

Christ Church Chilwell Annual Review 2018



The Independent Examiner's report will be issued separately

**Parochial Church Council for the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chilwell
*Registered Charity Number 1134214***

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Overview of 2018

View from the Vicar

What an incredible year it has been. I can scarcely believe a year has passed since we launched our renewed vision for Christ Church. In the reports below, we catch a glimpse of the kind of progress that has been made this year and of which I'm absolutely delighted!

There are so many people who strive to see Christ's church be the blessing it can be in our neighbourhoods and to the world. Randy Frazee, in a book called *The Connecting Church*, wrote: "The mission of the church cannot be accomplished apart from Christian community." We, at Christ Church, seek to live as a "Spirit-filled family". This is the bond that not only enables Christ's mission in and through us to be accomplished, but it is also that which releases us to grow more and more in Christ's likeness as we "stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

I will unpack my own reflections on the year and our successes at the Church's APCM. But for now, I would just like to offer my deep gratitude to all those who have stood up and stepped up in serving, leading and witnessing to Jesus, whether it be from the pulpit, inviting someone to a church event/service (whether the response was attendance or not!) or wiping up spills of coffee off the floor at the back of church — thank you!

Special thanks must, however, go to Clint Redwood and Stephen Scott. In all that has taken place and in all the planning for that which is coming, they have been a source of friendship and wise counsel to me and a solid footing for us as a church as we "press on toward the goal to win the prize" (Philippians 3:14).

Electoral Roll (March 2018)

The figures on the electoral roll for 2018 are:

Christ Church Chilwell	265	(2017: 252)
St Barnabas Inham Nook	51	(2017: 51)

Total 316 (2017: 303)

The number of members on the Electoral Roll remained almost constant over the last five years, with small increases in 2017 and 2018, as is summarised in the figures below.

Year	Christ Church	St Barnabas	Parish
2014	239	43	282
2015	243	41	284
2016	241	42	283
2017	252	51	303
2018	265	51	316

The Electoral Roll has to be completely revised in 2019 and can be expected to fall as a natural consequence of the revision.

Staff and Recruitment

We were delighted to welcome new members of staff and their families to join our church family during the year. Mike Forsyth and his family joined us in the summer for Mike to serve his curacy at Christ Church and we are hosting Emily McDonald as our Ministry Intern who is on the Diocesan Younger Leadership Programme – a key part of the diocesan vision to equip, resource and commission 1000 young leaders aged 15-30 by 2023. We also recruited Katrina Thomas as our Associate Minister with a special responsibility to lead our ministry with children, families and young people. She and her family moved to the parish ready to take up this new role in January 2019.

Services

Christ Church has three services each Sunday, each with its own character, style, and a great extent, its own congregation.

With a “Usual Sunday Attendance” of 192 adults and 39 children, Christ Church remains one of the larger churches in the deanery and the diocese.

9am service

A group of us who feature regularly on the rota for leading the first part of this service, or preaching, or presiding over the Communion part of the service (for which only those ordained as priests are eligible) meet together four times a year for business and fellowship. We review our own and others’ reactions to recent series of sermons and, for this reason, welcome the opinions of those who worship at this service. These are fed in, discussed and noted.

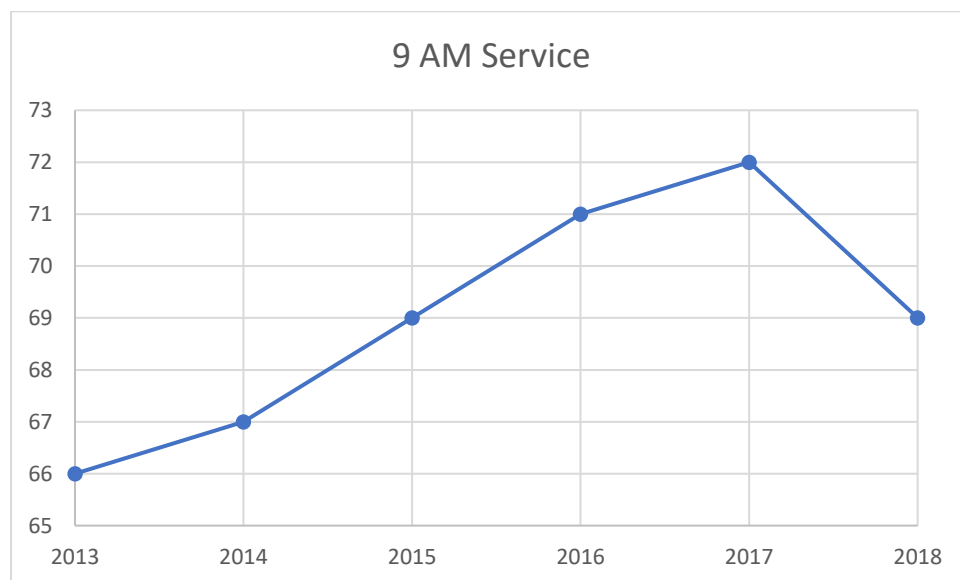
We also consider the themes of future series of sermons, either for the immediate future or for use in the longer term. If you would be particularly helped by the teaching on a particular theme or from a part of Scripture, please speak to any member of the 9 a.m. team.

