

**THE PARISH OF BRADFORD ON AVON
HOLY TRINITY**



AGENDA
for the Meeting of Parishioners
and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on Sunday, 22 April 2018
at Holy Trinity Church at 11.15am

with the
MINUTES
of the Meetings of 7 May 2017

and the
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 2017



THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY BRADFORD ON AVON

**Agendas for the Meetings to be held in Church
on Sunday, 22 April 2018 at 11.15**

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on 7 May 2017
4. Matters Arising
5. Appointment of Churchwardens
6. Appointment of Churchwardens' Team

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the APCM held on 7 May 2017
3. Matters arising
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Annual Reports and Accounts
 - a. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2017
 - b. Churchwardens' Report on fabric, goods and ornaments
 - c. Deanery Synod Report
6. Elections and appointments
 - a. PCC members
 - b. Sidespersons
 - c. Independent Examiner of the accounts
7. Rector's Report: 'The Year Ahead'
8. Any other business and questions

PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY, BRADFORD ON AVON

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meetings held in Church on Sunday, 7 May 2017 at 11.15 am

Forty-seven members of the Parish signed the register at the meeting with their names recorded on the circulated schedule (on file).

Meeting of Parishioners

1) Opening Prayers

The meeting opened with prayers led by Joanna.

2) Apologies for absence

Thirteen apologies were received (on file).

3) Minutes of the Meeting of the Parishioners held on 3 April 2016

These were received and signed as a true record.

4) Matters Arising

There were none.

5) Appointment of Churchwardens

There was only one nomination to hold office for 2017-18:

David Milne Proposed: George Hurst Seconded: Chris Hodge

David was therefore appointed unopposed, and the meeting strongly supported his appointment, and he was welcomed by Joanna, who thanked him for the past year, saying that he had done the job with a smiling face whilst contributing a huge amount.

She then thanked Judith profusely for all she had done in the past six years. She came to the role from the 'backbenches', and had done it in her own way – as Judith. Joanna then made a presentation to Judith on behalf of the grateful parishioners.

Judith replied, saying that her favourite part of being churchwarden had been meeting so many people, especially since the church re-opened, the stories they had told her, and how it had affected her so much. She thanked God for women priests, and for what Joanna and Ali had done for her, and meant to her. She reminded the meeting that in her retirement, she had Christian Aid week the following week, and the Street Market in July, without which her year would not be complete!

6) Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Joanna proposed that, since we now only had one churchwarden (in common with many other parishes), we should appoint a Churchwardens' Team who would collaboratively share the load. They would not hold any legal role, but would be there for people to talk to and to share out the many practical tasks. The team, proposed by Judith, was: Vernon Burchell, June Harrison, Jane Jones, and Chris Hodge. David seconded the proposal, and the meeting unanimously approved.

The meeting closed at 11.35 am.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1) Apologies for Absence

As per list on file.

2) Minutes of the APCM held on 3 April 2016

The Minutes of the meeting of 3 April had been previously circulated to the meeting. They were then approved and signed.

3) Matters Arising

There were none.

4) Electoral Roll Report

In the absence of Alan Knight, Joanna gave his report. 163 were now on the roll, although one omission had already been noted. 43 of these do not live in the parish.

5) Annual Reports and Accounts

a) Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2016

Jeremy said that 2016 had been a very exciting year for the accounts team, and moving around large sums of cash to pay all the invoices generated by the reordering project had been challenging. He described how it was quite daunting to sit at the computer and transfer £100,000 off into the ether with the hope you had got everything exactly right! The Metsys Funds had been gradually transferred in quite large blocks by the DBF, and the PCC had also negotiated the sale of certain securities from the 'Vicar and Churchwardens' Fund' to top up our Metsys funds.

The preparation of the final accounts was quite challenging and Jeremy offered his thanks and gratitude to our Independent Examiner, James Smith, who had been very helpful and was kind enough to complete his final examination for his normal fee, despite the considerable amount of extra work he had to do approving these accounts, together with the dedicated and professional input of our Accounts Assistant Aylene Clack, and the church Counting Team who had so readily adapted to the new circumstances. No queries on the accounts had been received before the meeting, and so he felt that the team had done a good job.

One of the many tasks undertaken was the recovery of VAT on the many invoices received for the building project. After the initial difficulties last year, the process had settled down, and we had been recovering VAT on most of the project: whereas the organ and archaeology both qualify for a 100% refund, sadly any movable furniture does not.

Jeremy added that, as we returned to a mostly revenue driven regime in 2017, the finances were going to be very challenging. However, he added that he believed that our heating gas costs were going to be much as budgeted (at around a £5000 annual figure) whilst the electricity bill had already fallen not only as a result of the LED lighting but mostly because the fan on the old heating system consumed a considerable amount of electrical energy.

John Woods thanked Jeremy for his report and all his hard work.

b) Churchwardens' Report on fabric, goods and ornaments

Judith reported on the year highlighting some of the items in the Annual Report and thanking all the willing volunteers who came to assist. She explained that the checking of the silver had been thoroughly undertaken with David, as Trevor had done in her first year as churchwarden. There had been some silver from the Men's Almshouses stored with our items but these had been taken back by the almshouses this year. There was a question as to the almshouse silver being part of the Museum

collection. Tony Haffenden, Chair of the Men's Almshouses said he would discuss this further.

She said that there were currently 120 hassocks in use in the church. Some spares were located in a cupboard in the north aisle. Others were being stored in boxes in the Vicarage garage. As there were still ongoing issues with building work to be finished, this was the current focus. In due course decisions would be made about a lot of items which had not returned to church, and possible solutions for the hassocks included original embroiderers taking their hassocks and members of the congregation giving a donation for others.

Joy asked about the MU banner, and was told it would be back in church shortly, but would have to go again, while the organ was being re-assembled.

Malcolm asked if we could know what work was left to be completed. Joanna said she had a list on the end of the Finances sheet (on the table and available for all) but that it changed almost daily. A new company had started work on the flat roof of the extension, but there was a lot of clearing up to do from the previous work.

Mervyn Harris asked about the sound system. Joanna replied that it was a very complex and high-budget system, and so we were still in the learning process. Tony Haffenden said he thought the loop was now superb. And Vernon Burchell said that part of the problem with people not hearing well, was not the sound system, but that the people reading were not enunciating properly.

Ian Stanes commented there was not enough room in the choir vestry. Joanna replied that we were still feeling our way, and it was amazing that we'd got as far as we had in just over four months.

c) Deanery Synod Report

This was published in the Annual Report and there was no further discussion.

6) Elections and Appointments

a) Elections to the PCC

Joanna reported that Judith Holland, Anne Willis, Marlene Haffenden, Alison Cook, and Jeremy Lavis were retiring from the PCC, having served their term as members. John Cox had tendered his resignation. She thanked all who had served on the PCC. There had only been one nomination this year, and so she was declared elected.

	PCC	
Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Anna Melluish	Chris Hodge	Joan Finch

b) Deanery Synod members

Anne Willis had retired from Deanery Synod, but Jeremy had agreed to stand, and was duly elected.

	Deanery Synod	
Nominee		Secunder
Jeremy Lavis	Chris Hodge	Jill Wright

c) Sidespersons

Judith thanked all the Sidespersons for invaluable work, and appealed for new people to volunteer. David Milne proposed the existing list, Malcolm Walsh seconded.

d) Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Treasurer said that James R Smith, FCCA, wanted to give up this year. Joanna suggested that Geoff Jones be allowed to find someone to do the work, and for the PCC to then appoint. Malcolm Walsh proposed this, seconded by Ian Stanes.

7) Rector's Address: 'The Year Ahead' (on file)

Joanna spoke about what an extraordinary year 2016 had been, and of course how all that would continue and grow in 2017 – and so, first and foremost, she thanked everyone for their continuing prayer, friendship and support, which was hugely appreciated. And she commented on how lovely it was just to be able to wander in and out of our *open* church now, and potter; and that whenever she did, there always seemed to be other members of the church there too, chatting with visitors or doing little jobs, and so that reminded her of what a vibrant and cohesive community we were. So whilst the year 2016 had started with *huge* uncertainty and angst – it finished with us all back here filled with joy for that great celebration with Bishop Nick.

