corporate and individual, intercessory and meditative.

As yet we have not found the right person, but the process continues.

In the meantime, the church has not stood still, and there will be an interim vision cast at the APCM.

During the year, four aspects of our ministry and mission stand out:

- The PCC has enthusiastically welcomed the diocesan vision for “Making Disciples: Wider, Younger, Deeper”, and expect to continue our history as a giving and resourcing church in Nottingham;
- A team has been put together to make major improvements to the church hall. Led by Dawn Clarke and Simon Rostron, we have redecorated the lounge, and are in the process of arranging not merely redecoration but also improved storage capacity in the hall area, which will have benefits for all users, and in the long run facilitate better use of the stage;

- In the absence of Fran, pastoral care is being looked at, and Graham Shenton and Kathryn Britton's ministry of overseeing small groups will be a significant part of this;
- Towards the end of the year, George Russell, our CAP Debt Centre Manager, and Greer Jones, our Lay Minister, got together to start a monthly Messy Church. The end of the year also saw plans for an evangelistic event with Bishop Paul, and the start of Our Space, a group for families with disabled children, to be run by Judith Renton and Hannah Howe.

In addition to all this, Greer ran our first Holiday Club for several years; Sunday School, Bethany, and the Men's Fellowship flourish; the midweek worship meeting WOW continues its winsome mix of visiting speakers, songs of praise and cake; Sky Chiweshe continues to develop loving ministry to youth and the 20s/30s age group; and we've enjoyed innovative sermon series led by our varied and talented preachers. Two that stand out for this warden were the opportunity for the 9 o'clock team to share their individual Biblical inspiration, and the series on real emotions in which great use was made of the film "Inside Out".

2017 will be a year in which the church needs to grapple with its financial deficit if we want to continue to employ our current excellent staff at their existing hours, and will also be when we launch into a new adventure with God's person for Chilwell.

Penelope Wallace and Clint Redwood

A report from St Barnabas Church, Inham Nook

Strategy

Our strategy since we started at St Barnabas has been to put what energy and time we have into developing community relationships. This was partly because we felt St Barnabas needed this but also to support Jo as she established herself as Children and Families Worker. This strategy continues to be central to the way we are working but we are also giving attention now to consolidating some of the work that has been developing.

Community, Mission and Evangelism

We continue to look for ways to develop strong relationships with the community. Our involvement with the school has continued as people volunteer there in various roles and as we continue to support the Breakfast Club. Sunnyside continue to welcome us and there are more opportunities there than we can take up. They, along with Eskdale and Alderman Pounder, came to our Christmas Tree Festival and there were opportunities to talk about the meaning of Christmas with the children. The Allotment service was a great success – drawing over 70 people from church, allotment and wider community. We are working closely with the new Chilwell Community Group – they have helped run ‘Superkitchen’ and supported us strongly with Messy Church – our two attempts at this last year drew 45 and then 70 people and more are planned for 2017; Jo is very involved with the Community Group. We sustain other community relationships with uniformed organisations and ‘Barneys’ as well as our church user groups and they all came together in a successful Christmas Tree Festival, which included a tea for the elderly. We started a ‘Crib Service’ for the first time – which was very well supported. The key challenge is to involve church members in all this work – which is beginning to happen – as well as developing work already established, like Food Bank and Coffee Club. This is more than enough community engagement for one small church, but we need to find appropriate ways to give people opportunities to explore faith within our relationships.

Worship, Discipleship and Pastoral Care

Worship leadership is strongly supported by the congregation, though we have seen a number of people lay down responsibilities this year, mainly for health reasons – and we need to encourage others to take up these roles. Nevertheless, St Barnabas is blessed by those in the congregation who lead, preach, pray, lead worship in music, organise services and show hospitality.

We continue to see new people come; around 10 children join us now on a regular basis plus 3 or 4 teenagers as well as new adults. Jo wants to consolidate the work with the children particularly to increase the numbers, confidence and skills of her developing team. A number have done C1 Safeguarding and attended a training evening at St Barnabas run by Jo. We have talked to our young people about faith development opportunities in Chilwell, and they are happy with what they have at the moment.

We have been running a fortnightly group for adults – ‘Come Together’. This is well supported for the termly prayer meeting but less well for the Bible study sessions and we are not sure how to encourage this further at the moment. We have also started a weekly prayer meeting, which is not yet well supported.

St Barnabas is a caring community and visiting happens informally. However, as a church we believe that it is important that we develop this and we have been having meetings to explore setting up a lay-led pastoral team and to reinvigorate the lay-led prayer ministry team.

Jubilee and the Future

In 2017, St Barnabas celebrates 60 years of God's faithfulness and call to this estate. We have already had a memorable service on January 22nd – the actual anniversary of the dedication service – where we welcomed back Gordon and Julia McGuinness and other former members of St Barnabas at a very special weekend.

Over the coming months, former ministers and St John's students will be coming to preach, culminating in a Jubilee weekend – June 10th and 11th – where Tim Atkins will be our preacher. The church is working on a History Project with the local community and the school is doing something similar in tandem – both will be

displayed at the weekend. We are having a cheese and wine evening on the Friday and a fun day on the Saturday, culminating in the celebratory service with lunch on the Sunday. Church members have been working hard to make all this happen.