Those present at these meetings have been depleted by one member following Richard Pratt’s decision to step aside as an active Reader, with our thanks for many years of faithful service and our pleasure that he is still closely involved by preparing our rotas.

We continue to be grateful to our organist, choir and to all lay people who read Lessons or lead Intercessions.

We have been delighted that the congregation has been augmented in the past year by several new members and look forward to getting to know them better as they settle in with us.

Colin Slater



10:45am Service

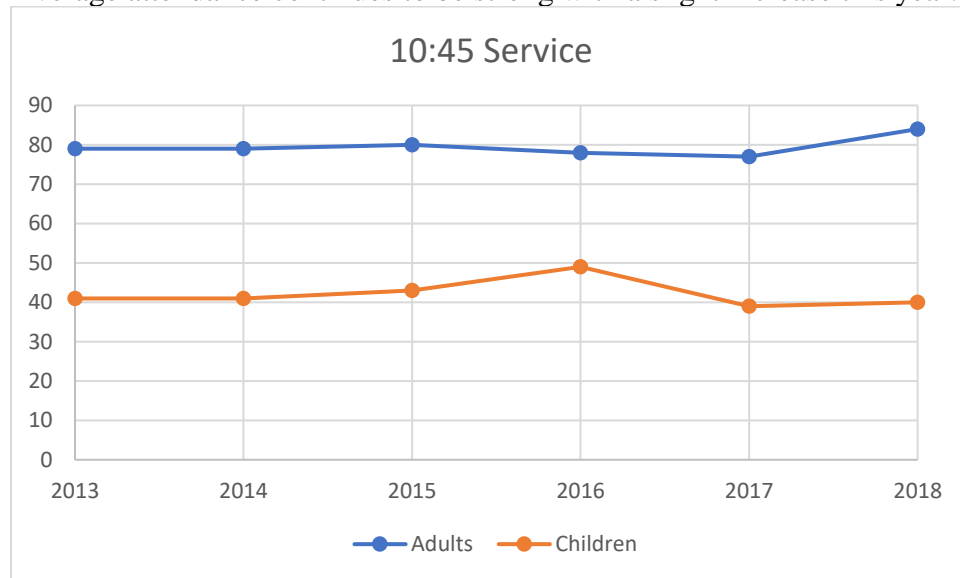
Our worship at 10:45am continues to cultivate an inclusive, family environment – with the service and ministries focused on being friendly and accessible to a wide range of people. We have continued to be blessed with many young children playing an active and enthusiastic part in the sung worship by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

On second Sundays, communion is celebrated, sometimes with the children having returned from their groups.

Third Sundays are given over to All Age Worship, with a specific team who organise this. Baptisms are a feature of the all age worship service when required. Some are church families and others have no or little church experience and the team has compiled a list of worship songs for families, if they so wish, to choose from and enable them to make a contribution to the service.

During August the worship takes on a café style, with breakfast being offered from the start and creative crafts and puzzles on offer.

Average attendance continues to be strong with a slight increase this year.