And she recorded particular thanks to two people. Firstly to Ali who, though being very quiet about everything she did, achieved an enormous amount, in a very effective way. So in between being a wife and very active grandmother, and her principal ministry of Spiritual Direction and leading Quiet Days and retreats, Ali had led lots of services for us, was a regular presence at Morning Prayer, edited very effectively the *Parish News*, and had also been a very active member of both the Worship and Churchyard HTV Groups, not to mention the PCC and Standing Committee. And perhaps above all, she was 'there for us' in that 'good shepherd' role we were thinking about earlier. And then to Jeremy – another one who quietly beavered away in the background. So not only did Jeremy bale us out with lots of practical problems and had been an invaluable member of the Re-ordering Steering Group over the past 3 years, *but also* he had been our PCC Treasurer for an amazing 9 years. That had been a unique tenure: seeing him through the end of Bill's incumbency, the vacancy, Joanna's arrival and then this *enormous* re-ordering project. There couldn't be many PCC treasurers who found themselves dealing with a £2 million project. And it was certainly no piece of cake, ensuring that there was enough cash available in the account at any one time to pay the myriad of bills which had been tumbling in, was a work of art for a start! So Jeremy was now about to begin a very well-earned retirement as treasurer, with our huge thanks. (*And a presentation was made to him*).

Joanna then looked forward to the year ahead and, hopefully, to calmer waters... And so this would be a year of stabilising ourselves to our new environment, putting down new roots and building new relationships. There was a lot in store already...

1. Organ returning (June/July/August)
2. Appointment of new Director of Music – with huge thanks to Ian Stanes for holding the fort for so long.
3. Building work completely finished (we hoped!...)
4. New Churchwardens' Team & new building – so we would have everything running smoothly
5. HTV Groups working well – so new projects would gradually unfold – eg Messy Church and Trinity Café in September – and every single catering effort to date had been a huge success, so we looked forward to many more!

St Martin in the Fields and 'HeartEdge' - this was an exciting project and network which was launched in February at St Martin in the Fields (where, of course, Bishop Nick was Vicar) – and St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol was involved too. And so we had a lot in common!

'HeartEdge is a network of churches initiated by St Martin-in-the-Fields which is for those working at the heart of culture, community and commerce with those at the margins and on the edge. HeartEdge aims to build association, learning, development and resource.... HeartEdge supports churches in blending their mission around four key areas:

- *Congregation – Inclusive approaches to liturgy, worship and day-to-day communal life*
- *Community – models of outreach serving local need and addressing social justice*
- *Culture – art, music and ideas to re-imagine the Christian narrative for the present moment*
- *Commerce – Commercial activities that generate finance, creatively extending and enhancing mission and ministry through social enterprise'*

This needed to be our own very exciting direction of travel too - although possibly we were just thinking in terms of 3 strands: wonderful worship and the provision of a sacred space for all, service to the community (eg Trinity Café for those suffering with dementia and the vulnerable lonely), and the arts – both in relation to our own activities and letting the church (commercially) for use as a concert venue. So one big task for the year ahead was to make sure we advertised our presence very well. And so this could be quite an exciting network for us to join. We really were setting out together on a very exciting, and a very unusual path and new development in our mission and ministry. And it had to be about *partnerships*: so we were already networking with the Music Centre, St Margaret's Hall, the Town Tourism Officer, the Health Centre and the Area Board.

Stewardship – Joanna reminded the meeting that we were very, very *blessed* and amazingly poised for a great future with our wonderful new building which was just living a life of its own welcoming people in and holding them in the love of God, our vision and our very enthusiastic local community. But that this ministry of loving and serving and witnessing was costly and we had to pay our way. So we were bid to contribute around £60,000 pa to the diocese as our 'share' of the diocesan budget of £12.7 million, which then comes back to us in the form of...

- Joanna herself! paid, housed, supported, trained & pensioned
- Ali: supported and trained
- Lay Ministers – and lay church members generally supported and trained
- Professional buildings advice and support
- The Church of England was now the largest provider of schools – so enormous educational work and support, and for children and young people generally
- The knowledge that we were supporting our neighbours in those inner city and deeply rural parishes which cannot support themselves
- Safeguarding – keeping us all safe

She explained that the share was worked out on the basis of the numbers of church members attending or contributing + a factor based on how many of these there were per stipendiary clergy. So the *average* was 150 – and at the last count, we had 289... (across the benefice). *So nearly double...* *The good news* (for you) was that the share had gone down by £10,000 since we formed the new benefice (though it took 2 years to do so). *The bad news* (for her) was that she had to work twice as hard! That ratio was one of the worst in the diocese, and was exacerbated by the fact that we only had the 1 Self-supporting Minister in Ali, and no longer any LLMs. And that was very unusual too!

The numbers for 2016 were in the Annual Report. And Joanna said that all the information for this year was in the Stewardship envelopes which would be handed out after the meeting. So for 2017, in summary, the 'bottom line' was much the same as for 2016 (but for different reasons) showing a £20,000 deficit. The PCC had accepted this budget, and explained the situation to the archdeacon, as we might not be able to pay our 2017 Share in full. Two major factors in this were the inevitable delay in receiving the VAT rebate on the re-ordering expenses and the fact that we could not use the church for either weddings or lettings in the summer of 2017 whilst Harrison & Harrison were working on the organ. So, for example, one way or another, we needed to raise £9000 a month this year – which approximated to around £50 per month per head. But we could and did raise other income from church lettings and fund-raising events, for example – and the 25% Gift Aid contributed a huge amount. *However*, perhaps the key figure to remember was that we had to pay around £30 per month per head for the Share payment. And so any monthly giving of *less* than that actually meant that others had to pick up the shortfall and also, of course, that there was nothing left over to go towards all our other expenses.

Joanna then said a huge, public thank you to all who had given so generously, including to some who had recently increased their giving, and that the PCC was now asking everyone please to have a really good ponder and a pray about stewardship, and about priorities: we hadn't done so for 5 years because of the re-ordering project. Unfortunately, she added, we just couldn't be 'coy and British' about this anymore – because it wasn't going to go away, and most other parishes were really struggling too. But of course we were not 'demanding' an amount like the tax-man and the utilities and everyone else. We were a church. We were a charity. And this was a deeply personal matter. Yet, in giving we do also receive abundantly.

And so, however it might have been in the past, however wages and pensions might have been frozen, we quite simply now had to find this £9000 or so a month each year from somewhere! And so the solution needed to come from us as a community as well as individuals. We really needed everyone's energy and fundraising ideas! And she pointed out that 'The Friends' – under John Cox's very able and ever-energetic and enthusiastic leadership – were quite amazing at fundraising! So, for example, we have had the Christmas Tree Festival and the Burns Night Supper just since we moved back! But these funds went to The Friends, and were for capital projects only. They were *not* PCC funds – and so they didn't go towards meeting this deficit at all! So our challenge now was to try and match The Friends! So – hopefully – more fun times ahead...

Joanna concluded by reading from a book called, 'Glimpses of Glory' by David Bryant: not a bad vision for 'The Year Ahead'! *What has become clear to me, as the years have slipped by, is that the pathway to faith is not one of certainty but is a road leading to unknowing. God lies beyond human comprehension... The underlying theme is an unshakeable belief in the God who infuses every part of the universe, imbuing it with love... Like the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, my rock in this unstable life is a belief that 'the world is charged with the grandeur of God'.* Perhaps we could for our bit to help.

8) Any Other Business and Questions

There was no other business, nor any questions.

Jill Wright presented Joanna with a bouquet of flowers and a card, and thanked her for all her hard work.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY, BRADFORD ON AVON ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Administrative information

The parish (from March 2013) is part of the Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield, within the Bradford Group Ministry, in the Deanery of Bradford, in the Diocese of Salisbury, within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

The Vicarage, 18A Woolley Street, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1AF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

Charity number: 1134135

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2017 until the date this Report was approved are:

Ex officio

<i>Rector</i>	The Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis Chair
<i>Associate Priest</i>	The Revd Dr Ali Green

Churchwardens

Judith Holland	(until APCM)
David Milne	Vice Chair (from APCM)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod

Anne Willis	(until APCM)
Jeremy Lavis	(from APCM)

Elected members

Alison Cook	(until APCM)
John Cox	(until APCM)
Steve Fountain	
Deirdre Garrett	
Marlene Haffenden	(until APCM)
Chris Hodge	Secretary
Anna Melliush	(from APCM)
Jill Wright	

Co-opted member

Geoff Jones	(from APCM) Treasurer
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Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Aim and purposes

Holy Trinity PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Joanna Abecassis, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings and contents, and takes a keen interest in the care and maintenance of the churchyard.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Holy Trinity. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- worship and prayer, learning about the gospel, and developing their christian faith
- provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of Holy Trinity Church.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2017

Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

We have just completed our first year with one Churchwarden and a team of four (Vernon Burchell, June Harrison, Chris Hodge and Jane Jones). This has been a great success and I would like to thank the team for all their help and support.