We are taking the opportunity of this special year not just to give thanks for the past but to think and pray towards the 'next 60 years.' We will be following a sermon series which will help us explore our responsibility and calling together to God and this community. As hospitality is so central to this, we are planning an extension and refurbishment of the kitchen. Plans are already underway for the work to be done from September-December 2017. We hope to raise all the money for this if possible from donations and grants so that we don't have to use money from our share of the sale of Church House.

We cannot understate how significant Jo's role has been in taking things forward in mission and ministry. However, Anne and I are acutely conscious of how difficult it is for us to both encourage and enable mission and discipleship on one day a week each plus Sundays – and we have to say that we have been finding this increasingly stressful as the ministry and opportunities have grown over this year; we don't know the answer to this at this moment.

Nevertheless, we believe that, in our own way here on Inham Nook, we are seeing the Bishop's strategy for 'making disciples wider, younger deeper' unfold by the grace of God.

Reverend Nick Ladd & Reverend Anne Ladd

Numbers on the Electoral Roll – March 2016

Christ Church Chilwell	241 (2015: 243)
St Barnabas Inham Nook	42 (2015: 41)
Total	282 (2014: 284)

The mean total weekly attendance across the three Christ Church services has changed very little over the last five years:

	Adults	Children	Total
2012	208	45	253
2013	210	44	254
2014	205	43	248
2015	203	46	249
2016	195	49	243

A report on Diocesan Synod

Christ Church currently has two representatives on Diocesan Synod, which is the equivalent of PCC for the whole diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. These are Colin Slater, who is a Diocesan representative because he is also a member of the General Synod of the Church of England, and Penelope Wallace.

Synod consists of the two bishops (Bishop Paul Williams and Bishop Tony Porter), and representatives of the clergy and lay people in the diocese, elected for a “triennium” of three years (currently 2015-18) by the members of the nine Deanery Synods. It normally meets twice a year.

Diocesan Synod also forms a “pool” of electors for other committees, such as the Bishop’s Council (if the Bishop is the Prime Minister, the Council is like the Cabinet; Colin is also on Bishop’s Council), the Vacancy in See Committee that helps in the selection process for a new bishop (I am on this), and the Diocesan Board of Education which manages church schools. Synod is also the Diocesan Board of

Finance, and its two annual meetings approve (or not) the Diocesan budget and accounts. Synod is an excellent place to appreciate wider issues facing the Church of England, and the variety of work being done by Christians from Wollaton to Worksop.

Diocesan Synod met on 23rd April 2016 at the Minster School, Southwell and on 15th October 2016 at Bluecoat Academy. I was unable to attend the first meeting because of a clash, but I was at the second. The April agenda included approval of the accounts. These are not on the website, but I have a copy if anyone would like to see them. There were also reports from the committees that run the diocese's church schools (Diocesan Board of Education) and the physical care of churches (Diocesan Advisory Committee).

At both Synods, the keynote address was by Bishop Paul on the vision to Grow Disciples Wider, Younger, Deeper – to have in the diocese, by 2023, 7000 new disciples, 1000 younger leaders, 75 new worshipping and missional communities and 25 resource churches. The setting up of a new city church and a younger leadership college in Nottingham, and the planning for another large church in rural areas are all part of this vision. Christ Church is hoping to be one of the resource churches.

Also in October we discussed the Budget, with some hard-hitting points from the floor, approved recent Safeguarding procedures, and heard a presentation about the Younger Leadership College from its dean.

I think it is an exciting time to be part of Southwell and Nottingham diocese, and that both God and the Bishop have big plans for us all.

Penelope Wallace

A report on Deanery Synod

This year we have said goodbye to Rev'd Alan Howe, Fr Colin Rushforth, Rev'd Nicky Fenton and Rev'd Karen Rooms. We have also welcomed two new curates, Rev'd Jonny Hughes and Rev'd Will Foulger.

After thirty-two years on Deanery Synod, Robert Cleave stepped down as lay chair in March. He was succeeded by Sarah Holt from Nottingham St Nic's.

Our Deanery Leadership Team also expanded to include Peter Horne from St George in The Meadows and Rev'd Nick Ladd from Inham Nook. Rev'd Canon Steve Silvester was appointed as interim Area Dean following Karen Rooms' departure.

We held three synods during the year: 24 February, 22 June and 9 November 2016.

In February we visited St Ann with Emmanuel, and considered the question, "Who is God calling us to be in our context of migration?" Bramcote shared their experience of "Listen Hear" a diocesan initiative to help listen to the needs of youth in our churches, and Rev'd Dr Ian Paul shared his recent experiences at General Synod. Karen Rooms reported to Synod on the findings of the Communities of Grace work that each parish had been asked to complete.

In June we visited Christ Church, Chilwell. Sarah Holt was elected as lay chair and Karen Rooms swore in church wardens who had not been able to attend the deanery visitation service. Sarah Holt outlined the diocesan vision to grow disciples, wider, younger and deeper and Synod members shared their hopes and fears around this vision. Rev'd Jo Tatum explained the role of the workplace chaplaincy team and invited Synod to consider how they could work with the team and how churches could engage with workplaces in their parish.