7pm Service

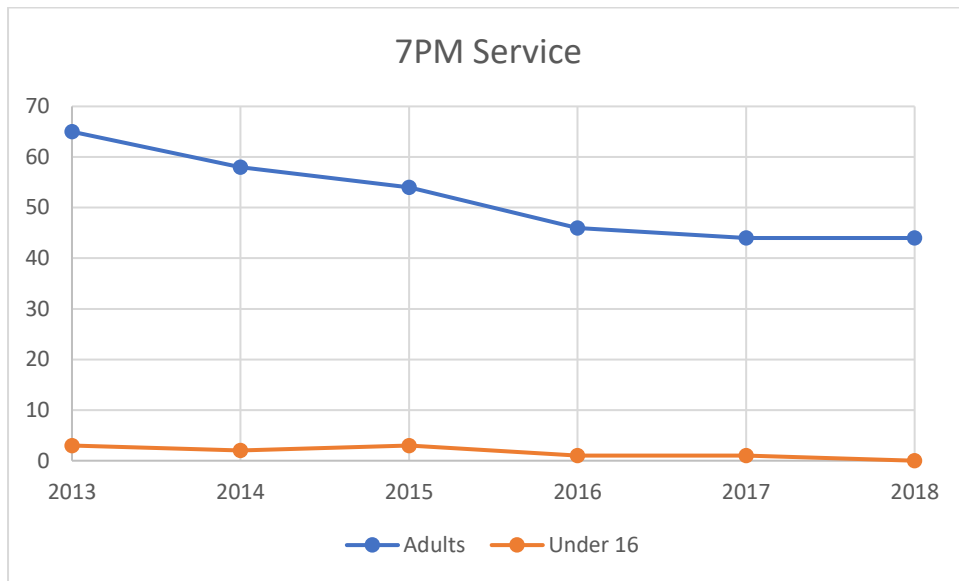
The 7pm Service is a place where all are welcome, and is informal, relaxed, seeking to meet with God through the Spirit using modern worship, both lively and reflective, and space to pray and share.

Third Sundays were given over to “Engage at 7” which provides a space for speakers to tackle issues facing the church in contemporary society. The form of these evenings is talk from a guest speaker, followed by space for groups discussion and finally a question and response time. This has brought in a number of new and different people, and number fluctuate depending on the topic under discussion. (This is not classed as a service but an event.)

During 2018, a new pattern, building on the Engage weeks was introduced:

- 1st Sunday – Connect – building our relationships with God and one-another.
- 2nd Sunday – Worship – longer sung contemporary worship with word and ministry.
- 3rd Sunday – Engage – guest speaker, discussion and question/response.
- 4th Sunday – Celebrate – contemporary sung worship with word and sacrament
- 5th Sundays – Special – something different, such as supper, or a Taizé style service.

Numbers at 7pm still fluctuate significantly, but the seemingly steady decline has halted and this year.



Worship on Wednesday

The Worship on Wednesday services continue to be an important part of the worship pattern of the church.

Frank Robinson who was one of the original planning team members has felt it necessary to step down, and we shall miss his input, and take this opportunity to thank him for 7 years of commitment.

It is encouraging to see that the attendances at these services has remained high and we are still attracting people from a variety of church background (and some from none) who have made this service a regular part of their lives,

As always, we are grateful to those who faithfully provide the tea and cakes. Which is an integral part of each service.

The average attendance was 56 for 2018.

Prayer

Prayer for the Persecuted Church

We have met on the fourth Monday of each month (except for December!) to pray for those who share our faith, but not our freedom. Our numbers grew throughout 2018 as more people have joined us from Christ Church and other churches in the area. We use the excellent DVD produced by Open Doors and other resources from Barnabas Fund and elsewhere. As well as prayer, we have also been encouraged to write to Christians suffering persecution in many parts of the world. North Korea continues to be the most dangerous place to be a Christian followed by Afghanistan and Somalia.

A number of us went to a Standing Strong day run by Open Doors in Birmingham last November and also very recently to another Open Doors event hosted by Vineyard Church. Speakers from various countries, who had in many cases suffered persecution themselves, spoke of terrible suffering, but tremendous faith and many projects started by Open Doors which are changing the lives of many believers in remarkable ways.

Prayer makes a real difference - we wouldn't continue to meet if we hadn't seen this to be the case!

Chris Roseblade and Adeline Robinson

Friday Prayer Group

Prayer changes things! We meet on Friday mornings from 9.15 to 10 am. We are an intercessory group privileged to bring others in prayer before the Lord. Usually one member of the group will share some thoughts and a Bible reading to begin. We then pray using the prayer book at the back of Church and we update this for the following Sunday. We also have a small book in which we include prayer for those who prefer not to be prayed for in Church. These items are treated as confidential. We also pray for the services for the coming Sunday and for other events which may be happening currently in the Church. We also pray for other items in the news and world events. It is open to everyone and although numbers are increasing, we would love there to be more.