This year we had our Quinquennial Inspection carried out in May by George Chedburn which covered areas of the church which required rectification. It was divided into four sections:

- a) Immediate repairs: all of these items have been completed. This involved removing debris from roofs etc, and unblocking all drainage gullies.
- b) Repairs within the next 18 months: these are small jobs involving the re-fixing of flashings to gutters, some minor re-pointing and re-decoration, monitoring downpipes and clearing plant growth etc. We will be undertaking items from this list when finances permit.
- c) Repairs during the Quinquennium: these include the provision of a handrail to the lower portion of the spiral staircase up to the ringing chamber, and conservation repairs to windows.
- d) Those required in the foreseeable future: the re-leading of two windows at the west end.

All Church silver is in good order and is kept securely.

David Milne

Holy Trinity Church Servers

The Servers Team are very committed and have adapted wonderfully to all the challenges of working together in a completely different space. And we are still learning!

We were sorry to lose Mary Ford at the beginning of the year, but it has been very special to welcome David & Celia Milne's grand-daughter Aimee as a trainee server. And we welcomed Hugh Wright and David Milne as new chalice ministrants at Christmas – along with the unsuspecting visiting Graham Dove as a server!

Joanna Abecassis

Holy Trinity Choir and Music Group

I am delighted to have been appointed Director of Music at Holy Trinity and have greatly enjoyed getting to know everyone. I can only comment in any detail on the period from October, but it is clear to me that we owe a great debt of thanks to the Venerable Ian Stanes, Vernon Burchell and Harold Jones for their sterling services in keeping things going with our much valued choir and music group, and for playing the organ for services since January.

The return of the rebuilt organ from Durham will have been a momentous occasion for the whole church community. The instrument has settled back into Holy Trinity very comfortably with remarkably few teething issues.

I have greatly enjoyed working with the choir and I am so grateful to all members of it for their loyalty, hard work, enthusiasm and friendship. Joining a church as Director of Music in October means that the 'heat is on' in terms of choral music, what with the *Lighten our Darkness* service and the Advent and Christmas carol services. We have greatly appreciated the provision of new music and this has been put to good use already. At Christmas, Janet Steele retired from the choir and we thanked her for her valuable service for a good number of years. Singing in a church choir is a big commitment – my thanks to all choir members for all your hard work and for your kind welcome.

My first service was the October *In the Round*, and of course, the choir were at rest and the music group were in action. This is another most valuable group of musicians who enjoy contributing to our worship. Unlike the choir, the music group is not blessed with 75 minutes' rehearsal time each week, and we arrive in a rush on a Sunday morning to squeeze in 20 minutes' practice between the 0800 and 0930 services. But, it is all most enjoyable! Again, many thanks to all our instrumentalists for their continued support of Holy Trinity's music.

As we look to the future, it will be important to encourage more people to join in our music making, and I have a number of ideas. I have no doubt that 2018 will be a busy year at Holy Trinity and I look forward to it immensely.

Finally, I would like to thank Joanna for her support and welcome. Living as I do, some 25 miles away, much church music business is transacted over the airwaves which means a fair number of emails pinging back and forth several days a week and I'm conscious that I may have increased her already considerable workload!

Martin Cooke



mainly music

mainly music is now in its eighth year and continues to be very popular. In addition to our usual Tuesday mornings in Church, we held a Fun Morning in March in Church, a summer outing in July to Southwick Country Park and a Christmas meal in December.

Throughout the year, Tuesday mornings are always busy with 18-20 families attending and three to four families on the waiting list. We had three newborns last year and it is great to see them developing and gradually moving & clapping to the beat of the music. Already we know of another baby due this year. We continue to hold coffee mornings during school holidays for our families and it is good to see some of our children who are now at school come back to join us. Visitors to our church often join us as well for coffee.

At our fun morning, the children took home Mothering Sunday cards they had made and posies of flowers made by members of the Mother' Union.

We did give thanks that we were able to have our outing in July to Southwick Country Park as the weather was very unsettled at the time. The day before & the early hours of that morning it had been pouring with rain. However, by eight o'clock the rain had stopped and it stayed away until after noon just as we were leaving the country park!

Over twenty of us had a lovely Christmas meal at The Boathouse. We are so grateful to our cake makers as the homemade cake is so welcome. We could always do with some more bakers so please let me know if you can help in that way.

Marlene Haffenden

Messy Church

Messy Church began in September 2017 and operates on the third Sunday of the month from 4pm to 5.30pm. Since the beginning, we have registered eighteen families.

Although the first Messy Church in the country started in 2004, I do get many enquiries asking 'What is Messy Church?'. It is a form of worship for families together of all ages that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. We have a particular theme for each session, i.e. 'Creation' for our first session, and so our craft activities, celebration and our meal together all follow this theme.

Some of us have visited Messy Church run by other churches, hub meetings and will be attending in March, a Messy Church Science Roadshow at St Francis Church in Salisbury. This is a new initiative by the national Messy Church to show we can illustrate God's love through science, and Lucy Moore, one of the original team members when Messy Church began in 2004, will be coming along.

We pray that this area of our work will grow and meet the needs of families and the younger generation. If you have a particular skill or talent, we would love you to come along to one of our sessions to demonstrate this to our families. I look forward to hearing from you.

It is a real privilege to enjoy the fun and fellowship with *mainly music* families & Messy Church families as the church grows best when we walk the journey with as many people as possible!

Marlene Haffenden

Holy Trinity Hospitality Group

Personnel - this is still the key factor on which the success of the HTHG programme depends. Church coffee following the 9.30am service involves many willing helpers, but more helpers would be most welcome.

Provisions - most of our provisions are now Free Trade and sourced from 'Christines' as requested by PCC. We also record the ingredients used in homemade cakes and sandwiches to satisfy the legalities of providing food for others. Forms are on the board in the kitchen.

Events

- HTHG successfully supported the Interfaith get-together in May providing and serving cakes and refreshments.
- The group supported Lady Maitland's 'Celebration of Life' service in October.
- Our noble helpers served mulled wine and 800 hot mince pies at the Tree Festival. Thank you again to all who helped.

Equipment - a microwave oven was purchased to help bridge the gap until the Merrychef oven is operational.

An urn has also been purchased for use at outside events.

Joan Finch

The Street Market

Last year's Street Market was another big success. Thanks to everyone's contribution, it was once again a really enjoyable community event. After weeks of planning and preparation, work started in earnest on the Friday evening, with Mervyn Harris's deliveries to the Masonic Hall and plots being marked up by John Cox in Westbury Gardens. Thanks to the early start and hard work of Mervyn Harris and his band of volunteers on Saturday morning, the Street Market was ready to go in good time for the 10am start.

Judith Holland and the catering team worked their socks off providing a never ending supply of bacon baps, ploughman's lunches, home-made cakes and cups of tea. The English Country Music players played to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience as the rest of the stalls did a thriving trade.

Thankfully, there were again lots of willing volunteers at the end of the day to take down the stalls and gazebos, load them all on to Jonathan Milne's truck and return them to their respective homes. Westbury Gardens was returned to its usual high state of tidiness.

The big count was undertaken by Geoff Jones, Judith, Mary & Jane. The grand total after expenses £3,961 - £600 more than the 2016 figure! And to which must be added £625 for fees from stall lettings. Individual stall figures: Books - £367.41; Bottles - £339.60; Bric a Brac - £1,114.82; MU/Refreshments - £1,029.31; Plants - £84.59; Raffle - £393; Saxon Club - £205.78; Treasure Hunt - £23; Tower Visits - £20. So a very successful day which provided a much needed boost to Church Funds. All that remains to be said is a huge thank you to each and every one that helped in a myriad of different ways.

