

in the power of the Spirit...

Christ Church, Mount Pellon Annual Parochial Church Meeting



Sunday 17th April 2016
12.30 pm in Church

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*a loving, nurturing fellowship which,
in the power of the Spirit,
awakens all people to the love of Jesus
and spreads the Gospel through words and actions.*



Christ Church Mount Pellon Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 19th April 2015, 12.30pm in Church

1. Prayers

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last year's meeting
4. Matters arising
5. Election of Church Wardens
6. Election of Deputy Church Wardens

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

7. Apologies for absence
8. Minutes of last year's meeting
9. Matters arising

Reports:

10. on the Electoral Roll
11. on the proceedings of the PCC
12. on the financial statement of the PCC
13. on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the parish
14. on the Deanery Synod

14. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
15. Election of PCC representatives
16. Appointment of Sidesmen
17. Appointment of Independent Examiner

18. Reports from organizations connected to Christ Church
(see the written reports in this booklet. These will not be read out, but questions may be asked about the reports)

19. Report from Vicar

20. Any other business



Christ Church Mount Pellon



CHRIST CHURCH MOUNT PELLON MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING held on Sunday 19th April 2015 13.00 pm in Church

Present: Karen Bainbridge, Chris Butler, Michael Cockerill, Michael & Pauline Crouch, Dorothy Faller, Bronwyn Firth, Pauline Fox, Kath Griffiths, Beryl & Terry Haigh, Jo Harrison, John Hellewell, Sue & Paul Heptinstall, Martin Hoyle, Barrie Kitchen, Iain & Lynn Lawson, June Lockwood, Lynn Lumb, Norman McDonnell, Audrey Mitchell, Rosemary Power O'Mahoney, David Ramanauskas, Kath Sharman, Anthea Thresher, Gareth Toy, Dawn Trafford, Rosemary Wright.

1. The meeting opened with prayers
2. Apologies for absence had been received from: Carol Butler, Sharon Tyler and Karen Hellewell
3. The Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 13th April 2014 having been previously circulated were proposed by Chris Butler, seconded by Iain Lawson and signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.
4. Election of Church Wardens – John Hellewell thanked Michael Cockerill and Michael Crouch for their work over the last year. Both were re-elected there being no other nominations.
5. Election of Deputy Church Wardens – John Hellewell thanked Ken Ward and Terry Gledhill for their time as Deputy Church Warden. Re-appointment deferred until next PCC meeting in the absence of Ken and Terry.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
held on Sunday 19th April 2015 1.05 pm in Church

6. Apologies for absence – as for the Vestry meeting.
7. The Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting held on 13th April 2014 having been previously circulated were proposed by Michael Cockerill, seconded by June Lockwood and signed as a correct record
8. Matters Arising - None
9. Report on Revision of Electoral Roll – Kath Sharman having taken over responsibility of the Electoral Roll advised the number of people on the electoral roll currently stands at 102.
10. Secretary's Report – see report in APCM Booklet. John Hellewell thanked Kath Sharman for work during the year. Rosemary Wright asked for minutes to be put on noticeboard. This is to be arranged and also to be included on the website.
11. Treasurer's Report – See report in APCM Booklet. John Hellewell thanked Steve Daveney in his absence for the hard work he has done in compiling the Year End Accounts and the fantastic job he has done in the short time he has been appointed as Treasurer. The reduction in running expenses is due to the efficiency of the new heating system and not paying for a cleaner.
12. Church Wardens' Report - see report in APCM Booklet. John Hellewell thanked the 'Michael's' for their work during the last year.
13. Fabric Report - see report in APCM Booklet. After the Quinquennial report during the summer it brought up the problems with the roof and archway. Meeting held with Arch Bishop and Architect to decide how to proceed. Architect has been appointed to oversee the work and is having meetings with John Hellewell and Sharon Tyler to put grant applications in for the funding required with Heritage Lottery Funding. Architect is very confident in the application being successful especially with the church being used by many groups from the community. It will be a two stage bid – first for £175k to repair the archway, to carry out the work required on the south aisle side of the roof and the valley gutter on the north aisle and will also include further investigative work.

Architect and Sharon Tyler to attend a Heritage Lottery Fund workshop which will help with submitting the application. The scaffolding is currently being hired on a monthly basis at a cost of £100 plus VAT per month. Enquiries made to purchase the scaffolding (approx. £1 per foot plus the connectors). It will be cheaper to purchase than rent due to the timescale it will be required and we can then sell the equipment afterwards. Installation of the new inner doors to wait until work carried out to avoid the doors being damaged. We have also received permission to extend the understairs cupboard at the back of church to house chatterbox equipment. A lockable cupboard will be created outside downstairs toilet for cleaning materials etc and also a cupboard in the entrance area to store the tables. Chairs – we are now in position to go ahead and purchase. Chairs from Rosehill chose as most suitable but these are manufactured in Poland. Another sample has been provided with Ash rather than Oak by Alpha Furniture manufactured in UK – waiting for quote. Chairs to not include book holder and connectors. Also a quote to be sought from another company. Faculty may need to be changed but Architect and Arch Bishop will be OK with this. Hopefully the chairs will be available in the summer. Replacement of stolen projector – John Hellewell need to clarify some info from Police for the insurance company then we can re-order.

14. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives: Report included in APCM Booklet. June Lockwood and Sharon Tyler still within their 3 year appointment and there is one vacancy.
15. Election of Parochial Church Council – Nominations received from Paul Heptinstall who was re-elected to the PCC. Steve Daveney will be approached on his return from holiday and Terry Gledhill will need to be re-elected if he wishes to continue as a member.

The following are the current list of elected PCC members (date for renewal – if applicable – are shown in brackets after their names:

Clergy/Lay Readers: John Hellewell, Karen Hellewell, Sue Heptinstall
Michael Cockerill (Church Warden) (2016)
Michael Crouch (Church Warden) (2016)
Chris Bulter (2016)
Kath Sharman (2016)
David Ramanauskas (2016)
Angela Ward (2016)

Gareth Toy (2016)
Kath Griffiths (2017)
Anthea Thresher (2017)
Paul Heptinstall (2018)

With ex officio members: June Lockwood & Sharon Tyler as Deanery Synod Representatives (+1 vacancy) and two members of Sharx.