Prayer for Schools

Christ Church hosted the NG9 Schools Prayer event which was held every half term to pray for schools in the NG9 area, with attendees from a variety of churches. As well as praying for God's blessing on the children and staff, cakes were donated to the one or two schools on a rotation basis; to show appreciation to the staff for all that they do and let them know they had been prayed for. The cakes were always well received and helped to build relationships with the schools in our area. These prayer meetings are open to anyone, not just parents. Please see Clare Portwood for more details.

Home Groups

Praise the Lord home groups have been growing with a number of requests from people wanting to join a home group being steady at 2 per month. Most of the home groups are on Mondays and Tuesday with only 1 group meeting on a Wednesday evening which has meant we have not been able to everyone's needs because they have not been able to make those nights. The number of home groups have dropped from 14 to 13, but most of that group joined another home group. There is now only 1 group now able to take new members. There are now approx. 163 people involved in our home groups (please note that there may be some people who are in both a home group and attend a Bethany Group).

There are also 3 Bethany groups for ladies that meet during the daytime, and a group called "Refresh".

Andy and I have discussed home groups on several occasions off the back of conversations with many of you, and we recognise that we are at a time where home groups need particular investment. Several leaders have requested further training and some groups have reached a critical size where planting a new home group would be the right next step.

I would like to thank all the home group leaders for their time and efforts doing such a great job for not only our Lord, but Christ Church Chilwell.

Graham Shenton

Men's Fellowship

Men's fellowship is a group meeting at 10.00am on the first Wednesday of the month in the Church Lounge, all men welcome.

During the past year we have had several interesting speakers, some from within our own group some from elsewhere, also two visits one to Rolls Royce at Derby and the other to St. Martin's Church at Bilborough.

We have a program of speakers available on the Church website.

Two group visits planned for 2019: St. Barnabas Cathedral in Nottingham, and The William Booth Museum.

Our Chairman is Tony Smith with Clive Marjoram as Treasurer.

Children's Work

At Christ Church, we hope that we will help every child to grow in relationship with Jesus and to have good friends of all ages. We continue to build on the good work done by Greer, and towards the end of the church year, the PCC appointed an Associate Minister (Katrina Thomas) with lead oversight for Children, Youth and Families who began in January 2019. Over the last year our children's and Families ministry continued to grow:

Sunday

Our Sunday morning groups consist on average 40 to 50 plus children each week from ages 0-11. Groups run every week apart from the 3rd Sunday (which is an All-Age service) and main festivals. Sundays have lots of fun games, engaging Bible stories, activities, interactive prayer, crafts, music, film clips, time for thinking and questioning and snacks... the list goes on! We have built a strong base of volunteers for our groups; Little Sparks, Sparklers, Glow, Fire Crackers, and Ignite... but as our groups continue to grow our need for volunteers also grows. Thank you to all our valued volunteers, adults and young adults, who help on a Sunday morning in our children's groups.

Events

The annual Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas Crafts were popular outreach events. Each had crafts, interactive story zones and hot drinks and of course cakes. Both events were very popular with many families coming from our local community, an average of around 70 to 80 children plus parents. At Christmas Crafts we were able to give each child a beautifully produced book telling the Christmas Story. A massive thank-you to the team who make these events happen.

Pre-School

Happy Tots is a parent and toddler group that runs on a Thursday morning in our church hall. It averages over 100 children and carers each week and is an important way in which Christ Church engages with our community.

Over the past year we have felt strongly that God was telling us to be more intentional in sharing our Christian faith. We have held little services in the church at Christmas and Easter time where the children and their carers listened to the stories of Christmas and Easter and sang some carols and Easter songs. We have also introduced a story in singing time, and on alternate weeks it is a Bible story with the message of how much Jesus loves us all. In late 2018, we started planning a parenting course called Wonderfully Made, now being run in 2019; this course bridges the gap by supporting mums with practical help and advice through the early years, while also sharing something of the Christian faith.

Holiday Tots has developed out of Happy Tots, and the sessions were during some Thursdays in the school holidays. Again, a massive thank-you to those who give up their time to help with this. To find out more please chat to Dawn Clarke.