Thanks again to everyone for their enthusiasm and hard work and please put 7 July in your diaries for 2018.

Judith Holland, Mervyn Harris, John Cox

Charities

This year we concentrated on the regular charity appeals and all the sums raised were well up on last year.

Judith Holland is now the local Christian Aid Coordinator with Lindsay Driscoll as the Treasurer. Apart from house to house collections, we collected at the station and events were held, including Jonquil's opening of her garden. Christian Aid was also the sermon theme at all the Benefice churches. The total raised, including gift aid recovered, was £9,195 which may be a record.

The collection during Advent and Christmas for Embrace the Middle East was also a record and almost more than twice the year before. This was an encouraging response to the plight of the many refugees in the region.

This year Celia Milne has organised a collection of coins for our link diocese in Kadugli in Sudan. The glass jar is at the back of the church and do remember to put your loose change in this. Reports on the situation in the Diocese of Kadugli and its needs appear regularly in Parish News.

Apart from raising money, help has been given through volunteering with others at the Hub and joining with other charities.

Many thanks to all who have contributed both time and money throughout the year. It is much appreciated.

Charity Appeals 2017

Christian Aid Week <i>BOA and villages (total for all the churches)</i>	May	£8267 (+ Gift Aid of £928)
Jonquil's open garden	June	£149
British Legion	November	£476
Embrace the Middle East	December	£1569
The Children's Society (estimate)	December	£400
Coin collection for Kadugli	All year	£47
Total		£ 2641 (2016: £1684)

Lindsay Driscoll

Friends of Holy Trinity

The Friends continue to flourish and I continue to search for a successor. With an enormous amount of help from committee members, friends and well-wishers, a number of very successful events have been staged, including Burns Night Supper, Fish and Chips Quiz and, of course, the Christmas Tree Festival.

John Cox

BACT (Bradford-on-Avon & Area Churches Together)

At the AGM in April 2017, a new Chair was not elected, but Wendy Brown agreed to stand as Secretary. It was agreed that future meetings would be chaired by a representative from the church where the meetings were held until such time as the role of chair was filled. Chris Charnley was elected as chair in September 2017.

In October some BACT members attended the induction of Canon Liam O'Driscoll, the new priest for St Thomas More. The Baptist church has a new minister, Robert Strivens and he has been welcomed by the other Bradford on Avon ministers.

It was agreed that BACT would fund posters of the Beatitudes which would be displayed by churches as a sign of unity and for outreach over the period January to April 2018. BACT have also donated funds to Spurgeon's Children's Charity and to the Christian Youth Worker at St Laurence School. There have been two BACT worship services, and an Advent Carol Service at Holy Trinity.

Chris Charnley, Chair

Bradford Group Ministry Report

The Bradford Group 'experiment' in ministry for 2016, whilst Holy Trinity in Bradford on Avon was closed, has continued to bear fruit with some now feeling quite at home worshipping at other churches across or within their own benefice, and others having moved to join a new church family permanently. Because of all the pressures of ministry, and shortage of staff, across both benefices, there have been no Group Ministry Meetings as such.

Joanna Abecassis

Deanery Synod Report

Synod met three times in 2017: 14 February @ St. James', Trowbridge; 21 June @ Atworth Church Hall; and 19 October @ St. Katharine's, Holt.

At the February meeting Chris Andrews who is a licensed Reader in the Diocese of Gloucester spoke about Roaring Rugby (RR), which he founded in 2011. RR has developed a programme for schools and churches to come together through Sports Ministry. The benefits to schools are enhanced Christian Distinctiveness through a mix of professional coaching of all sports (not just rugby), school values and prayer/scripture. The benefits to church are to re-discover the medium of sports to engage with children and parents in their parishes. There are many ways to use this mission through school, church halls and community settings.

At the June meeting there was a presentation by David Morgan who is the Chairman of the Diocesan Environment Group. Since then several churches in the Deanery have put themselves forward for different levels to achieve Bronze and Silver during the year.

The following website www.ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk has a wealth of information including an Eco Survey.

At the October meeting Debbie Orriss who is a Church Army Evangelist working for Salisbury Diocese as Discipleship Coordinator spoke. Debbie serves the Deanery and is a resource to help and assist Parishes. Questions asked by Debbie to those present were as follows:

"How do you feel about the word discipleship"?

"What do you think it means"?

"What has helped you learn and grow in your faith as a disciple, in the absence of Jesus' physical presence"?

Clergy comings and goings

Revd Julian Parker	Retired
Revd Selina Deacon (Assistant Rural Dean)	Retired
Revd Annie Wintour	Retired
Revd Melanie Otto	Transferred to a different Deanery

Deanery Share

David Robinson, the Deanery Treasurer, was pleased to report that the 2017 share had been paid in full and on time.

Deanery Plan

This was reviewed and updated during the early part of the year with copies going to each Deanery Representative and the Diocese.

Sudan and South Sudan

In August 2017, Revd Andrew Evans (Rural Dean) and Christopher and Ann Fielden were part of a delegation led by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Sudan.

Dave Lewis provided regular updates either in person at Synod meetings or via reports sent on email to representatives. These were very informative and up to date on matters of concern, funding, health care and education provision.

Synod Secretary

Anne Willis stood down as Secretary at the February 2017 meeting. The Rural Dean presented her with a bouquet of flowers, a bottle of wine and card in recognition of her term of service. Dawn Farmer took on the role in April 2017.

Assistant Rural Dean

Revd Allan Coutts was licensed by Archdeacon Sue Groom at the October Synod meeting.

Synod meetings

Synod is open to all those who wish to attend. Meeting dates and locations are arranged well in advance and every effort is made to meet on different days of the week. The intention is to share good practice around the Deanery, and for it to be a place where ideas can be shared.

Meeting dates and locations for 2018

21 February @ St. James', Trowbridge

14 June @ St. Michael & All Angels, Melksham

17 October @ Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon

Dawn Farmer, Deanery Secretary

Mothers' Union Report

The group began the year meeting in the newly reordered church at 2.30pm on Thursday afternoons. We had a visit from Rosie Stiven, Salisbury diocesan president, and she enrolled three new members, Jackie Uncles, Mary Worgan and Sylvia Waller and Jane Jones was admitted from another branch. Rosie gave us an up-date on the main diocesan projects. We currently have 29 members.

Our meetings have included two Communion Services and a Wave of Prayer service which was held jointly with Christ Church MU. We had a Quiet Day in the church at Great Chalfield and a service on Mary Sumner Day in August. We also had a Lenten Reflection. We organised a Harvest Lunch which raised over £500 for the Holiday Fund. Talks were enjoyed on a very varied programme of topics. These included treasures, bugs and butterflies, Ghana and end of life matters.

Socially we have enjoyed two lunches out and a Christmas party with musical entertainment.

Financial contributions were made to the Central Funds, AFIA holidays, Overseas, Literacy and Relief Fund.

Members continue to support *mainly music* and the making of Mothering Sunday posies and Christingles.

Jill Wright, Branch Leader

Pastoral Care Team (PCT)

The Team is never idle as, in addition to the particular individuals for whom members care, they find themselves using their gifts, skills and experience much more generally – and of course that particular harvest of need is enormous. The PCT membership has remained the same: Anne Carter, Alison Cook, Joan Finch, Marlene Haffenden, Tony Haffenden, Chris Hodge, Evelyn Humphrey, Heather Knight, Sue Lavis, Val Payne, David Rawstron, Hazel Rawstron, Geneviève Roberts, Sylvia Stanes – and myself.

So each member is DBS checked and is committed to 'caring' for one or more people, on behalf of the church, and this manifests itself in all sorts of different ways as is most appropriate for that particular relationship at that particular time. We meet monthly over an informal lunch for mutual support and discussion, which is vitally important in what can be a challenging ministry and which has led to a strong bond between us. And we have increasingly been caring for one another in the Team as well.

This year the PCT has become heavily involved using their gifts and experience (including their baking and hospitality gifts!) at the monthly Trinity Café (see below), which has been a wonderful new outlet for them.

Members of the PCT are always available as a trained and supported 'listening ear' and as a channel for information to Ali or myself. So do make use of them because we really do care, and that needs to remain and be affirmed as a really important part of the Holy Trinity culture.