November's Synod began with a market place in St Peter's café featuring; The Children's Society, Transforming Notts Together, Host Nottingham, Safe Families for Children, Our Space@ Christ Church Chilwell, Emmanuel House/Winter Shelter, Jericho Road and Nottingham Street Pastors. The Synod meeting itself took place in St Peter's church and concentrated on the Advent Commitments each parish had, or intended to make, to grow disciples wider, younger and deeper.

Each of our Synods offered the opportunity to speak in groups to build relationships, share good practice and to consider actions to take back to our parishes. The deanery has again paid a large percentage of its parish share

allocation. Every parish is to be thanked for their faithfulness in paying for the ministry received in this deanery.

Judith Renton

Adapted from a report produced by Kirsty Cowley, Deanery Administrator

A report from Christ Church Chilwell

Public Worship

9am service

The 9 o'clock service is the most distinctively Anglican of our services. At least three of our services per month are Holy Communion, with Morning Prayer on the second Sunday in the month. The sung parts of the service are led by a robed choir and organ, mainly using hymns and choruses from Mission Praise, although other sources are often used for the music during the administration of Communion. The vibrant liturgy, using the variations permitted by Common Worship, is important, but the Ministry of the Word with two scripture readings is also much appreciated and we aim at a high standard of preaching.

During the year the Revd. Michael Payne has joined the preaching and leading team, and we welcome the wisdom and experience that he brings.

When the service began during the incumbency of the Revd. Ian Chisholm, an expectation was voiced that the service's attendance would gradually shrink as older members were called home. In fact, numbers have been remarkably steady, and in 2016 may have even shown some growth, with replacements coming from the other services and from outside Christ Church, so much so that of the 13 weeks finishing on Advent 4, on 6 Sundays attendance was over 80.

Average attendance:

Figures for the last six years have been quite steady and may indicate a slight increase in attendance over this period; in particular the average number of communicants has kept up well.

9am Service	Adults	Children	Communicants
2012	66	1	66
2013	66	0.3	65
2014	67	0.4	66
2015	69	0	68
2016	71	0	70

Richard Pratt and team

10.45am service

Our worship at 10:45am continues to cultivate an inclusive, family environment – with the service and ministries focussed on being friendly and accessible to a wide range of people. We have continued to be blessed with many young children playing an active and enthusiastic part in the sung worship by waving flags and playing musical instruments, encouraging the rest of the congregation to praise God.

Although we've said farewell to some key and much loved members in 2016 we have also welcomed a number of new people in to our Church family, which has led to numbers remaining consistent with an average of 78 adults and 49 children attending.

A key part of the 10:45 service is the excellent children's ministry which is led by Greer Jones (Children's and Families Minister) and made possible by teams of wonderful volunteers who both teach and demonstrate God's love to our children on a weekly basis. We have been particularly encouraged by a number of positive comments from visitors about the nature of the input we provide for children.

Alongside the children's work are a number of other ministries that enrich the life of the church and enable our service to run. Our ministry teams are characterised by diversity with an age range that spans from 4 to 85+ all engaged in serving the church family at Christ Church. We would like to say a huge **thanks** to the many, many people who volunteer as part of these teams.

A number of members of the 10:45 service are actively engaged in serving and supporting the vulnerable in Beeston, Nottingham and the surrounding area. These ministries include work with the homeless, vulnerable children and families, those in debt, those with disabilities, the frail and many more. A passion to show Christ's love to all people is a very noticeable flavour of our Church service and we are often encouraged through sermons, prayers and testimonies of the many ways the Lord has used these ministries to bless people and to further the gospel.

Other key areas of ministry which are heavily supported by members of the 10:45 congregation include work with children and schools – which has seen Happy Tots, Holiday Tots and Men Behaving Dadly continue to be successful this year and also seen Messy Church established and become ever more popular in the community.

In this year of transition for the Church, the 10:45 service, like others, has relied heavily on a number of preachers and leaders and we are particularly grateful for their ministries – we have also been encouraged by the opportunity the vacancy has provided for new people to test and develop their gifts in leading and teaching.

As Greer (who fulfils a multitude of roles within the Church) leads the 10:45 team in to a new year we pray that God would continue to use our service for His glory and that he would use the ministries we are involved in to impact on the lives of the community we serve.

Average attendance:

10:45 Service	Adults	Children	Communicants
2012	82	39	80
2013	79	41	81
2014	79	41	83
2015	80	43	85
2016	78	49	94

Ken Lyon and team

7pm service

The 7pm Service is a place where all are welcome, and is informal, relaxed, seeking to meet with God through the Spirit using modern worship, both lively and reflective, and space to pray and share.

Unlike most Anglican evening services, most people who come to the 7pm service do not attend a morning service, except in a serving capacity.

During the school summer holidays, the service became “unplugged”, with a smaller band and no sound or projector. While this was partly due to shortages in musicians and technical roles, and an expectation of lower numbers of people attending, 7pm team were nevertheless excited about how this might offer an opportunity for increased intimacy with God, and one-another. This hope was realised, and the summer services were a great place to draw near to God.

In 2016, the 7pm Service team have continued to meet monthly, and to seek to continue the focus on giving our best in welcome, worship and word.

Following on from the summer, the service team has tried to maintain the increased intimacy while retaining the more lively worship that is usual. Retaining the curved seating arrangement, maintaining the flow through the service, and being sensitive to the Spirit's leading each service are all part of this on-going process.