16. Election of Sidespeople - No Change to existing list.
17. Appointment of Auditor – Debbie Pinder was thanked for her work as Examiner and has agreed to continue for next year. Kath Griffiths proposed and Pauline Crouch seconded the adoption of the accounts. To obtain a thankyou gift for Debbie Pinder.
18. Reports from Church Groups and Organisations had been included in APCM booklet distributed prior to the meeting. Home Communion Report missed from the booklet which was read out to all present. John Hellewell thanked all groups for their reports and for the work they have undertaken over the last 12 months.
19. Vicar's Report – see report in booklet.
Plan for Growth is to be launched in the Huddersfield Diocese which will include numerical growth. New Diocese is still being structured and hopefully we will get to know our local Bishop. Parish Share is being looked into at the moment so changes may occur in how the parish share is calculated.
20. Any other business:
All old pews have now been sold

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.45 pm.

10. REPORT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll currently stands at 100. This figure includes 4 withdrawn and 2 new additions.

Kath Sharman, Electoral Roll Officer

11. REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC

The PCC has continued to meet regularly throughout the year.

The members of the PCC work together to discern what God has planned for Christ Church and we work together to bring about his will for us. We continue to hold discussions on the general running of our church and regularly discuss health and safety issues, our financial standing, security, the children's work including the Child Protection Policy, reviewing service patterns and re-ordering of the church building.

We continue to welcome suggestions/comments from you our church family, we listen to what you are saying and try to make the right decisions. If you wish to bring any matter to the attention of the PCC as a member of the congregation, then either write to or email John or myself or speak to any member of the PCC and we will bring the issue forward at the next meeting.

At the PCC meetings we discuss the everyday running matters of the church and also where we as a church are growing. The PCC is open to any member of the church who is on the electoral role. Just speak to me or any member of the preaching team and we will ensure you receive a copy of the form to complete.

Once again, I would like to thank John and the PCC members for their continued support over the last twelve months your help and support have been most appreciated.

Kath Sharman, Secretary to the PCC

12. REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE PCC

This year has seen our finances continue to struggle. We have come nowhere near paying our Parish Share, and just keeping our heads above water has been a real achievement. Short of winning the Lottery (which is difficult as I do not buy tickets) there is no easy solution. We must continue to work and pray that God will provide.

As my first full year as Treasurer draws to a close, I wish to pay tribute to Anne Rollinson who gave me basic training in how to do accounting. Also a huge thank you to Pam Bonner for taking on the recording of everything. This was an area which I was really struggling with and I am convinced that Pam was sent by God. Without her I would never have completed the year. THANK YOU PAM.

Steve Daveney, PCC Treasurer

Christ Church Mount Pellon, Halifax

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENT of the P.C.C. for the year ended 31st December 2015

Bank: Barclays Bank plc, Commercial Street, Halifax
Independent Examiner: Debbie Pinder

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Christ Church is situated on Church Lane, Pellon, Halifax. It is part of the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales within the Church of England. The correspondence address is New Vicarage, Church Lane, Halifax, HX2 0EF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2015 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent:	Rev John Hellewell
Associate Priest:	Rev Susan Heptinstall
Assistant Curate:	Rev Linda Maslen (from 4 th July 2015)
Churchwardens:	Michael Cockerill Michael Crouch
Deanery Synod:	June Lockwood (till '17) Sharon Tyler (till '17) (vacant)
Elected Members:	Chris Butler (till '16) Terry Gledhill (till '18) Kathleen Griffiths (till '17) Paul Heptinstall (till '18) David Ramanauskas (till '16) Kath Sharman (PCC Secretary) (till '16) Anthea Thresher (till '17) Gareth Toy (till '16) Angela Ward (till '16)

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.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Christ Church P.C.C. has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent and all attached licensed ministers, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the responsibilities for maintaining the church building and its surrounds.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Church Attendance

There are now exactly 100 members entered on the electoral roll of the parish, which is 2 less than last year, with 4 having been removed and 2 joined. The average weekly attendance last year was 60, which is an overall increase of 6 on the previous year. This reflects a changing pattern of attendance, however, with a slight decrease in morning attendance. And a larger increase in evening attendance – mainly (but not exclusively) with many of our friends from overseas joining us for our evening worship, and the growth in the healing communion and celebration evenings.

It also doesn't include the Wednesday communion numbers which are also showing a slight overall increase from the previous year.

Review of the year

The PCC met seven times last year. As well as overseeing the general business of the parish, the PCC was obviously focussed on the building work that is required. Sadly, our original application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) was unsuccessful. However, there was positive feedback from HLF, and after a more in-depth inspection from the architect and a structural surveyor, and much hard work from Sharon Tyler, we are now in a position to submit a further bid in the near future.

We also reviewed the service pattern, and have introduced a third morning communion service on the second Sunday in the month. This will be kept under review, particularly in the light of the number of people we have to help run SOUL patrol, our Sunday children's' work.

In July we welcomed our new assistant curate, Rev Linda Maslen and her husband, Dave, to our congregation, and they have already made a positive impact and got stuck in to the full life of the church.

We have continued to see new members coming to church, and a change in church attendance patterns, with a growth in the Wednesday morning communion in particular.

The significant challenge we continue to face is attempting to pay our parish share, which, although an improvement on the previous year, we woefully short. This will inevitably be a focus in the years to come.

Financial Review

Details of the finance can be seen in the accounts as attached. The main point to note is the significant underpayment of our parish share to the diocese.

Whilst this has been the case for many years, and we can celebrate that we paid more than the previous year, this is a situation that should concern us, and will certainly be of concern to the diocese.