Joanna Abecassis

Trinity Café and Dementia Friendly Church

This wonderful new venture has now become a much appreciated and enjoyed part of the Holy Trinity fabric. I had been a member of various groups in town for a while, including the Health Centre, Age UK, the Town Council and the Area Board Manager, exploring how we could improve social care in our community. And out of these, and especially the Dementia Friendly Bradford Group, it became apparent that there was the need for another Memory Café in the town. So early in the year, it was agreed that this would take place monthly at Holy Trinity, aided by a start-up grant from the Area Board, and managed by the Health Centre team for the first six months. So the first, trial Café took place during Dementia Awareness Week in May, and then it started on a regular basis in September.

It has been a great privilege to work as the Parish Church in partnership with the Health Centre (and their impressive new 'Transforming Care for Older People Team') and Alzheimer's Support and – at their suggestion – the Holy Trinity Café is not just limited to those suffering from dementia and their carers, but to anyone who feels a little vulnerable or lonely. There is a great atmosphere with flowers and table-cloths on the tables, delicious home-made cakes and sandwiches, lots of chat and laughter, and always some form of activity, often musical – and friendships are being built. And all in a 'safe' and dementia friendly environment. I am hugely grateful to the Pastoral Care Team for their enthusiastic support in all of this. We really are all in it together.

We were awarded a Dementia Friendly Award in October and are members of the Dementia Action Alliance: <https://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/> This is due to three factors: (1) the building with its easy and open accessibility (complete with coloured loo seats!); (2) the fact that many of us have been trained as 'Dementia Friends' and Peter Hardman as a 'Dementia Champion'; and (3) the development of the Trinity Café. Next stop will be a special Dementia Friendly Service.

Joanna Abecassis

B.R.M. (Bradford's Retired Ministers)

You will see us fairly often, though not necessarily in "Uniform". Ian Stanes, Peter Hardman and David Driscoll sing with the Holy Trinity Church Choir – Ian looked after the choir for almost two years before the arrival of Martin Cooke. David keeps a watching brief on the Saxon Club. Alun Glyn-Jones helps mainly at Bath Abbey, and in Castle Combe – only sometimes, when asked, in Bradford on Avon. Jim Hill and Bernard Hughes help in the North Bradford Benefice, and Karl Wiggins still acts as an Abbey Chaplain at Bath Abbey. Angela Onions spends her "church time" at St. Johns, Bathwick, but keeps in contact with those she knew well when at Holy Trinity. John Burgess and Humphrey York have battled with illness, but still contribute wisely at our regular meetings. Finally, Peter Whatton is our retired Methodist minister, and brings an interesting view to our discussions when available.

As a group we try to meet (with eight wives), five or six times a year in houses that can hold nineteen people, and also have meals together at The Dog and Fox, and for Christmas, at The Poplars.

We are all getting older – nothing strange in that – but help and support is offered in the parish when possible.

Alun Glyn-Jones

Churchyard Group

This short report follows the objectives set out in the overall 'Holy Trinity Vision' for the churchyard:

1) *A memorial space*

- a. Care of the memorial garden and other parts of the churchyard continues to be undertaken by Nicola Reynolds and the Graveyard Guardians.
- b. As last year, we hope to produce some information for visitors about things of interest in the churchyard, but assume that this needs to be coordinated with the development of other information about the interior, history and so on, so currently awaiting developments on that.

2) *An approach to the church building that is welcoming and aesthetically pleasing - a place to pause and reflect as well as pass through*

We feel that, following the refurbishment works, the churchyard is generally attractive and invites passers-by to walk through and possibly step into the interior of the church. Two areas that still need attention are:

- a. The area near the north door that is uneven and rough, covered mostly in hardcore with no topsoil.
- b. The two piles of stones on pallets near the south wall.

3) *An exemplar of good management for nature conservation*

- a. Last year we recommended a short grass and wildflower seed mix for the eastern section of the churchyard, which since the rebuilding comprised bare earth. We sourced and acquired a mix that can be mown regularly and the sward kept fairly short, but which will produce a crop of mixed short wildflowers that is attractive to pollinators, bee-friendly and that will enhance the biodiversity of the area. The mix was sown last autumn and a healthy sward has already appeared. It will probably take two growing seasons before the wildflowers get fully established.
- b. We cordoned off three areas offering a range of habitats types – one short grass sward, one shady understorey and one mostly scrub, in order to let these grow unmanaged for a season to see what might come up. We monitored these and also surveyed the entire churchyard for floral diversity over the year. The species count at the end of 2017 was 104, a relatively high count for the survey area, and including two botanically interesting species:
 - *Few-flowered Fumitory*, a nationally scarce species previously unrecorded in North Wiltshire and only the second record for Wiltshire county
 - *Roundleaved Cranesbill*, nationally uncommon but locally frequent around Bradford on Avon

The number and range of wildflower species found indicates that Holy Trinity churchyard supports a valuable and diverse range of native and non-native flora, and this diversity helps to attract and support a range of animal species including insects, birds and small mammals.

- c. We made use of the smaller stones left in the two piles by the south door to provide a number of wildlife shelters now hidden around the churchyard boundaries, under hedges etc.
- d. Encouraging signs have been seen of wildlife around the churchyard, including bees coming back to the tower, visiting hawfinches, and evidence of peregrines hunting. We look forward to swifts nesting in their new boxes in the coming breeding season.

4) *An opportunity for involving the community*

Through an individual membership of Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon, Holy Trinity is now a Refill Station for water containers, including access to the outside tap on the north wall when the church is not accessible to visitors (this will show on smartphones carrying the Refill App).

We have also made use of the churchyard during Messy Church, and have planted spring bulbs along parts of the south church wall.

Perhaps an unexpected community bonus: I recently found a gaggle of birdwatchers stalking the churchyard, on the lookout for the rare and very shy hawfinch (several hundred have unusually come across from the continent this winter). The birds may have been hunting for yew and holly berries. Good to have these visitors – both human and avian – showing that the churchyard is a welcoming space for a variety of species!

Dave & Ali Green, Facilitators

Holy Trinity Crochet Group

The group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 2pm to 4pm. We meet in members' homes and enjoy tea and biscuits during the afternoon.

Our project for the year included making scarves, crochet blankets and cushions to sell at the Tree Festival which helped to add to the profits. We also decorated our Christmas Tree with crochet ornaments.

We are now making white crochet hats for RUH for new born babies, the hats having red, amber or green pom poms to indicate the level of care needed for each tiny baby.

For further information please contact Alison on 864116 or Joan on 863878.

Joan Finch

Saxon Club

The Saxon Club continues to thrive now into its eleventh year. We have been meeting since April 2017 and from the beginning of this year we now meet from 2.30pm to 4pm, still as relaxed and informal as ever. We have had a few new members but would love to have some more. We are essentially a social club and open to everyone, whether churchgoers or not.

Activities included hearing about the United Church visit to Uruguay, helping Girl Guides to grow in Russia, life of a detective solving murders and advice how to prevent fraud. We also had a memorable visit from Bill Ind, perhaps hilarious would be more accurate, as he told us what happened when he was appointed a bishop. Visits included our annual visit to the White Hall Centre and one to the historic town of Malmesbury. Again I would like to express our grateful thanks to Val Payne for all she does for the Saxon Club and her personal support which I greatly appreciate. Newcomers are always given a warm welcome and please let your friends know about us.

David Driscoll

Bell Ringers

2017 was another enjoyable year for the ringers. Practices and Sunday Service ringing continued to be well attended and there was no shortage of volunteers to ring for weddings and other special Services and events. Five quarter peals and three full peals were rung during the year by the local band and visitors.

In early summer, Bradford on Avon's Swift Group fitted nesting boxes behind the louvres on the West side of the belfry. An electronic device was also fitted, which was set to automatically play recorded swift calls at certain times during the day to attract interest. A reporter from BBC Radio Wiltshire visited and interviewed members of the Swift Group and myself. Hopefully 2018 will see some swifts making use of the new nest boxes - we have been assured that they won't mind the sound of the bells!