Numbers at 7pm fluctuate significantly. This year's mean average is 46 adults and one child, which represents a small fall from the mean average for 2015, however the 2015 numbers were skewed by unusually large 7pm services due to Centenary guest preachers and a New-Wine service.

Average attendance:

7pm Service	Adults	Children	Communicants
2012	60	5	62
2013	65	3	58
2014	58	2	53
2015	54	3	55.5
2016	46	1	41

Clint Redwood and team

Worship on Wednesday

The services held at 3pm on the last Wednesday of each month are now an established and important part of the worship pattern of the church. Over 50 people regularly attend these services, and most stay behind after the service to enjoy fellowship over a cake and a cup of tea.

The three kinds of service are quite different in their makeup, but the Songs of Praise service, usually led by Colin Slater remains the most popular.

In 2016 we have had the pleasure of welcoming several ex-members of Christ Church back to speak to us, and Canon Phil Williams, son of our well-remembered vicar, John.

As always we are grateful to those who faithfully provide the tea and cakes after every service.

Keith Stevenson

Grove Court Sheltered Housing Scheme

Since the incumbency of the Revd. Andrew Cullis, a service has been held once a month at Grove Court (on Central Avenue, Chilwell). Christ Church and the local Methodist Circuit have provided leaders for this service. Sadly, in the autumn of 2016 this cooperation has come to an end, the re-organisation of Beeston Methodist Church meaning that no minister is free to participate on a Monday morning when the service is normally held. (We considered altering the time of the service but, after consulting the residents, it was realised that there were obstacles whatever alternative was tried.)

However, the service has continued, and although in 2015 numbers attending had been gradually falling as the original attendees moved into care-homes or died, in 2016 some new residents have joined the participants, and numbers have risen again.

One of the pleasant features of the December service for some years has been that, with the kind permission of their headteacher, a group of pupils from Bramcote Church of England Primary School have led us in carol-singing. Some years this has been a particular class, but in 2016 we were glad to be able to welcome "Bramcote Voice", a choir of pupils particularly interested in singing, and they not only sang for us, but read lessons and composed some prayers.

Richard Pratt and team

Queenswood Methodist Home for the Aged

The involvement of Christ Church with mid-week services at Queenswood MHA (on Cliffgrove Avenue, Chilwell) has continued.

Five or six times a year one of the clergy or Readers takes a service in the Home's chapel (wearing robes at the request of the chaplain), the form of which draws on many aspects of Christian tradition. Typically the attendance will be over 20 residents whose Christian denominational backgrounds are quite widespread.

Latterly there has been a bit of a hiatus due to the retirement of the former chaplain, but it is hoped that now a new chaplain is in post Christ Church's involvement will resume.

Richard Pratt and team

Children and Families Ministry

We have continued to grow in our **Sunday Morning** groups. In September we introduced a new group called Ignite, this is for year 5-6. This past year we have looked at Encounters with Jesus and Christian Foundations. At the end of 2016 we had 60 children on the register ranging between 0-11 years with an average attendance of 49 children each week.

I want to give a massive thank you to those who volunteer in one of these groups on a Sunday morning. I know that much energy, time, and organisation goes into each session. To run these groups each Sunday we need 13 volunteers. We are still in need of 3 volunteers for various groups.

Children's Praise is for children aged 3-11 years in the hall. This is a time where we can all come together to play games, sing, make a craft, and learn more about Jesus. In Children's Praise we are now looking at prayer stations and how we all can meet with God. Although the morning seems to always be busy and rushed, the children leave with smiles on their faces. I want to give a massive thank you to those who help at our Children's Praise mornings. Thanks for sticking with it, even in the middle of craziness!!

This summer we enjoyed six weeks of **all-age services** with breakfast to start each service. We went global as we looked at the church grow and grow and grow. We finished the season of all-age with a commissioning service for children and adults. Each week comprised of having a prayer activity, table talk, activity sheets, songs, and a thought. We are looking forward to having these services again in summer 2017 when we will look at the life of Jesus.

Life on Sunday is only the tip of the iceberg for the children and family ministry at Christ Church.

Groups

The **Happy Tots team** gives so much to the community on a Thursday morning. Statistics show that 52% of young families with children under 5 are involved in a church based toddler group. What an amazing opportunity this is for Christ Church. We are in contact with about 50 families, and this works out with about 43 children and 38 adults attending each week. It is one of the larger outreach activities at Christ Church and is a great stepping stone between the community and the church. This year we had a meal out at the The Vic with some of our helpers and some mums who don't come to church, building deeper friendships and relationships. It was a lovely evening and something we intend to do again. Thank you to the dedicated team of people that help each week, setting up the hall, serving drinks, chatting to mums, dads and carers and then tidying away at the end. If you'd like to find out more please talk with Greer Jones or Dawn Clarke.

From Happy Tots we also have developed, and continue to develop, **Holiday Tots**. We have also started **KidZone**, which is a group meeting during the time of Holiday Tots, and grown out of a need to accommodate the older siblings of those attending. Happy Tots and KidZone events happen on Thursdays during the half-term breaks and for two consecutive days during the summer. We have had hundreds of children's parents/carers come through the doors of Christ Church over the last year because of Holiday Tots. We have a steady flow of parents and children at each event; seeing new faces every time.