We will be working with the diocese in the coming year to see how we can improve this situation.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to approximately six months unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £4,006 on unrestricted funds at the year end did not match this target.

The balance of £6,188 in the Barclays A/C B is retained towards meeting the cost of the work needed on the arch and roof outlines above.

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by Rev. John Hellewell
(PCC chairman)



Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Christ Church Mount Pellon

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2015, which are set out on pages 10 to 13, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43 (2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the *Church Guidance, 2006* edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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.



Debbie Pinder
The Delters
Wainstalls Road
Halifax

Date 2nd April 2016

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS END DECEMBER 2015
PCC RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS	DEC 2015		DEC 2014	
<i>Carried forward from previous year</i> (a)	6,184.66		2,557.11	
INCOMING RESOURCES FROM DONORS				
101 Covenants and Gift Aid (b)	14,790.14		11,979.04	
102 Income Tax Recovered				
103 Uncovenanted Planned Giving	<u>2,184.74</u>	16,974.88	<u>1,561.41</u>	13,540.45
104 Collection at Services	2,049.31		2,658.78	
105 Sundry Donations including Gift Day (c)	<u>3,319.60</u>	5,368.91	<u>357.62</u>	3,016.40
OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOMING RESOURCES				
201 Grants	1,200.00		1,500.00	
202 Legacies	500.00			
203 Fund Raising	<u>718.50</u>	2,418.50	<u>660.92</u>	2,160.92
300 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS				
301 Dividends and Interest	<u>0.00</u>	0.00	297.40	297.40
400 INCOME FROM ANCILLIARY				
401 Ancillary Trading				
402 Church Property Hire	112.00		250.00	
403 Magazine	121.40		210.37	
404 PCC Fees	<u>2,018.00</u>	2,251.40	<u>3,108.00</u>	3,568.37
500 NON CHARITABLE TRADING				
600 OTHER INCOME				
601 Insurance Claim	217.47		1,005.93	
602 Other Income	<u>1,085.00</u>	1,302.47	<u>2,021.09</u>	3,027.02
TOTAL				<u>25,610.56</u>
DESIGNATED/RESTRICTED INCOME				
100R Income from Donor (Kitchen Tiles)	0.00		60.00	
Mens' Weekend	0.00		1,080.00	
Parish Weekend (d)	1,065.00		3,914.97	
Sharx	822.18		305.59	
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	105.00		105.00	
International Night	0.00		740.00	
WDBOF Occasional Offices	<u>0.00</u>	1,992.18	<u>6,312.00</u>	<u>12,517.56</u>
TOTAL		<u>30,308.34</u>		<u>38,128.12</u>

- (a) not included in totals
- (b) covenanted giving, gift aid claim outstanding
- (c) Donations from Gift Day £1,575
- (d) Income from Parish Weekend offset by expenditure

PAYMENTS	DEC 2015		DEC 2014	
1000 GRANTS				
1001 Missionary and Charitable Giving	3,036.89	3,036.89	1,860.00	1,860.00
2000 CHURCH ACTIVITIES				
2001 Diocesan Quota	2,535.00		600.00	
2002 Clergy Expenses	1,370.43		1,858.20	
2005 Church Running Expenses (a)	11,178.93		10,330.18	
2006 Church Maintenance	1,980.33		2,278.56	
2007 Upkeep of Services	2,850.82		1,092.31	
2008 Upkeep of Churchyard	0.00		1,219.50	
2009 Trading	0.00		0.00	
2012 Major Repairs	2,913.60		0.00	
2013 Major Replacements and Capital Exp	0.00		0.00	
2016 Salaries/Honoraria	0.00		58.00	
2017 Support Costs	<u>0.00</u>	22,829.11	<u>0.00</u>	17,436.75
FUNDRAISING	2,181.50	2,181.50	0.00	
4000 CHURCH ADMINISTRATION				
4001 Printing and Stationery	756.89	756.89	829.11	829.11
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED PAYMENTS		<u>28,804.39</u>		<u>20,125.86</u>
RESTRICTED PAYMENTS				
Mens' Weekend	0.00		1,188.00	
International Night	715.00		0.00	
Parish Weekend	740.00		3,801.70	
Sharx Account	1,891.08		897.86	
WDBOF Occasional Offices	376.00		5,452.00	
Chatterbox	<u>50.00</u>	<u>3,772.08</u>	<u>0.00</u>	11,339.56
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>32,576.47</u>		<u>31,465.42</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) RECEIPTS				6,184.66

(a) Insurance, Gas, Electricity, Water, Cleaning

SPECIAL PURPOSE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT – CBF (RESTRICTED – UPKEEP OF CHURCH)

	2015	2014
Carried forward from previous year	1,977.64	1,968.20
Receipts		
Interest		9.44
Payments		
Balance		1,977.64

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIALITIES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
Barclays Bank Current A/C	4,006.06	6,184.66
Barclays Bank A/C B	6,188.88	18,703.04
Barclays Bank Savings A/C		326.61
CBF Special Purpose Deposit for Fabric		1,977.64
TOTAL		27,191.95

LIABILITIES AND CREDIT BALANCES

Unrestricted Receipts & Payments A/C Balance	4,006.06	6,184.66
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RESTRICTED FUNDS

Barclays Bank A/C B	6,188.88	18,703.04
CBF Special Purpose Deposit for Fabric		1,977.64
Barclays Bank Savings A/C		326.61
TOTAL		27,191.95

13. CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Another year rolls by. I think everyone approves of the new seating, when you walk into church now it looks so nice and organised. The chairs with arms are very much appreciated by those not so able. The new doors into church, given in Ann's memory, have been admired by everyone I have spoken to. The new cupboards in the porch, for storing the tables etc., should help keep the church uncluttered. The Chatterbox cupboard is well used and is appreciated by the girls who had to run up and down the stairs with all the equipment, it was an accident waiting to happen. The progress of the church building can be found in the fabric report.