We opened the tower to the public on Saturday, 1 July as part of the Bradford on Avon Street Market. We had a good number of visitors throughout the morning who all seemed to enjoy tours of the ringing chamber and belfry. In August we replaced the ropes as the previous ones were getting very thin and some were in danger of snapping as they had become very worn. Mendip Ropes were employed to make us new sallies (the fluffy bits) and tail-ends, which were then spliced on to the existing synthetic top-ends, as these were still in good order. We spent some time choosing new sally colours: in the end we settled on "tomato" and "charcoal" (i.e. dark red and black).

We were very sorry to lose our good friend Michael Wilmot on 5 September. Mike had been a stalwart member of the band for many years until he retired due to ill health a couple of years ago. We were joined by members of the Guild to ring for Mike's funeral - including a touch of Grandsire Triples, his favourite method. Rest in peace, Mike.

At the end of September we were delighted to ring for Tom and Sarah Pelham's wedding. A full peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major was rung in the morning by a mixed band of two locals and visiting friends of the couple. A local band then rang before the service, followed by general ringing after the ceremony.

This year's tour was a day's ringing in the Test Valley. We rang at six different towers, all ground floor rings (so no spiral staircases to climb!) and finished the day with fish and chips in Salisbury. We look forward to another enjoyable year of ringing in 2018.

Sarah Quintin, Tower Captain

Revenue Income & Expenditure Report for year ended 31 December 2017

REVENUE INCOME 2017		REVENUE EXPENDITURE 2017	
	£		£
Standing Orders	44,591	Diocesan Share	66,278.58
Weekly cash	7,284.80	Clergy expenses	5,199.83
Weekly envelopes & Gift Aid	14,128.46	Gas	5,709.97
One-off donations	8,762.58	Electricity	1,659.70
Gift Aid recovery	0	Water	83.78
Maintenance boxes & Ride & Stride	3,425.75	Insurance	5,701.91
Wedding and funeral fees	6,468	Gardening (churchyard & vicarage)	1,585
Church lettings	4,593	Church maintenance	2170.94
Saxon Club	350	Upkeep of services	1295.67
Mainly Music	900	Church cleaning costs & wages	2,054.60
Mother's Union	60	Cost of Street Market & Organ Recital	611.62
WW & WF admin contributions	3,300	Organist / Director of Music	4,310.01
Street Market	4,267.51	Administration wages	13,281.04
Organ recital	3,204	Administration	2,116.85
Other fund-raising activities	4,045.96	Photocopier & printing costs	2,966.69
Interest	105.31	MM, MU & Saxon Club Hall Hire	772.50
		Christmas card printing	571.20
		Independent examiner	420
TOTAL INCOME	105,486.37	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	116,789.89

Notes to the above:

1. Overall position is a deficit of £11,303.52.
2. The figure for Diocesan share includes a sum of £4990 which was the December 16 payment which was actually paid in January 2017.
3. One-off donations includes a legacy of £5000.
4. MM, MU & Saxon Club Hall hire relates to a period in 2016 when HT was still closed.
5. Whilst Gift Aid recovery is shown as nil, claims totalling £13,086.91 were made in respect of 2015/2016 in December 2017 and these funds have now been claimed and will be shown in the 2018 accounts when received.

Treasurer's Report & Accounts for 2017

The revenue Income & Expenditure figures for 2017 represent the first full year back in Holy Trinity. The figures as seen are pretty much in line with our budgeted position with expenditure exceeding revenue by £11,303.52

There has been a delay with the reclaiming of Gift Aid over the last couple of years due to various issues. Thanks to a great deal of work undertaken by our Admin Officer Aylene we have recently been able to submit some back dated claims and this will go some way to reducing the deficit.

New & robust systems are also being put in place to ensure timely claiming of this important income line moving forward.

As you can see the annual cost of running HT was over £116k in 2017 and with an increase in Diocesan Share we expect this figure to rise to over £120k in 2018. This equates to £2,300 per week.

We continue to keep a tight rein on all the expenditure and do all we can to keep costs to a minimum. During 2017 we saved money on both Electricity and Gas supplies by switching from standard tariff to a more cost effective fixed rate. We have also been able to reclaim a VAT & Climate Levy charge due to our Charity status and this gained us £1217.58

To enable us to continue to cover all our running costs we remain dependent on fund raising events and lettings and this will need to continue in the years ahead.

"We are very fortunate in having such a wonderful new building which enables us to earn this income". Can I take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have helped at various fundraising events over the year and your continued support is much appreciated.

I would also like to thank Aylene Clack our Admin/Financial Officer for all her hard work and support.

Special thanks also goes to our new Independent Examiner Lorna Sturrock who has checked and verified the 2017 Financial Accounts. Lorna has very kindly agreed to undertake this significant amount of work free of charge and in so doing has saved us £420.

Re-Ordering Update

The bills relating to the re-ordering are now coming to an end and the amounts that remain to be paid are the final tranche to Ellis & Co. c£28k (this will not be paid until all remedial work has been completed to the satisfaction of the project manager and architects).

As you will see from the Balance Sheet all the money from the Metsys Fund has been fully utilised and the final portion of the costs will have to come from our reserves.

At this point I would also like to thank the "Friends" for their continued financial support towards various capital projects.

Balance Sheet

You will see that there have been some changes made to items on the Balance Sheet this year in order to show a clear & precise picture of the current position.

These changes include:-

The removal of the Bell Ringers account on the basis that the PCC has no control over this money and should therefore not be included within our total asset figure.

The stock of cards, etc has been written off as there is nothing of saleable value remaining.

During the past few years there have been balance sheet entries showing against Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable.

Accounts Receivable relates to monies due to us (an asset) and Accounts Payable relates to monies we owe other people (a liability)

In the case of Accounts Receivable there has been a figure of £19,166 "recorded in the annual accounts" for 2014, 2015 & 2016 which would suggest that we are due this money. Our investigations have concluded that there are no moneys at all due to us, therefore we have had to make an adjustment to the balance sheet to remove this figure as it was inflating our overall asset position.

Similarly in the case of Accounts Payable the sum of £2237.27 has been recorded in the annual accounts each year since 2012 without any change. Again our investigations have concluded that we don't owe anybody any money.

As above in order to remove this figure from the balance sheet we have had to make an adjustment via reserves to rectify this matter. A full breakdown of movement in reserves is shown in the notes to the accounts.

From the year ended 31 December 2017 we are operating on a Cash Accounting System rather than the previous Accrual Accounting Basis. Any possible significant accruals/prepayments will however be noted outside of the accounts for information purposes.

Summary/Way Ahead

In simple terms we currently have £60k of cash in hand and after paying the final bill for the re-ordering work as mentioned above this figure will be reduced to £30k.

Our forecast for the year ahead indicates an excess of expenditure over income of some £10k.

Therefore if this trend continues, in 3 years' time we could very well run out of money.

We must not let this happen and our goal has to be to all work together in order to achieve at least a "break-even" position on the revenue account which will then keep our minimal level of reserves in place.

If anyone has any ideas on how we can either trim our expenditure or increase revenue I will be more than happy to discuss this with you at any time.

Finally if anyone wishes to discuss any of the figures in greater detail or has any questions relating to the finances of Holy Trinity, I will be more than happy to talk these through with you at any time.

Geoff Jones, Treasurer

RECTOR'S REPORT

The writing of an Annual Report – even the compiling of the Accounts – is always surprisingly rewarding as you are reminded of just how much has been achieved! So we started the year with some fear and trepidation, unsure about the finances, unsure about quite how our amazing new building actually worked, and unsure about just how both the regular congregation and the wider community would relate to it. But come the end of the year, we felt so much 'at home', that all those uncertainties earlier in the year were hard to believe. It is the most extraordinary blessing to see how lives have been touched, how people who would never darken the doors now come in and out regularly, how our worship has been enhanced and how, quite simply, the very building makes people smile and feel at home. In short the vision, expressed in the beautiful engraving on the glass doors, has been achieved. We have received a constant stream of inspirational comments throughout the year, and some are recorded on the website: <http://www.htboa.org/HT%20Restored%20-%20comments.pdf> And we have even hit the dizzy heights of being a Google 5 stars site!

And on another positive note, I was made a (non-residentiary) Canon of the Cathedral in May, which is an honour to us all – and means a broadening of our context in ministry and a much stronger connection with the cathedral.