We have started a new initiative at Christ Church with **Messy Church**. Messy Church is run throughout the country and bridges the gap between the community and church. It is an afternoon of crafts, fellowship, a Bible message, and food. With the help of George Russell we have created a core group of helpers from minglers to craft organisers to welcomers. Messy Church is held in the hall on the third Saturday of the month from 3-5pm. We want to say a big thank you to all the house groups who have offered to help provide meals! Also to the volunteers who have journeyed with us as we are learning as we go.

Events and getting to know local schools

The **Easter Egg Hunt** was held in April. There were roughly 70 children attending and it was a great success!! Thank you to all the volunteers who have made this such a great success! We also held the annual **Christmas Craft** and it was a great afternoon of crafts, Christmas festivities and looking at the M&M. We had 40 children attend plus parents/carers. We combined forces this year with Messy Church and Christmas Craft and had a slightly different set up.

I continue working with **Meadow Lane School** by going in and listening to readers each Wednesday. This has been fun and such a great link to being known by the school, both teachers and students. I have started, very slowly, building links with College House Primary School as well. I have also joined the NG9 school prayer group which meets to pray for the schools of Chilwell roughly every 6 weeks. Anyone is welcome to join the prayer group and welcome to bring younger children along too.

This summer we had **Holiday club** held during the first full week of the school holidays. We worked with St. Mary's Attenborough and St. Barnabas Inham Nook. It was a week full of energy, games, crafts, and cruising the five C's. At the end of the week on the Friday we had a lunch open to the families of the holiday club. It was a great opportunity to open our doors to the community and have fun. We will be holding another Holiday club from July 31st-Aug 4th 2017. We will be looking for volunteers again, last year we had an international volunteer join us!

Christmas Craft started the many other Christmas activities held at Christ Church. There were Christmas parties in the Sunday groups and at Happy Tots, and we had the **Christingle service** on Christmas Eve. There were 101 children and 167 adults, at the service. It was a full night of singing and learning about the Christingle. We also had an all-age celebration on Christmas day with roughly 200 children and adults attending. Together with Sky, we led a wonderful Christmas morning service. Thank you to the musicians for playing at both these services and giving up time during the holidays!!

Summary

As we reflect on what God has done this past year, I want to give thanks to everyone who has taken part in the life of Children and Families Ministry at Christ Church. We couldn't have done it without you!! It has been a wonderful year, rich of new challenges and exciting beginnings. I am looking forward to the year ahead and know the changes, the challenges, and the journey will be full. Join me in praying for these new adventures and what this year holds!

Don't let anyone think little of you because you are young. Be their ideal; let them follow the way you teach and live; be a pattern for them in your love, your faith, and your clean thoughts. 1 Tim 4:12

Greer Jones

Dads & Tots

Dads & Tots has been happening once a month, on the second Saturday of each month, from the spring board of Happy and Holiday Tots. We have a variety of men who join us each month including granddads and dads from both inside and outside the church with their young children. Everyone enjoys the bacon butties, free play, story, and craft. It is great fun and we feel privileged to be a part of this ministry in Christ Church as we get to know dads and spend time with each other and see them loving their children. Some weeks we've had more men from outside the church coming along than are from Christ Church itself, which is wonderful. We sometimes go out for curry too! If you are interested in how you can help or for more information please speak to Greer, Simon Britton, David Hobbs or Chris Onions.

David Hobbs & Greer Jones

Young People's Groups

Where has the year gone? It feels like just the other month I was writing my annual report for 2015. I guess it's true that time goes by quickly when you are having fun. As I look back at the last year I am filled with Joy at what God has been doing in our youth ministry.

Youth leaders team

In my vision statement at last years AGM, I mentioned aiming to grow our Youth Team by 10 new leaders. I am pleased to announce that we have welcomed 6 amazing youth leaders for pathfinders on a Thursday evening.

Please join me in welcoming, Andrew Wallace, Matt Howe, Janis Patterson, Gill Benson, Helen Crandley & Beth Hampshire (Young leader).

A big shout also goes out to our dedicated and on-going team of leaders both at Inspire and pathfinders. Lea Hills, Tim Hills, Jo Benson & Hannah Wood.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself, the young people, parents and the church to thank this amazing team for all their time and hard work. We couldn't do or be where we are in our youth ministry without you.

Pathfinders

We have had another good year with the Pathfinders. It has been a pleasure to continue to welcome high numbers and be able to witness them grow in maturity and faith.

After Easter we began Alpha on **Sunday mornings** and we had a blast. The response post Alpha from young people and parents was really great. The young people have seemed more excited about their faith, they want to go deeper in their teaching and serve more to the wider church.

In October we had a wonderful opportunity to lead the 10:45 service, this was great fun and we look forward to doing it again.

Please continue to pray for us as we explore how to be a Christian in a much circular world.

The Pathfinders **Thursday evening** session reminds me everyday to just enjoy life. The group is extremely vibrant and very keen to meet together to play games, eat, explore challenging topics and learn together new life skills for their personal development. Over the last year it has been a real pleasure to see the group become closer to one another, through their encouragement and support of

each other. When given the choice they would much rather play games as a whole group, rather than breaking off into smaller cliques. This has been amazing to witness and share in as we've spent time together.