As usual there are loads of thanks to be made to those who look after different parts of the church family, the church couldn't run without you. A special thankyou to Sharon for all the hours she puts in applying for grants to make sure our lovely church has a future, even after disappointments she doesn't give up. We all know who looks after whatever, so a big thankyou to you all.

It's also lovely to see how Linda has settled in and makes a valuable clergy team member. A massive thankyou to John and Sue, nobody knows how many hours they put in to keep us on the right path.

God Bless

Michael Cockerill and Michael Crouch, Church Wardens

14. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Halifax Deanery Synod met three times in 2015 under the chairmanship of Rev. Stephen Bradberry, the Area Dean. The synod meets in a different church every time, and begins with an outline of the parish and its ministry.

This year we heard from St. George's Ovenden, Holy Nativity Mixenden, and Christ Church Sowerby Bridge.

The March meeting was an opportunity to listen to our (then) new Bishop, Rt. Rev. Jonathan Gibbs, and ask some questions.

In June, we heard from the Diocese about the current financial situation and ways forward for the new parish share, and also about Fostering in Calderdale.

The November synod was supposed to hear from the new Director of Education for the new diocese but unfortunately he was unable to attend at the last minute. The meeting instead was able to give time discussing and debating a motion from St. Paul's, Kings Cross relating to parishes who had not paid their Parish Share (Common Fund). In the end, after a lively debate, the motion was not carried.

We look forward to further stimulating debates over the coming year.

John Hellewell



**REPORTS from
GROUPS and ORGANISATIONS
connected to**

**CHRIST CHURCH
MOUNT PELLON**

Presented in written format

at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held
on Sunday 17th April 2016
12.30pm in Church

**Group Reports
Vicar's Report**

**p19
p39**

ADMINISTRATION

Thanks to John for the work he does compiling 'The Hub' our Church Magazine. Also thanks to Val Schofield and June Lockwood who organise the distribution of our bi-monthly magazine. We still welcome articles from anyone to include in the magazine so any snippets you would like including let either myself, John or Sharon know.

My continued thanks to those who volunteer for the various roles: reading, prayers for our services, and also those who bring the bread for Communion, sidespeople and welcomers and those who serve coffee and juice after the services – too many to mention by name but you are most appreciated. We are always looking for more volunteers to undertake these varied roles – do you sit in church on Sundays and think 'I would like to do that' – just let me or any of the preaching team know – if you feel you need some training to do the job of reading or prayer leading we can help.

Kath Sharman

BAPTISM TEAM

The baptism team continues to change, and we now have Beryl Haigh helping with the preparation by meeting and befriending the families and helping at the baptism services.

We continue to speak to families about the meaning of baptism, about the Christian faith that their children are to be baptised, and about some of the things we do as a church to help their spiritual growth and some things they can do as parents and godparents.

We have also had the privilege of more SharX members being baptised, and look forward to more in the coming years.

We will be reviewing our baptism procedure in the near future.

In 2015 we baptised 16 children and young people, and 7 adults.

John Hellewell

CAFÉ HOPE & LUNCHBOX

Café Hope is a great venue to meet and have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee with cakes and biscuits followed by the Communion Services.

Our monthly Lunchbox has been well attended with approximately 24 people attending – sometimes more sometimes less but there is always enough food. The Christmas Lunch in November was a great success with 60 attending. Grateful thanks to Kath Sharman for her catering skills.

I would like to say a big thankyou to all who have helped in the last year – helping with setting up tables, serving and washing up for Lunchbox and Christmas Lunchbox, also for all the baking which has been donated for the coffee mornings.

In 2015 Café Hope and Lunchbox received an Award and Grant of £500 from the North Halifax Partnership which we used to purchase the new cups for church, table covers and larger pans for Lunchbox and lots of other bits and pieces all useful for Café Hope and Lunchbox.

Once again thanks to all who have contributed and helped, you are all greatly appreciated.

Kath Griffiths

CC CHATTERBOX REPORT

CC Chatterbox is now into its second successful year and growing every week. We currently have 31 mums registered 36 children. These range from 0-4 years. Not all of them come every week but we have just over 20 regulars.

We meet on Fridays 9.30-11.30 and we keep the cost low at £1.50 which covers their refreshments.

We are a casual group where people can choose to join in with activities or just play and network. We tend to run themes and celebrate lots of different religious events. We are equality and diversity friendly and strive to help anyone who may need it.

We have assisted in providing equipment for mums with babies who are struggling financially and the group share or pass on toys/equipment to others.

The group has a mix of adults from Grandma's to grandads to childminders to dads and mums which I feel is great!! Everyone seems to mingle well and look out for each other, everyone matters.

I also have a regular valued team of 5 helpers which are Pauline, Jenny, Carly, Ann, Michael and Kye. Without their time and commitment to the group I couldn't run it so I would like to say a BIG Thank you to them! Without the dedicated help in particular of one mum Carly and Grandma Ann who turn up on Thursday to set up for me I would struggle to run the group. With my work commitments too I have been finding it difficult to come and set up on Thursday night so appreciate their help doing this.

Each helper plays their own role in running the group so it's not led by one leader it's a team effort. One person Pauline is a long standing member of chatterbox and ran it with Ann Cockerill. Pauline's time and commitment to the group since I reopened it is a God send!! She spends her time planning and sorting craft activities which takes a lot of time and effort that I simply don't have. Despite Pauline struggling recently with her health her commitment to Chatterbox inspires me and I can't tell her enough from the bottom of my heart how grateful I am to her. I would struggle to run chatterbox without her so thank you!

We have tried to introduce religious activities within our teaching but due to the ages it can be difficult for them to understand but our aim is to plant the seed in the hope it may grow in the future. Hope you continue to enjoy seeing their work which we display on the walls so you know what we have been teaching.

We have seen children from the group become Baptised and some have come to church fairs and other events and also some Sunday services. We are hoping in the future to encourage more to come and try events and church services.