Worship and music

Our worship in 2017 soon settled into a good new pattern, just slightly different from when we moved out. So the change was on the second Sunday, when we introduced a new and informal Service of the Word, 'In the Round', with the re-formed Music Group in the morning, and a 'Eucharist for Healing and Wholeness' in the evening. Both Services have now taken root, in their different ways, and attract some different people, as we had hoped. Ali Green has been able to use her creative gifts to the full for 'In the Round' – the completely new style and format has been appreciated – and we have been able to explore some interesting themes from climate change to domestic violence. And the evening Eucharist, an opportunity for some gentle and quiet reflection and prayer together, has found a home up at the High Altar and in the Saxon Church during the summer months.

And then in September, our new pattern was joined by all the fun and joy of the 'Fresh Expression' of Messy Church (see Report above) on the third Sunday at 4pm. So we now have four very different forms of worship on a Sunday evening throughout the month. And then on the first Thursday evening of the month, Judith Holland has a very regular and appreciative group for the 'Fresh Expression' which she facilitates, 'Contemplative Hour @ St Mary Tory'.

Music has been a highlight in 2017, and we are extremely grateful to Vernon Burchell, Harold Jones and Ian Stanes for so very capably keeping the musical 'home-fires' burning until the arrival of our newly appointed Director of Music, Martin Cooke, in October. Martin has given his own Report above, and he certainly had to hit the ground running as All Saints and All Souls, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas were right upon him! But that makes his enormous contribution to the quality of our music, even in the three months to the end of 2017, all the more remarkable.

As to the statistics, it was good to see the life of our church gradually coming back to normal. Since we cannot compare with 2016 (when the church was closed), I have left the 2015 figures in brackets for the sake of comparison, and when there were figures for 2016, they are in bold:

- Average number of communicants at 8am Eucharist: 18 (23)
- Average number of communicants at 9.30am Eucharist: 78 (87)
- Evening worship of Compline (1st Sunday), Eucharist for Healing and Wholeness (2nd Sunday – and numbers in single figures) and Evensong (4th Sunday) attract anything from 6 (15) to 50 worshippers. These services take place in the Saxon Church in the summer months.
- Church attendance on a 'normal' Sunday (adults): 120 (125)

- Marriages: 9 **(2)**
- Blessing of Civil Marriage: 0 **(0)**
- Baptisms: 12 **(3)**
- Thanksgiving for a child: 0 **(0)**
- Funerals: 12 **(8)** + 4 **(9)** at the Crematorium
- Easter Day: 142 (153) communicants and total attendance: 163 (160)
- Midnight Mass and Christmas Day: 160 **(188)** communicants and total attendance: 290 **(268)**

The Occasional Offices are picking up slowly, but we were at quite a disadvantage in 2017 with the church being effectively closed for the organ builders in June, July and August. So, for example, there are already 11 marriages booked in 2018. But then, in 2011 and with an infinitely less attractive "venue" (church), there were 19. This seems to be part of a national trend: between 2014 and 2015, all marriages dipped to the lowest number on record, and civil marriages were down by 1.65%, whereas church marriages for the same period were down by 8%. Church marriages made up 26% of the total.

Meanwhile the Eucharist has continued to be celebrated monthly at Abbeyfield House where it is greatly appreciated, and Holy Communion is also distributed monthly to a now regular fellowship at Fitzmaurice Place. There are also always several people receiving Holy Communion at home at any one time, some on a regular long-term basis and others short-term while they are ill, and it has been good that Chris Hodge and Marlene Haffenden as LPAs have continued to share this immensely rewarding ministry with me.

The PCC

The PCC met five times in 2017 at the Vicarage, always beginning with an informal Eucharist, and with a good rate of attendance, and working well together as a group, if a small group. In addition, there was one 'Extraordinary Meeting' held in April concerning safeguarding, and the brief meeting to elect officers after the APCM. And it was good at that point to welcome our new elected member, Anna Melliush, and our new co-opted member, Geoff Jones. The Standing Committee met regularly in between PCC Meetings. It has been a quieter year for the PCC, with the main part of the building work and our temporary move to Christ Church over. However... the tight finances needed to be addressed, the organ work needed to be completed, a new church way of life established, a Director of Music and new Treasurer appointed, and the many 'snagging' for the building project addressed. Most of that was achieved by year-end and the Share miraculously paid in full, but unfortunately (despite our very best efforts) rather too many of the 'snagging' remained unsolved.

Church family

2017 offered us a wonderful opportunity to 'regroup' as a church family. As with any family over the years, we had all been on a journey and so came back together again as slightly different people in a very different building. To a 'glass half-full' person, that provides a very exciting opportunity.

It has been really good to welcome new people in to all of our Services, and also Geoff Jones and Martin Cooke who I am delighted to say are now very much part of the team. But sadly we bade farewell to four old friends who died in 2017, but all of a good age: Jean Maitland (94 - 2 July), Hemma Sullivan (92 - 5 August), Jane Moore (99 - 4 December) and Pam Wickham (91 - 20 December). We continue to hold all those whom we have lost and loved and their families in our prayers. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Children and young people

Our wonderfully flexible and user-friendly new church building has finally enabled us to support the younger generation of our local community in the ways in which we have always hoped - and it always seems to have such a happy atmosphere. And it was good to be able to welcome some of the students and their parents of Fitzmaurice and St Laurence back for their School Carol Services. On a day to day basis, children now love just being in the church as a very special space, and really like

being able to offer their thoughts and hopes on the Prayer Leaves. The upstairs Tower Room is also very useful and popular during Services. By way of organised and regular activities, *mainly music* and Messy Church are a great success, as reported above. And the building now really lends itself to Baptisms too – to such an extent that families will often arrive early and leave late!

Re-ordering project

I wrote about this at some length last year – so in 2017 we have mainly been enjoying the fruits! But the project did continue with the eventual replacement of the 'wrong' extension flat roof and the offending and ugly flues on the boiler house. And throughout the summer (from the beginning of June) we hosted various teams from Harrison & Harrison who re-installed and then 'voiced' the organ. They finally handed it over in all its glory on 1 September which, somewhat unbelievably, marked the end of the project. And the Steering Group took out the Project Manager and architects to a celebratory lunch to thank them for the all their support and the amazing job they had done. However, there remained at year-end the enormous frustration of quite a few 'snagging's', notably the damp/condensation in the extension and the (acknowledged) need for the glass doors and their hinges to be replaced.

Community and events

This extremely important part of our ministry at Holy Trinity has really been able to take off, and in ways that we could never have imagined, in 2017. Much of it, like the Trinity Café, has been reported above. But we have also had the joy of hosting all sorts of events and groups from an embroidery group to the Bath Camerata through our new system of letting the church, now well advertised on the internet. And so the church is very well used, thousands of people are coming through the doors, *and* this provides us with a very valuable (and utterly essential) new income stream. As a part of this new life, the PCC have decided that we should join HeartEdge (see my 2017 APCM Address at p6/7 above) which will enable us to network with and learn from other churches with a similar vision.

And last but by no means least, we have drawn much closer to the ideals of the strong and vitally important 'Climate Friendly Bradford' movement. We were presented with a Church Times Green Buildings Award at Lambeth Palace in October. And we have gradually moved towards using only Fairtrade and sustainable products (both in the kitchen and for cleaning) through a very happy partnership with 'Christine's Sustainable Supermarket' in the Town Centre. The next step will be a Bronze or even Silver Eco-Church Award! And on this score, enormous thanks go to Geoff and Jane Jones who have very gently, but firmly, encouraged us along the way.

So, once again, an enormous thank you to everyone who worked together to make it an amazing year. But very special thanks to Ali, and to David and the new Churchwardens' Team of Vernon, June, Chris and Jane without whom – along with the very able help of Sally and Aylene behind the scenes – very little of all this would have happened. And, above all, God is good – we have been richly blessed!