Unfortunately, over the last year we've seen the number of girls attending Thursday evenings decrease. The group is very boisterous and male dominated and so has highlighted a key area of ministry we need to develop; our girls ministry. This will be a key focus for the year ahead and something we are keen to focus on within the youth ministry. We are developing what this girls ministry could look like with help from some female leaders and the girls within the older group Inspire.

Some more positive reflections...we had our annual residential to **The Oakes** in Sheffield in October, taking 15 boys and girls for the weekend. It was fantastic and really helped us bond as a group whilst helping me build more purposeful relationships with the young people. We also had a number of social outings to places like; bowling, mini golf, all you can eat restaurants, night walk in the nature reserve and a sleepover (which ended up not involving much sleep.... I'm still considering whether this should be an annual event HAHA!)

Inspire

This last year has seen the departure of some members of Inspire to University and the Worship team, which has left us with lower numbers on a Sunday evening before the service. Those still around continue to meet and eat pizza, play pool, play board games and take the time to catch up with one another.

Over the summer we felt God saying **youth café** should move from a Friday to a Sunday, with the view to reach friends of those already coming and those who wouldn't normally attend church. This would then hopefully encourage and enable them to stay on for the 7pm service when they felt comfortable and ready to. We look forward to seeing what effect this change will have after the summer.

We continue to meet on **Wednesday evenings** for our house group and would just like to thank The Hills for their continued hospitality. Over the year we have looked

at many different topics including busyness and stress and are currently looking at Christian behaviours and values.

As we've grown closer as a group, individuals have grown in their confidence which has meant the discussions have been able to go deeper as young people have been willing to share more openly within the group. Please pray for us in the next few months as we look at the themes surrounding sexuality and dating.

After each series of topic we like to do something together socially as a group, this is both indoor activities or trips out. Once a month we continue to have hello youth with the other churches we work closely with.

In the summer we went on our annual trip to **soul survivor** which was amazing. The young people seemed to really meet with God during their time away and I believe they left challenged to apply the teaching they had received into their everyday lives. I particularly left feeling very excited and encouraged about what God wanted to do with our young people. Please continue to pray for these young people as they face challenges and troubles in their every day lives.

Students (18-30)

For some time now I've felt God really challenge me about how we best serve our **students** and those in and around that age group. During our annual trip to **Momentum** with some of uni students who were home for summer and others in a similar age bracket, I really felt God say that we need to be doing more with this age group. Therefore, we are now registered with **Student Link** Up so that students can easily find our church, contact me directly and feel welcomed into the Christ Church family.

In faith, myself and Andrew Wallace have begun to meet in the **lounge after the 7pm service** each week, with the prayer that if any students do come, they can join us for a hot drink, a game and a chat.

Tuesday evenings, myself and Charlotte continue to meet with young adults in this age group at my house '**Collective**'. We have been exploring different topics to help them engage with their faith and discover a personal relationship with God

and have just started 'Alpha' with them. Please be praying for us all as we journey through Alpha, to help one another engage in the deep questions of life, and to continue to support and care for one another.

On Thursday afternoons I have started meeting with a group from **Central College** during their lunch time in our church lounge. At the moment we are using the time to socialise and build relationships, using the space we have as their 'common room' with the hope that I will be able to come alongside some of those willing to explore who God is and why he is relevant to them.

Events

This year we brought back '**Christ Church has got Talent**' after popular demand, Hosted by Michael Shenton (Inspire)! We had a great evening with many different acts from across all three services including some people from outside the church. Thank you to everyone that supported the event, all the money raised was donated to 'SAFE FAMILIES' charity. Get excited because it will be happening again this coming year and we look forward to showcasing many more of your hidden talents.

We had our first joint **youth Christmas party** with both Pathfinders and Inspire which was a wonderful evening with food, entertainment and a little bit of dancing. Thankyou to everyone who helped make this event special, we look forward to the next one.

Personal Reflection

For me personally It has been a challenging and exciting year. In the summer I began to give my Friday mornings to work alongside Liam O'Boyle **at Notts County as a youth team chaplain**. I am really enjoying my time, though sometimes it can be tough and tiring, so please pray for me as I continue to build relationships at the club.

Once a fortnight I have been offering some of my time to help develop a **local missional communities youth ministry** which is proving to be a positive way to help

with my personal development and allowing me to give some time and resource into the local community.

I've had the real joy of being entrusted with **leading and preaching** more at Christ Church, particularly at the 7pm service. At this time, I'd like to thank the wardens for their continued love, support, prayers and encouragement and for trusting me. I am being more deeply challenged and being able to explore my abilities given to me by God which I am really grateful for. I will be the new vicar if you're not careful.....

Thank you all for your love and congratulations for myself and Charlotte on our **engagement**. We are both very excited to be getting married this year. Please keep us in your prayers during this time of preparation.

God is love

Emmanuel (**SKY**) Chiweshe

Adult Groups, Pastoral Work and Prayer

Small Groups

Christ Church continues to have twenty or so small groups that meet according to various patterns. Some groups number just four or five and meet monthly and others number 12-15 and meet on a regular basis most weeks. We have no firm single structure but from time to time offer shared study material and meetings for leaders. It is part of the vision of the church that as many people as possible are part of a small group and that these groups are the main way in which pastoral care is delivered as groups look after and care for their members. The role of pastoral care is increasingly important with the departure of the pastoral minister. The group leaders and hosts do a great job and they are a vital part of the life of the church. We continue to try new things and are open to new patterns of meeting together, and we welcome all suggestions. Kathryn Britton continues to help with small group administration and we welcome Graham Shenton who is helping co-ordinate and develop the small groups. In 2017 Graham is hoping to

complete a visiting program of the groups helping them look at 'What do you expect from house group? What do think a house group should be like?' We would also like to organise a small group leaders meeting.