The last two years' money has been ploughed back into the group by replacing equipment and paying for parties and events. This next financial year we are hoping with the money we make to try and plan a day out outside of Friday mornings,

I am hoping CC Chatterbox will continue to grow and I hope volunteers will continue to work alongside me in continuing to keep it running for this next year. If anyone has an interest in helping please have a word or turn up Friday morning, there is always a baby that needs a cuddle while the mum has a cuppa!! Friendly face and a good listening ear is all you need.

Last but not least I would like to say a BIG thank you to you, Christ church. Without your generosity when I've asked and allowing us to use the building to reach out to the community we couldn't run. Thank you John and Linda for turning up sometimes to take part in storytelling, much appreciated as I know it is your rest day!

Also thank you to Michael for just being there!! Just your presence is appreciated and I know people love talking to you about the church so thank you.

I am proud to say CC Chatterbox is part of our church family and long may it continue to run!

Amen.

Carol Butler & CC Chatterbox Team

CHRISTIAN EXPLORERS' COURSE

In 2015 we changed our approach a little. For the past few years we have run an Alpha Course at least once a year, but this year we decided to look at alternative enquirer's courses.

We ran a 'Pilgrim' course – a relatively new course from the 'Church of England'. This has the advantage that it is structured around worship – prayers, liturgy and silence are built in from the start.

We also ran two Christianity Explored courses – one run in Farsi for our Iranian friends, and one which was run in church replacing our usual house groups in the Autumn.

This has video material and is based on Mark's Gospel. It is much more tied to the bible, and provoked some very interesting discussions at both groups!

Whether you've been a Christian all your life or are still thinking things through (I am!) then coming on an explorer's course is a good thing to do, so look out for the courses running later this year!

John Hellewell

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

It has been very gratifying to receive positive comments about the flowers in church this past year. My sincere thanks for the generous donations towards the flowers I received, in remembrance of loved ones and anniversaries etc. and for the money placed in the flower box at the back of church. I enjoy creating lovely pedestals in the church porch and creative arrangements on the altar. The money has provided blocks of oasis, candles for Advent, material to drape, the balance for the daffodils and lots of flowers. Thanks once again to Graeme Robinson for his advice when I asked him, and delivering flowers to the church door. He also designed the Advent Ring.

My thanks to church members for donations for the Easter Flowers and for the welcome annual contribution towards the daffodils for Mothering Sunday. A big 'thank you' to Kath G and Bronwyn for helping me tie up the flowers and help from the Church Wardens.

I look forward to another year to put colour in the church.

June Lockwood

HOME COMMUNIONS

Home Communion take place on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

The numbers vary from month to month. Some visits are temporary and some permanent.

Steve Daveney and I whiz all round Halifax bringing the body and blood of Christ to those who are housebound.

They are all pleased to see us, grateful for what we do, and all feel better afterwards.

We consider it a privilege to serve the Lord in this way.

Rosemary Power-O'Mahony

HOME GROUPS

Christ Church Home Groups usually meet once a fortnight sharing fellowship, prayer, studying the Bible and experiencing God's presence in a small group setting together.

At the start of the year we had three groups, one daytime and two evening groups. One of the evening groups decided that it should close in September to allow the leaders to explore other ministries, but we are hoping that this group will 'resurrect' itself with new leaders in the near future.

Small groups allow people to get to know one another better, provide good personal pastoral support and provide a place where all the members can share their own personal experiences of God and grow together in knowledge and love of God.

They are so important that we would hope all members of Christ Church feel that they could find a way to become a member of a house group. If you would like to know more, please as a member of the church leadership.

John Hellewell

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

Our bible study class has continued and we introduced a new course this year called Christianity Explored. The course has Farsi subtitles which has greatly benefitted our Iranian brothers and sisters whose English is developing. We were also blessed by having Sadek from Barnsley join us who translated as John and I answered many of the amazingly intelligent and eager questions they asked. Leading the bible study is a real joy and to see the way people have grown and developed spiritually is a true blessing. If you would like to be involved in the next course, please do come and ask me or John

Karen Hellewell

INTERNATIONAL EVENING

Meeting fortnightly on Friday evenings we have great fun playing games, eating together and generally socialising. We regularly get 20 people meeting who come from all over the world. It is a vitally important time where people can socialise and relax. It continues to be a joy to witness people grow in confidence and in their command of English. Meeting in the church means many ask spiritual questions and seek prayer support.

Karen Hellewell

LADIES FRIDAY GROUP

The Ladies Friday Group has met 6 times over the last twelve months. Between 10 and 16 ladies have enjoyed an evening of chat over a glass of wine, followed by a bring and share supper with coffee/tea afterwards.

We have had several new ladies join us and all ladies are welcome to come along to any or all of our evenings.

I would like to thank all those ladies who have hosted the group in the last twelve months. The group is expanding and we have had 25 different ladies who have come along to share an evening with us.

If anyone would like any more information about the group or you would like to come along please give me a ring. I also produced a small card, to fit in your handbag, which has the dates and venues on. The cards are available in church or from myself.

Ann Gardner (01422 341962)

LISTENING TO GOD

Our group meet every Thursday evening at 6pm in Christ Church. Everyone is welcome, no matter if you belong to another church or Christian denomination. There can be between ten to twenty of us who meet together, not as a prayer group where we offer prayers to God, but we meet to listen to God, to see what He wants to say to us.

This is how it works. Imagine going into a cinema. You sit down, and the lights go out, and the picture is projected on to a screen in front of you. There are no distractions, and you become absorbed in the film.

Somewhere in your head you have a projector screen, and **you** can project pictures, films, information or whatever on to that screen. This is how we use our imagination.

Now, let's imagine you are at home, you sit down, close your eyes and recall your favourite band or singer playing your favourite melody. It's very easy for you to hear the music, and see your band or singer in action. What you have done is to project the 'film of your band' onto the projection screen in your mind. It is so easy, you have been doing it for years, quite naturally.

Now, when it comes to listening to God, we begin by inviting God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit, to speak to us. We invite God to speak, or to show us a word, picture, scripture – whatever God wants to show us, we give Him permission to project what He wants to show us, on the projection screen in our minds. Then we clear our minds of the junk and sit quietly and wait upon the Lord. Now this isn't a time of prayer, we are not to start asking of God, or praying for the needs of others, we can do that another time, here we just listen.