Joanna Abecassis

The Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis
Chair, Holy Trinity PCC
14 March 2018

Holy Trinity Bradford on Avon
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Prior year
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from donors	78,305	39,596	—	117,902	190,309
Other voluntary incoming resources	1,000	19,920	—	20,920	117,393
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects	4,593	—	—	4,593	—
Activities for generating funds	18,341	7,222	—	25,563	14,708
Income from investments	105	—	—	105	(5,752)
Other incoming resources	208	134,474	—	134,682	151,669
Prior year adjustments	—	—	—	—	—
Total incoming resources	102,553	201,213	—	303,766	468,329
Resources used					
Costs of generating funds	611	—	—	611	43
Grants	2,473	—	—	2,473	1,180
Activities relating to the work of the Church	91,270	—	—	91,270	80,314
Support costs	2,054	—	—	2,054	8
Church management and administration	23,094	449,546	—	472,640	1,602,575
Prior year adjustments	16,928	3,051	—	19,980	—
Total resources used	136,432	452,598	—	589,030	1,684,122
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	(33,879)	(251,384)	—	(285,263)	(1,215,793)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	217,494	—	—	217,494	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	(217,494)	—	(217,494)	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses	183,614	(468,878)	—	(285,263)	(1,215,793)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	183,614	(468,878)	—	(285,263)	(1,215,793)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	347,917	(1,793)	—	346,124	1,561,917
Total funds carried forward	531,532	(470,672)	—	60,860	346,124

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Holy Trinity Bradford on Avon

Balance Sheet detailed

			As at 31/12/2017	As at 31/12/2016
Fixed assets				
6000002	Copier Ricoh		—	—
	Total Fixed assets		—	—
Current assets				
A1501	HSBC Current Account		31,634.19	55,865.86
A1503	Deposit Account (CCLA)		29,136.00	29,136.00
A1510	CAF Bank Account		—	711.80
A1511	CBF Trowbridge Road		—	22,501.54
A1512	Bells Nationwide		—	3,051.77
A1560	Flowers Weddings		90.00	90.00
A1570	Stock Cards,Books		—	608.72
A1580	Metsys Picture Fund DBF		—	217,229.65
Z05	Accounts Receivable		—	19,166.00
	Total Current assets		60,860.19	348,361.34
Liabilities				
Z04	Accounts Payable		—	2,237.27
	Total Liabilities		—	2,237.27
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)		60,860.19	346,124.07
Reserves				
	Excess / (deficit) to date		(285,263.88)	—
G01	Prior year adjustment		—	—
Z01	Starting balances		346,124.07	346,124.07
Z03	Gains and losses own use		—	—
	Total Reserves		60,860.19	346,124.07

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	530,266.30	346,331.55
Designated	1,266.20	1,586.20
Restricted	(470,672.31)	(1,793.68)
Endowment	—	—
Total	60,860.19	346,124.07

Revenue Income & Expenditure Accounts for year ending 31.12.2017

<u>Revenue Income</u>	<u>2017</u>
Standing Orders	44591
Weekly Cash	7284.8
Weekly Envelopes & Gift Aid	14128.46
One off Donations	8762.58
Gift Aid Recovery	0
Maintenanceboxes & Ride & Stride	3425.75
Wedding & Funeral fees	6468
Church Lettings	4593
SaxonClub	350
Mainly Music	900
Mothers Union	60
WW & WF admin contributions	3300
Street Market	4267.51
Organ Recital	3204
Other fund raising activities	4045.96
Interest	105.31
Total Income	105486.37

Revenue Expenditure

Diocesan Share	66278.58
Clergy expenses	5199.83
Gas	5709.97
Electricity	1659.7
Water	83.78
Insurance	5701.91
Gardening (churchyard & vicarage)	1585
Church Maintenance	2170.94
Upkeep of services	1295.67
Church Cleaning Costs & Wages	2054.6
Cost of Street market & Organ recital	611.62
Organist/Director of Music	4310.01
Administration Wages	13281.04
Administration	2116.85
Photocopier & Printing Costs	2966.69
MM, MU & Saxon Club Hall Hire	772.5
Christmas Card Fees	571.2
Independent Examiner	420
Total Expenditure	116789.89
Deficit	-11303.52

Summary of Total Resources

Total Incoming Resources	303,766	Total Resources Used	589,030
<u>Non -Revenue Items</u>		<u>Non Revenue Expenses</u>	
VAT Recovered	134,682.00		
Capital Gifts	41,900.50	Capital Expenses Re-ordering	449,546.30
Other Collections	2,179.07	Giving Local & National	1,466
Capital Grants	18,270	Bell Ringers Ropes	1,248
Bell Ropes	1,248	Prior year adjustments	19,980
Total Non Revenue Income	198,280.00	Total Non Revenue Expenditure	472,240.30
Revenue Income	105,486.37	Revenue Expenditure	116,789.89
Total Income	303,766.37	Total Expenditure	589,030.19

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2017

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of Financial Reporting Standards 102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, it is also the first year that they have been prepared under FRS 102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS102)).

ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included in the Church's inventory in any case.

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts- in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

- Land Nil
- Computers 3 years

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets currently exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

An impairment review is carried out at each year-end and any resultant loss identified included in expenditure for the year. Following this year's review the Stock of Cards has been deemed to be non-saleable and as such has been written off in the 2017 accounts.

Balance Sheet Adjustments

During the past few years there have been balance sheet entries showing against Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable.

Accounts Receivable relates to monies due to us (an asset) and Accounts Payable relates to monies we owe other people (a liability).

In the case of Accounts Receivable there has been a figure of £19,166 "recorded in the annual accounts" for 2014, 2015 & 2016 which would suggest that we are due this money. Our investigations have concluded that there is no money at all due to us, therefore we have had to make an adjustment to the balance sheet to remove this figure as it was inflating our overall asset position.

Similarly in the case of Accounts Payable the sum of £2237.27 has been recorded in the annual accounts each year since 2012 without any change. Again our investigations have concluded that we don't owe anybody any money. As above in order to remove this figure from the balance sheet we have had to make an adjustment via reserves to rectify this matter.

The entries mentioned above are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as prior year adjustments and are then carried forward into the Reserves section of the Balance Sheet and form part of the figure "Excess / (deficit) to date". A full breakdown of movement in reserves is included within the Treasurer's Report.

Short term deposits

These are the cash held on deposit at the bank.

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds

These are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

RESERVES POLICY

In view of the current financial position the PCC has agreed that the policy relating to any remaining free reserves is to look at maintaining the balance between paying all lines of expenditure as they fall due and remaining solvent at the year end. By far the largest level of expenditure is the Diocesan Share payments and it is the stated objective of the PCC to continue to pay the "Share" in full but this will have to be dependent on the level of income received and cash flow constraints.

RESERVES

The movement in our reserves position during the year is as follows:

Opening Balance	£346,124 (closing balance, 2016 Balance Sheet)
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Funds Received

Capital Gifts	£41,900
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Capital Grants	£18,270
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Other Collections	£2,179
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Total	£408,473
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Less Funds Used

Re-ordering	£314,864 (net of VAT)
Giving	£1,466
Deficit on I&E	£11,303
Prior Year Adjustment	£19,980
Closing Balance	£60,860 (closing balance, 2017 Balance Sheet)

STAFF COSTS

Gross Wages & Salaries for the year amounted to £15,364.43

Tax & NI deductions amounted to £753.80

During the year the PCC employed two administrative staff and a cleaner. All three are employed on a part time basis.

In addition a new Director of Music was appointed during the year.

There were no employee benefits paid to members of staff during the current or previous year.

VAT RECOVERY

Generally the church has to pay VAT on all goods & services. Where possible this has been recovered under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

Agreement was reached with the operators of the scheme that a single percentage (91.4%) be applied to all qualifying invoices. The only exception to that agreement being that the VAT recovery on all Archaeology and Organ refurbishment costs qualified for 100% VAT recovery.

During 2017 a sum of £134,682.94 was recovered.

Geoff Jones, Treasurer

Accounts agreed at a meeting of the PCC held on 14 March 2018 and signed by the Chair.

Joanna Abecassis

The Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2017 which are set out on pages attached.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Notes:

1. As part of my examination of the accounts, I have reviewed and discussed the issue surrounding the need to make prior year adjustments to the Accounts Receivable/Payable with the Treasurer and would concur that the actions taken are the most appropriate.
2. The accounting policy for Holy Trinity is no longer based on an accrual system but on a 'receipts and payments' basis. The Treasurer will however place a note in his annual report alongside the Revenue Income & Expenditure Report, stating any significant receipts and expenditure which is in the pipeline but not yet confirmed (ie Gift Aid applications/grants not yet finalised). Gift Aid finalised for current year end or prior but received post year end.

Lorna Sturrock



10 March 2018

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