Kathryn Britton and Graham Shenton

Men's Fellowship

Men's fellowship is a group meeting on the first Wednesday of the month in the Church Hall lounge, all men welcome. During the past year we have several interesting speakers some from within the group some from elsewhere, also a visit to The Framework Museum at Ruddington.

As we enter 2017 we have a program of speakers available on the church website also two group visits, one to NET control centre another to The Malt Cross Caves in Nottingham. Our Chairman is now Tony Smith with Clive Marjoram as Treasurer.

Tony Smith

Bethany Ladies

The Bethany Ladies continue to meet on the second Wednesday morning of each month, with a variety of speakers and activities as well as an annual outing in May, a Thanksgiving Service and Strawberry Tea in July and a Communion Service and Lunch in January. The Communion Service we have shared with the Men's Fellowship for the last few years and it has been good to join together for this occasion. Bethany Ladies support each other pastorally and this is made easier by the Bethany Small Groups who also meet monthly. We will miss the leadership and commitment of Fran Beedell and are thankful for all she has done over the years. We now have a team of members taking care of the administration as well as the running of our monthly meetings. We always welcome new members. Please contact Judy Southwell for information.

Dianna Ross

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care covers all the ongoing care of our congregations, such as bereavement ministry, visiting (informally and by a group of dedicated visitors who go to the nursing homes and hospitals, and offer communion), prayer ministry, mentoring, welcoming and much else besides. Fran Beedell co-ordinated these areas, informing other carers and the staff team of needs and how they could help. Since her retirement these responsibilities have been devolved amongst a number of people. If you are aware of any needs around the parish, including home communions, bereavement or church members being in hospital please contact the church office. The information will then be passed onto the relevant person who can then arrange a visit or further contact.

Gill Benson

Prayer Groups

Prayer was a fundamental part of our church life in 2016 and continues to be so. The main church prayer meeting is on Friday mornings in the Upper Room, but there are other groups happening at other times. A prayer group meets one evening a month at the home of Helen Hobbs. Another prayer group for persecuted Christians meets on the fourth Monday of each month and is growing! A group committed to pray specifically for revival meets every Monday evening. There is prayer for local schools once every half term on a Friday morning, and a group meets once a month to pray for the work of Christians Against Poverty. Various members of Christ Church belong to an interdenominational prayer group known as PRACT (Prayer for Churches Together) which prays for local issues and meets bi-monthly. Several members of our fellowship belong to Healing on the Streets which offers prayer each Saturday in Beeston and of course, very importantly, prayer ministry is offered at each of our three Sunday services.

Chris Roseblade

Bereavement Group

The bereavement group continued to meet every month for a coffee morning or tea afternoon in the lounge at Christ Church. Usually between 15 and 20 folks attend. We also enjoyed two cheese and wine parties during the year. In October we held a special memorial service to remember all our family and friends no longer with us. We have a small team of dedicated helpers without whom the group could not function.

Janis Patterson

Mission and Evangelism

Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre 2016

General: We have now been going for two and a half years and this year has seen a much more consistent number of clients going into the CAP system.

Around 90 people as couples or individuals have contacted CAP in 'Nottingham South West' to see about an appointment and to seek help with their debts.

Clients: Nearly all clients come to us through referrals from local partner organisations both Christian and secular. Our closest partners are Framework, Grace Church, Hope Together and Targetted Support.

Those who contact us vary tremendously in terms of their circumstances but all share a common crisis with excessive debt. There are now a number of people completely debt free, a growing number in the system paying off their debt over time and a steady stream of new enquirers.

Volunteers: Around 30 different members of our church have helped with volunteering whether it was going on visits, doing Christmas Hampers or providing other practical support. Without this help the whole project is impossible.

Christmas hampers: This year we distributed, with great delight, 26 hampers created by the generosity of church members. One memorable story was of a church member arriving on the doorstep of a client. When the client realised what

was happening she burst into tears and so did our church member. Receiving and giving the love of God is powerful.

Prayer: We have formed a monthly prayer group which is led by a church member. A further six members are involved. This is definitely the engine of all our endeavours as without the Lord we can do nothing. The prayer group continues to be significant in our work.

Funding: The church has received the third tranche of support from the diocese in September amounting to £10,000.

Training and CAP Head Office support: I have been on various training sessions with CAP and this has helped to significantly increase my knowledge and experience. This included the 20th anniversary celebration of the CAP organisation held at Harrogate.

Ongoing support and partnership from CAP Head Office has been excellent and I am pleased to report our centre has successfully passed all regular reviews! In the early autumn Penny Wallace and I met with the CAP regional manager.

Job Club: The PCC have agreed in principle to launch a Job Club and thereby further develop our reach into the community. We are still seeking a volunteer leader.

Finally: Grateful thanks go to many church members, the PCC and the Diocese for their crucial support.