Sometimes God will speak to us in a picture, a scripture, or just simply talk to us. We make a note of what God is saying, and then at the end we share with one another what we have received from God. Those of you who have attended the Sunday evening Healing Service which takes place on the last Sunday of the month, will have seen how we listen to God for just five minutes, and God will speak to us for members of the congregation. Also, when we have a quiet time before the 10.45 Sunday service, some of us will use that time to ask God to speak to us for a member of the congregation, and then we share with the person at the end of the service.

Being able to hear God speak to you in this way is something anyone can learn to do – over a period of time. The easiest way to learn to hear God speak is in a group – that’s why we meet every Thursday.

Now, none of us would claim to be experts! So if any of us come to you with a ‘Word’ from God, please remember we are **learning** to hear from God. We are trying our very best to receive something from God for you.

And why should God want to speak to us? Because He loves us, because He loves YOU.

If you would like to know more, then please ask me. Listening to God and Healing are my favourite subjects!

Yours in Christ

David Ramanauskas

MEN’S BREAKFAST MEETINGS

I took over organising The Men’s Breakfast Meetings at the start of 2015 from David Ramanauskas who had done such a good job in starting and running the group for several years.

We continue to meet on the last Saturday of the month, at the Fountainhead Inn, starting at 8.00am. We begin with a chat over coffee, some sung worship and usually a guest speaker or a discussion. We have been fortunate enough to have several different guests over the year, and some interesting discussions have ensued!

We welcome men from other churches as well, and we have quite a mixed group that is faithful in attending and sharing their faith with each other to encourage and challenge one another.

We finish with a wonderful cooked breakfast for only £5! If you would like to come (or know someone who would), then please have a word with me. You would be very welcome!

Yours in Christ.

Terry Gledhill

MISSION GROUP

Special collections during the year were sent to UNICEF (Lent Boxes) £168, DEC Earthquake Appeal £152, and Children's Society (Christingle Collection) £241.

Donations have also been made throughout the year to WaterAid, CICS and Leprosy Mission. We also supported the provision of the 'It's Your Move' booklets to Christ Church Junior School leavers through CICS.

If any of you as a church group or individual fundraiser or make donations to any charity whether it is a religious based charity or not, please let me know the amount and we can include it in our giving records.

Throughout the year we receive many appeals both from Christian based charities at home, or abroad and also for local and national secular charities. If you would like to volunteer to join the Missions Group – we meet once a term to consider the appeals received. We also regularly support the Food Drop In, CICS, St Augustine's Centre and Alpha House.

As a group we also take part in the Christian Aid Sunday Service. We are currently looking for someone to join us who would be interested in becoming our Christian Aid link. If you are interested please speak to either myself or John.

Kath Sharman, Chair of Missions Group

PASTORAL CARE

We have just had another busy year for the pastoral team, people who are prepared to spend some of their free time visiting others who are not so fortunate, and hopefully brightening up their day.

The team meet every other month, we have tea and cake, and then get down to the real business – who needs a visit, is anyone in hospital, who has not been to church for a few Sundays – and on it goes.

Having had our chat, the team each get referrals for the next month. All the team members are congregation watchers and also keep an eye out for new people at church to make them feel welcome, and invite them to stay for coffee after church.

New team members are always welcome.

I would like to thank all the team for their time and effort, may the Lord bless each and every one of you for all that you do.

Rosemary Power-O'Mahony

TEXTPRAYER

Textprayers is a significant part of the life of Christ Church, and remains a mainstay of the prayer life of the church.

Textprayers continues to be widely used by many people, including people who aren't members of Christ Church or St. Augustine's except that they pray for us and we pray for them as well. It is used both to pray for immediate situations and also to celebrate answers to prayers – and there have been plenty of those!

When answers are known, they are circulated to encourage people and show the effectiveness of their prayers – what a great God we have!

There are currently 48 active, praying members and we receive an average of about 25 textprayers per month – nearly one per day! – which works out at around 140,000 individual texts sent in the year – that's a lot of praying, and it makes a difference!

Textprayer is simple to join – just contact me as below, and I'll add you to the list. Then just text me when prayer is required, and everyone on the list automatically is texted with the prayer. They may then pray immediately, add it to their prayer diary, set reminders on their phone to pray regularly, for example.

Prayers can be for anything – they do not need to be related directly to our church, and indeed with have people from wider afield joining us in prayer for all sorts of situations and people that most of us don't know – but God does, and he cares, and answers!

Thanks to all who serve God in this way

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Iain Lawson

SHARX

SharX April 2015 – March 2016



SharX continues to be well blessed by God and I am happy to report another highly successful year regarding the number of young people we have been able to share God's Word with. April did see a fall in numbers as the older members concentrated on their studies but at the start of the autumn term we saw a great surge in numbers and averaged 28 out of an active membership of 35 between Sept and January with members introducing new friends on a fortnightly basis, most of whom continue to attend.

Numbers attending SharX is important in that it creates an healthy, buzzing environment that the young people thrive on and although the most recent crop of new members have very little church background Lynn is working hard to find the right mix in her Christian discussion groups in order to engage the members in the prime reason for the existence of SharX ie SHARING IN CHRIST.

Initially we have to overcome a resistance to the compulsory sessions but this is well worth the effort once each member starts to take on board the message we preach.

The last 12 months has seen an increase in attending Christian based events from little to large groups and once again included highly successful trips to Lightwater Valley and the Spree North East Summer weekend Christian youth camp. As in previous years SharX provided Service crew (aged 16 and over) to help run the camp and Clarice, Sam and Oliver did us proud. Sam also volunteered to do Service Crew at Spree North West the following weekend.

SharX takes many opportunities to share God's Word in the community and participation at the Halifax Charity Gala and procession provided an ideal way to engage our young people in spreading the word. One of the highlights of our year being the award of best float in the procession for our Creation theme. Thanks to all who contributed (far too many to mention here) and we will be going all out to contest the award again this year.