Youth Work

Our ministries to youth and young people have been ably led by a myriad of individuals who have done brilliantly in the gap between Sky's departure (January 2018) and Katrina's arrival (January 2019). Particular thanks, in no particular order, must be given to Lea Hills, Paul Tognarelli, Jo Benson, Andy Wallace, Mike Forsyth and Dave Wooldridge — though there are several others also strongly involved in providing a fun, yet safe and stable environment for young people in and around our communities to gather, explore matters of faith and grow in faith.

This year, there has been significant effort made to bring greater administrative and operational structure to some of the groups and, in due course, there will be some visioning of the way we move forward together to grow this vital ministry.

Pathfinders

The dynamics of Thursday evening changed in September due to the growth and age range being lowered. We were pleased that several of the year 10 lads did move up to the inspire group led by Mike. It has been encouraging to see many young people coming along engaging with games and being challenged by thought provoking talks. We are possibly the main link into church for a number of the young people, as leaders we desire to lead the young people to know the God who made the universe and died for them. On behalf of the other helpers please pray for us as we continue serve and minister Gods love and his message. On average we do have 12 youngsters coming along on Thursday evening. God willing, we would like to continue to journey with the pathfinders and be inspired to enthuse and engage in leading them to a living faith for themselves.

Inspire

The older Inspire small group continued to meet weekly at the Hills' house for discussion, prayer, games and food until the summer holidays. We then said goodbye to 3 yr13s as they left for Uni/ work. This meant that the group was no longer viable as the remaining 3 people did not want to join with the younger group.

The younger Inspire group, which had been meeting fortnightly, started meeting weekly from September lead by Mike Forsyth. The group consists of 8 boys from years 9 – 11 but would welcome any girls. They mostly met in a house group format but with considerably more food and have also had some socials like bowling and a scavenger hunt.

Although youth attendance has been very low in the congregation of Sunday services, 2 of our youth play regularly in one of the evening service bands, 2 help in children's groups and a further 2 are committed to helping at Our Space.

Pastoral Oversight Team

In September a group of people, who have a heart for pastoral care, met with Andy to discuss how pastoral care can be done at Christ Church. From that meeting a smaller group was formed who will form the Pastoral Oversight Team (POT).

Our aim is simply to offer some greater coordination to the pastoral support and care for our church family as well as people in our parish.

Fran Beedell did this for many years and has reflected with us on the need for pastoral care to be facilitated by the combined efforts of a team. This team, POT, can be contacted in person, by email or through the office (see the poster at the back of church to see who you can make contact with). Once aware of the need, we will want to explore with you/the person in need how we can best be of service and blessing. We will receive the requests for visiting those who are ill, bereaved, lonely or in some other particular need.

We are initially just starting with a visiting team and a meal providing team, but in time we hope to have other teams, for example transport and companionship to hospital appointments or church services, gardening team and babysitting team. Home communion is something that has always been available, but we hope we will be able to offer that to more people.

Mission Support Group

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

The Group has met during the year, interviewed prospective missionaries and held the Global Gift sale which raised £1334.42 profit which was distributed to our missionaries as a gift.

Brian and Val Hodgkin

2018 was the first full year working in the "new" assignment. Brian is "prayer" co-ordinator for languages in Asia and the Middle East. He is tasked with researching issues that affect the people groups and what influences them. He reduces the facts to one side of A 4 paper, which is edited and checked for release by others in Wycliffe bible Translators. It is hoped these materials can be used to help people pray at any time in an ongoing way for the area. He has occasional internet meetings with others working alone and they encourage and pray for each other. Val helps with typing and editing and staying in touch with supporters as needed. Brian's health is steadily improving.

C&K

C&K work in Asia under increasingly difficult circumstances. They have been running an education centre for students aged 14-20. Students under 18 are moving to their new location which opens in mid-April. This will be overseen by a husband and wife team from the USA, and staff known to the young people. The remaining students continue with C&K.

They are still working with the local government discussing cooperative nursery education options which could therefore have government approval. They have 3 grown up children in the UK.

Mark and Emma Handley

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. In 2018 the highlights were: working with one couple as they refocused their ministry; teaching in the MDT programme; seeing the Lord increase the ministry in one people group; and helping a couple joining OM as workers in London. Emma is continuing to relate to neighbours and now customers, as she works a day a week in the Christian bookshop.