George Russell

Choir Outreach

Back in 2013 the choir initiated a new form of outreach, by visiting nursing and residential homes, with the aim of building relationships with the residents and staff. This has continued, with visits to Greenwood Court, Sandby Court and Falcon House in the last few months. They go out in the evening usually and start with songs from musicals. After a break with their very own stand-up comedian they

give out copies of Mission Praise and encourage people to choose hymns and sing along.

Richard Pratt

Mission Committee

Christ Church supports a number of missionaries, who are sent out from our church family, in prayer and financially, through the Mission Committee.

Mark and Emma Handley have two children, Ruth and Callum, and live in London where they work for OM UK. Mark leads and seeks to develop the outreach ministries and pastoral care of the team in London. Emma is connecting with the community where they live.

C and K work in E. Asia. They are members of an organisation that supports welfare, health and education projects in this area. They run an English training centre for students aged 14-20 who would otherwise not get education/qualifications. Their vision is to train more staff and set up more centres in places of need. In addition, K leads training courses in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) for teachers and trainers working with small community schools across Asia. She is also writing ESL curriculum for a US publisher to be used in these schools. They are based in Asia, but make two or three trips to the UK each year to visit their three children who are all in UK universities.

Brian and Val Hodgkin have 4 grown up children, work for Wycliffe Bible Translators and are based in Beeston. Brian and Val have continued in their job leading the team of SIL members, who support Bible Translation over a large area of West Asia. Their time is mostly spent at the computer, writing reports, attending internet meetings and conversations, interspersed with team visits and face to face meetings.

The committee organised a small global gifts sale in November which raised £618 which has been distributed to our missionaries as a gift.

Mary Stanley

Outward Giving

In 2016 the PCC agreed that we would continue to regularly support: Nepal Leprosy Trust, Mike and Bob Assemblies, Nottingham Youth for Christ, Canaan Trust, Hope Nottingham, Age Concern Chilwell, Acacia Partnerships Trust and Springs Nottingham. During the year we arranged a month to focus on each of the groups and families/individuals we support. In addition we had slots in our services for updates given by the groups themselves or their lead contact at Christ Church. In 2017 we hope to continue this support to both to the current groups and individuals/families. In spring 2018 the Outward Giving Group will be re-formed by the PCC and members of the church will be invited to nominate which groups they would like us to support. Giving to individuals/families will also be considered at this point.

Anne Willmot

Kingdom Growth Fund Report

In December 2013 the PCC agreed to the sale of the house at 29 Farm Road. This was originally bought for curate's accommodation; the Diocese now covers accommodation needs directly for curates in training, so the property was no longer required. The PCC agreed that the net proceeds of sale should be used for "work to grow the kingdom" and a *designated fund* was set up to control the use of the money. Various PCC decisions were made for use of the money in 2016, and these are summarised below:-

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. allocation for Youth Worker extra hours: | £22,000 |
| 2. allocation to provide funds for the future incumbent's initiatives; | £30,000 |
| 3. refurbishment of Church Lounge: | £10,000 |

Gary Stephenson

Inclusion Group

This year we have had a day conference discussing Church and Sexuality provided by an outside speaker from the Baptist Union which was well attended

and gave people a chance to think through the issues from a Biblical point of view.

For church services where children or adults with additional needs might visit, a box has been provided with sensory toys and suggestions on how to use them, so carers and children can have a more enjoyable time with us. Sunday School helpers have had training in storytelling and interactive prayer to help all children engage more.

A new group has just started in church called Our Space, for families with special needs to meet together and play together.

This group is looking for new members to be involved in making the church as easy as possible to come to and belong with, particularly from the 9.00 am service. If you are interested in helping with ideas or advice please contact one of the wardens or Judith Renton.

Judith Renton

Our Space

A new group has just started in church called Our Space, which meets on the first Saturday of the month. This group is for families who care for a child or children with additional needs, and offers a safe place with toys, crafts and sensory activities, a sensory room with lights and music and a space for parents and carers to meet, chat and share joys and problems together. A brilliant team of volunteers are there to help and support, their t-shirts have the strap line "Ready to play, ready to play" which sums up their motivation. The team are mostly from Christ Church, but some are from a couple of local C of E Churches. One of the parents told us that she was so pleased the group has started as there is no other group like this to come to and she felt there was a need for it. We would love any other volunteers, chair movers or cake makers to help us – please chat with Hannah Howe or Judith Renton.

Judith Renton

Property and Facilities

Fabric Team

2016 was a busy year for the fabric team, dealing with the everyday issues around the buildings. This included replacing light fittings with LED fittings which will reduce the energy consumption and provide us with a maintenance free environment for many years. The main electric fuse board in church was replaced giving us the scope to increase our electrical systems and bring them up to current specification. This was done on the recommendation of the electrical survey which we had done the previous year.

Church Hall Lounge

Over the summer period we refurbished the church hall lounge. This was part of a larger project with more work to be done on the church hall later this year. We decided that we would completely strip out the lounge replacing the old carpet, repaint the walls, ceiling and replace the old furniture. Once we had started we then found that the toilet floor was rotten so we replaced the floor and then put in a new modern WC and hand basin. Also the radiators in the lounge had been leaking for some time so we replaced these at the same time. This room is now used most days with several external groups using it for regular meetings such as Central College who meet with Sky once a week.

Simon Rostron