SharX have also been involved in gardening projects at Christ Church and in Sandbeds Park and these projects ensured we were also well represented at the Community Awards ceremony with a special award for Sharon and a nomination for SharX – all good publicity for SharX and Christ Church.

Due to the need for Christ Church to raise an enormous amount of money for repairs we have changed from our policy of tithing to worthy charitable causes for young people and now tithe to Christ Church instead. As a result we tithed approx. £300 last year and also provided funds towards the work in the church yard. The small grants Sharon continues to win for SharX also contributes to the facilities at Christ Church that can be enjoyed by all users and includes a new pool table and another 2 years of internet use.

Once again we have a very active year of activities and events planned and already in 2016 we have had visits to Electric Bowl in January and March and Lazer Zone in February all very well attended events where the SharX behaviour was exemplary.

This is just a brief synopsis of a SharX year and none of it would be possible without the time, energy, financial contribution and Prayers of our wonderful team of volunteers; Emma, Lynn, Michael, Rosemary, Sam, Sharon. Terry and Iain plus the second SharX member to become a young leader on becoming 18 on 31st December – Clarice. We also appreciate the support of our church family at Christ Church and ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers as we continue SharX (Sharing in Christ) in the weeks and months ahead.

God bless

Norman

Norman McDonnell, Youth Leader (on behalf of all SharX members and leaders)

SOUL Patrol

This year has brought some changes to the Sunday School. Due to various other commitments the amount of leaders has reduced.

We have a steady amount of kids, most regular, others attending when they visit church as visitors.

We have seen the wonderful occasion of some of our children making the decision to be confirmed and the younger children working towards Jesus Special Meal.

We are using the Action Bible, which is a fun version of the Bible and are looking at completing it in a year using weekly Action Bible devotional. This has already provided fun discussions, taking well known bible stories and expanding their knowledge and understanding, The children are also learning how to listen to God through quiet reflective prayer.

As the new year continues I ask for continued prayer for the children as they continue to develop their faith and love for the Bible.

S.O.U.L. patrol



Seeking Out U Lord

If you feel you want to come and join in the fun up in SOUL PATROL then come and have a chat.

We have also been learning new songs which will hopefully be shown in church.

God Bless

Gareth Toy, SOUL Patrol and Youth Work co-ordinator



UNIFORM GROUPS – 52nd Pellon Scouts

52nd Christ Church Scouts continue to have 3 units

Beavers	(age 6-8)
Cubs	(age 8-11)
Scouts	(age 11-14)

We continue to meet on a Tuesday where the children are involved in many activities within the church and out in the community.

Although we class ourselves as 1 big group we meet separately throughout the night.

Beavers are celebrating their 50th birthday this year and to celebrate we are doing lots of fun activities all connected with 50. The Beavers have an opportunity to go to Bradley Wood for a sleep over, which is coming up soon.

Cubs are also having a birthday celebration this year as they are 100. So again lots of activities planned throughout the year. Recently 7 of our cubs joined another cub group for a trip to London. We had reports back to say that they were amongst the most well behaved children there, something we are very proud to hear.

Scouts have also enjoyed a camp this year. They are working hard to achieve their more complicated badge and with the introduction of a new leader they are facing this challenge with hard work and determination.

All three groups are attending a St. George's Day parade as we march our flags to show we are proud to be scouts.

Gareth Toy (BSL), Jo Harrison (temp CSL), Tori Aldridge (SL), Jo Dye (GSL)

UNIFORM GROUPS – RAINBOWS

We currently have 15 Rainbows, two qualified leaders – myself (Miss Rainbow) and Amanda (Miss Tulip), and one Young Leader Sammy (Miss Blossom).

We've had another busy year at our weekly unit meetings where we have played games, sung songs and made lots and lots of craft items.

In the last 12 months we've covered topics / held theme evenings including:

- Rainbow Promise
- Harvest
- Painted plant pots and planted sunflower seeds
- Learnt how to spell out our names in sign language
- Had a visit from a paramedic and learnt a bit of first aid and how to make a 999 call
- Senses evening – feel, see, hear, smell
- Road Safety
- Looked at ways of keeping healthy
- Had a visit from Ann Gardner who showed the girls how to knit
- Modelling clay and painting
- Make your own pizza
- Bonfire biscuits
- Christmas craft
- Chinese New Year

- International Thinking Day
- St Patrick's Day
- Easter craft

In February we went to see the annual pantomime at the YMCA pantomime which this year was Beauty and The Beast.

In November we helped run the Tombola with the Brownies and Guides at the Church Christmas Fayre.

In the next few weeks activities include making: wormeries, springtime jelly gardens, mini beasts evening, beach hut coasters, sand bottles, holidays, mini olympics and hopefully a visit to Pets at Home.

Attendance of Rainbows at parade services has improved a little and we have taken part in leading the prayers.

I'd like to thank all the leaders and helpers at Rainbows for their support and enthusiasm which helps the Rainbows to have a fun time each week and at extra events we put on / take part in.

If you know of any girls or even adults who would like to get involved in all that Girlguiding has to offer log on to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Jane Webster, Rainbow Guider

UNIFORM GROUPS – 1ST PELLON CHRISTCHURCH BROWNIES

We had 15 new Brownies to the unit this year and most have now completed their promises. Currently we have 24 Brownies.

Brownies have completed the following badges over the last 12 months World Culture, Friends to Animals and the Simply Spectacular badge to mark 100 years of the Senior Section.

The unit went on Pack Holiday in May 2015 to Fanwood Scout Camp in Gomersal and enjoyed a weekend full of activities including Archery, Grass Sledging, Low Ropes and Nightline which is an assault course blindfolded which some of the Brownies found a little bit scary. On Saturday night we had the Spen Valley Explorer Scouts led us in a sing-a-long.