D&S

D&S and their 2 children are in Israel, sharing Christ with Israelis. Both have been studying Hebrew, and D is moving onto Arabic. This enables them to have Visas; but adopting the language also helps them in their sharing and to show love to the people.

They are part of evangelistic events with the local church and in their day to day encounters. D has been ill and found walking challenging. We give thanks for the generosity of Christ Church members in providing the finance for a car to help him and the family get around. The car means D can do far more teaching and speaking.

Mary Stanley

Safeguarding

Sally Hodges continues to lead on safeguarding for adults and Liz Jordan for children and young people. Phil Willmot is the Lead Recruiter (for DBS checks). We updated the safeguarding policies and PCC approved them in January.

2018 has been challenging because the youth and children's workers left our staff team at CCC in the Spring term. Also the safeguarding coordinator at St Barnabas left and so Sally and Liz have been temporarily filling in until a replacement can be found.

There have been three safeguarding incidents across the parish this year which were referred to the diocesan safeguarding advisor. These cases were already known to social services and the appropriate steps were followed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those involved.

Registers

We have to keep a register for all groups of under 18s that meet and the registers have to be stored long term in case of any future allegations. Registers are also important for group leaders on the day in case of any emergency. The register has to include the names of all the leaders, helpers and young leaders who are present as well as the children. Work has been done to store this information electronically using ChurchSuite and we are grateful to the volunteers who have helped with this.

Training

We hosted two C1 safeguarding courses run by the diocese. One course at St Barnabas on 25th April and one at CCC on 13th November 2018. Thirty-five members of our congregations attended these events. There has been good uptake of training by lots of members of our congregation but still more to be done.

Safer recruitment

The church wardens, vicar and safeguarding coordinators reviewed the process for recruiting new volunteers to work with children or adults who are at risk. We developed 'new volunteer packs' which are stored on OneDrive in a shared folder. These are given to a new volunteer once they have expressed an interest in helping in a group. Once a volunteer has been successfully checked (suitable references and a clear DBS) the information is treated confidentially and stored securely in the church office and they can start volunteering. A volunteer can change roles without having to repeat this process.

Our thanks go to all our volunteers for their cooperation in the systems to safeguard our children, young people and adults who are at risk.

Liz Jordan and Sally Hodges

Outward Giving

In April 2018 the 3-year commitments to the groups and missionary families we support came to an end. In November 2017 the PCC re-formed the outward giving group to co-ordinate an application process and propose recommendations for support for the next 3 years. The Missionary support group held discussions with each of the families to understand their future needs and we asked church members to nominate charities they would like Christ Church to support. In February the PCC agreed to continued financial support to our missionary families. It also agreed to provide to financial support to a range of charities with links to members of our church family. One off gifts were given to A Rocha, Open Doors, Barnabas Fund and Christian Blind Mission and in principle 3 years of support to the Acacia Partnership Trust, Age Concern Chilwell, Hope Nottingham, Mike and Bob's Assemblies, Springs Nottingham, Canaan Trust and The Friary. In addition to financial support we commit to support each family and organisation through prayer and where appropriate in other practical ways. For example, in 2018 the church family raised money to enable one of our missionary families to buy a car.

Diocesan Synod

Last year I asked if anyone else from Christ Church wanted to stand for Diocesan Synod, which is the equivalent of PCC for the whole diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. I'm pleased to say that someone took me at my word!

Diocesan Synod has two regular meetings per year, Saturdays in April and October, with an additional July evening meeting if necessary.

We met on 21st April at St Anne's, Worksop. (Diocesan Synod gets around.) In addition to approving the accounts and looking at the report of the Diocesan Board of Education (relating to church schools) we had a presentation on the School of Discipleship, in the run-up to the introduction of the new Real Life and Licensed Lay Minister training, which several of our congregation are doing.

In July there was an additional meeting to approve amendments to the system of allocating money requested from deaneries (who then request parish share/giving for ministry from parishes.) The new system in the long run is expected to be more favourable to the deaneries that have given more in the past: Nottingham South and Nottingham North, but is being phased in, and the two Nottingham deaneries have agreed to pay at the existing rate for the time being. For more details see me or Gary Stephenson.