The Brownies obtained the following badges – Pack Holiday, Cooks and Cooks Advanced. My favourite activity was the tie dying T shirts the Brownies made in pink, blue, orange and green and I have an image of them all drying on the washing line – they turned out really well and I am still wearing mine.

A visit was made to Pets at Home where the brownies handled rabbits and guinea pigs. They learnt how to look after pets and what to feed them and this is where they gained their Friends to Animals badge as well as completing tasks in unit.

Brownies have had many craft activities this year from making Mother's day cards to Christmas decorations.

We had a joint meeting with the Guides for Bonfire Night and watched fireworks, followed by soup and parkin.

Brownies supported the YMCA pantomime Beauty and the Beast in February 2016.

Sarah Rochford is now working towards her Go Away with Brownies qualification and will be taking the lead role in the forthcoming Brownie Annual Pack Holiday in May 2016.

Can I say a really big thank you to Joanne Cliffe (Assistant Brownie Guider, Sarah Rochford (Assistant Brownie Guider), Julie Gray (Unit Helper) Melissa Speight (Unit Helper), Megan Cliffe (Young Leader) Jade Gray (Guide Helper) and also a welcome back and home to Elizabeth Warner who is joining the team again as an Occasional Helper who give up valuable time to help run the unit and without their support and enthusiasm the unit would not function.

Brown Owl, Tracy Jagger

UNIFORM GROUPS – 1ST PELLON (CHRIST CHURCH) GUIDES

Numbers have slowly increased over the year and we currently have 15 girls.

We have had our usual varied programme including: cards for Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas and also we again decorated a window in Church for the Harvest Festival.

In May we held a joint camp/pack holiday with the Brownies which was greatly enjoyed and Emily Dyson was presented with a 'Well Done' badge for her skills in lighting the fire. All those who attended also gained their Basic Campers Badge. In August we had a weekend on the County Narrowboat which the Guides greatly enjoyed.

Leading up to the unit sleepover in November the girls completed the 'Take your Toothbrush' Go For It. Not much sleeping happened but the girls enjoyed themselves.

For Bonfire night we had a joint fireworks and food night with the Brownies and in January we went to see the Beauty and the Beast pantomime at the YMCA with the Rainbows and Brownies.

During January and February the girls completed the County Narrowboat Challenge.

March saw us again at the YMCA with the Brownies for a Rollerskating evening with Hot Dogs

A busy, busy year.

Louise Cater, Guide Guider

WEDDING AND FUNERAL VERGER'S REPORT

Weddings

There were five weddings last year, fewer than usual. Sincere thanks to my Deputy Verger Kath Griffiths who, with me, tried to make it a memorable day for the bride and groom and made sure their family and guests were welcomed into our church. Thanks to the number of organists I obtained and the bell ringers of our church. Finally a big thank you to John and Sue for officiating at these weddings.

Funerals

We had just one funeral held in Christ Church during 2015 (that of Margaret Hulme) and many more held at the Crematorium. We were happy to work with the Funeral Directors and helping them when necessary. We especially remember our church members, who will be sadly missed. Thanks to the organists, and John and Sue who took the services.

June Lockwood

WORSHIP

Worship at Christ Church continues to develop as we continue to source new material from the wider church. There is a small but dedicated group of people who ensure that there is music provision for the main morning services. There have been problems with the sound over the last couple of months, which we hope will soon be resolved. The team at the back provide projection and sound and this is an area which we would like to grow.

The Celebration Band continue to bring a praise and worship evening every second Sunday at 6.30. This service is going from strength to strength bringing modern praise and worship form this itinerant worship team.

Paul Heptinstall

VICAR'S REPORT

There is no doubt that the one thing that is constant is change.

Some of it is imposed on us and is clearly unwelcome – such as the death of a loved one. 2014 was a significant year for that, but last year we mourned the death of Margaret Hulme in April.

And of course the problems with the building is going to be a much longer process than we originally hoped. Our first application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was turned down, but we have learned much from the experience and a new bid is nearly ready to be submitted. Do pray that this is successful so that we can make our building safe and secure for another 160 years!

Some of the change is imposed, but brings mixed blessings. The diocesan initiative of 'Plan 4 Growth' has taken longer to launch than expected, but that shouldn't stop us. Indeed, we've been doing it for years, just under different names! However, we will shortly be doing a more formal review of our Transformational Plan, and looking at the next stage of our development. Watch this space for details of how and when we will be doing this.

And we are also naturally changing as the people that make up Christ Church changes. We have seen changes in attendance – the midweek Wednesday communion continues to grow, and the recent addition of organ music has enhanced this. We have also seen changes in the way we worship on Sunday mornings, with larger portions of worship through song to enable us to engage more fully with God. The start of services has also become more 'reverent' and we will hopefully see this attitude continue to develop whilst still making our services accessible to all.

We also saw the arrival of Linda as curate and her husband Dave, and they've already proved a great blessing to us! And brought their own changes with them!

A greater use of video material has generally been well received, even if the technology has sometimes let us down!

We also face some significant challenges in 2016 as well.

We are very blessed by the number of children we have at Christ Church over the course of a week, but the numbers of leaders to help provide them with the quality of provision they deserve is a struggle, and without more people coming forward to help in this area, we will need to think about more radical solutions. Sometimes – and this may well be one of those times! – crises like these are the way God manages to get through to us so that we continue to follow His plan for us!

The other significant challenge is how much parish share we are currently paying. Of course, we all recognise the difficult economic times we are living in, and we also have the work on the building to consider, but we can't ignore the parish share that we are failing to pay. When we don't pay our share, it means other churches, who also have their problems, are effectively subsidising the ministry here at Christ Church. And whilst that may be sustainable by the wider church in the short term, we should be looking as God's faithful disciples in this place at fully supporting the ministry here.

All in all, we shall be looking forward to more changes and challenges this year – pray that they may all be in accordance with God's will, and may we embrace wholeheartedly where he is leading us!

Thank you everyone for all you've done over the past year, and most of all for being you!

Yours in Christ

John Hellewell