Our meeting on 20th October at Trinity Church, Nottingham, marked the beginning of a new three-year term, or Triennium. Christ Church now has three representatives on Diocesan Synod – Colin Slater, Penelope Wallace and Simon Britton, who distinguished himself at his first meeting by correcting figures in the Budget! One of the things we heard was how successful the Diocese has been in bids for central funding from the Church Commissioners Strategic Development Funding (a total of £6.5 million in our first three bids.) New members were welcomed to the Synod with a whistle-stop tour of C of E structure, and the Bishop spoke inspiringly of the current ministry in the city with its roots in faithful work in the past.

During our vacancy the church and in particular the then wardens were very grateful for the assistance and support of the then Archdeacon of Nottingham, Sarah Clark. She has recently been installed as Bishop of Jarrow, and we wish her well, although she will be greatly missed.

Penelope Wallace

Appendix: Nottingham South Deanery 2018 Annual Report

This year we have said goodbye to Rev'd Stephen Morris and welcomed Rev'd Maureen Collins (St Ann with Emmanuel), Rev'd Tom Gillum (St Mary in the Lace Market, after a pastoral reorganisation scheme led to its reinstatement as a parish separate from that of St Peter's and All Saints), Rev'd James Pacey (St John's, Carrington) and Fr Ian McCormack (Nottingham St George). We also welcomed curates Rev'd George White (Trinity) and Mike Forsyth (Chilwell with Inham Nook) to the Deanery.

We also celebrate the fact that four of the five Readers licensed in the Diocese were from our Deanery (Alistair Langton from St Mary's Attenborough, Susi Artis from St John's, Carrington, David Ducker from St Michael's, Bramcote and Jem Bloomfield from St John's, Beeston). Additionally, Revd Rob Wiggins (St John's, Beeston) and Revd Denise Watkinson (St Stephen's, Hyson Green) finished their curacies and Revd Kirstine Buchan (St John's, Beeston) was ordained as priest.

The Deanery Leadership Team has continued to meet during the year to plan Synod and other Deanery events. Rev'd Clive Burrows has joined the Team. Rev'd Naomi Hill is stepping back temporarily while she works as a Vocations Advisor based at Jubilee House in the interim before the new Diocesan Director of Ordinands arrives.

We held three synods during the year: 6 February, 28 June and 13 November 2018 concentrating on growing disciples wider, younger and deeper.

In February we visited Holy Trinity in Lenton and looked at growing disciples wider. We shared stories from around the Deanery and thought about how we can move from "contact → nurture → commitment → growth". We ended by praying for Lenton and for each other.

In June we were at St Mary's, Wollaton Park looking at growing disciples younger. We were joined by a representative from the Younger Leadership College who spoke about the YLC formation group, Angela Brymer (one of the Diocesan Youth Advisers) and Rev'd Annabel Copeland (Chaplain at Blue Coat Academy) who spoke about the ways we can support youth work in schools. It was a great Synod with a lot of energy! We also swore in some churchwardens from Nottingham North and South Deaneries.

In November we went to St Cyprian's, Sneinton and thought about growing disciples deeper. We offered the opportunity to visit two short workshops from the three listed below:
How to launch and run a nurture course
How to facilitate good groups
Tools for personal spiritual growth

The synods in 2019 are designed to maximise the impact of the One Life Mission with the Archbishop of York and the Northern Bishops in September. Our February synod, held at St Michael and All Angels Bramcote, focused on how the church can equip its people to talk with those they do not know.

We also introduced a Deanery Pilgrimage in September where members of the Deanery travelled from Nottingham to Southwell by foot, car, train and bicycle ending at the Minster for refreshments and a short act of worship. The Pilgrimage was a blessing to all who

attended, particularly the opportunity to share what we had experienced during the journey. We hope to hold another Pilgrimage in June 2019.

The deanery has again paid a large percentage of its giving for ministry allocation (85.3% in 2018, compared to 89.0% in 2017). Every parish is to be thanked for their faithfulness in paying for the ministry received in this deanery and for contributing to the consultation on giving held during this year. The Deanery has followed the diocese in its new emphasis on understanding giving for ministry in the context of ministry costs (see the diocesan booklet Ministry Costs 2018). This year the diocese changed its method of apportioning deanery share, with the effect that Nottingham South will be asked to maintain the giving it achieved in 2017. However, the diocese now depends on 100% of allocated share being achieved.

Steve Silvester
Area Dean

Sarah Holt
Lay Chair