

in the power of the Spirit...

Christ Church, Mount Pellon Annual Parochial Church Meeting



**Sunday 30th April 2017
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 30th April 2017, 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

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

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

Reports:

9. on the Electoral Roll
10. on the proceedings of the PCC
11. on the financial statement of the PCC
12. on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the parish
13. 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 17th April 2016 12.45 pm in Church

Present: Sheila Ackroyd, Karen Bainbridge, Chris & Carol Butler, Ky Castle, Michael Cockerill, Michael Crouch, Gwyneth Edwards, Bronwyn Firth, Kath Griffiths, Beryl & Terry Haigh, John & Karen Hellewell, Sue Heptinstall, Iain & Lynn Lawson, Jeanette Lee, Susan Levis, June Lockwood, Lynn Lumb, Linda and Dave Maslen, Audrey Mitchell, Andrew Mitchell, Julie Mitchell, Kath Sharman, Eileen Sutcliffe, Dawn Trafford, Ken and Angela Ward, Lorraine and Stuart Wright, Rosemary Wright

1. The meeting opened with prayers
2. Apologies for absence had been received from: Pauline Crouch, Fran Nowell and Pam Bonner
3. The Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 19th April 2015 having been previously circulated were proposed by Michael Cockerill, seconded by Chris Butler 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. Michael Cockerill has now completed 6 years as Church Warden so must step down for at least 2 years. Nominations received from Michael Crouch and Ken Ward who were both happy to stand as Church Wardens. There being no other nominations both were elected.
5. Election of Deputy Church Wardens – John Hellewell thanked Ken Ward and Terry Gledhill for their time as Deputy Church Wardens. There were no nominations to take over the role. John asked for people to consider this role and anyone interested to speak to a member of the clergy.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
held on Sunday 17th April 2016 12.50 pm in Church

6. Apologies for absence – as for the Vestry meeting.
7. The Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting held on 19th April 2015 having been previously circulated were proposed by Iain Lawson, seconded by Michael Crouch and signed as a correct record
8. Matters Arising - None
9. Report on Revision of Electoral Roll – Kath Sharman advised the number of people on the electoral roll currently stands at 100.
10. Secretary's Report – see report in APCM Booklet. John Hellewell thanked Kath Sharman for work during the year.
11. Treasurer's Report – See report in APCM Booklet. John Hellewell thanked Steve Daveney and Pam Bonner for the hard work they have done in compiling the Year End Accounts. Thanks were expressed from the meeting for the work both Steve and Pam have done towards the accounts.
12. Church Wardens' Report & Fabric - see report in APCM Booklet. John Hellewell thanked the 'Michael's' for their work during the last year.
13. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives: Report included in APCM Booklet. June Lockwood and Sharon Tyler have one year remaining as Representatives and there is one vacancy. If anyone interested please speak to a member of the clergy or June Lockwood.
14. Election of Parochial Church Council – Resignation received from Paul Heptinstall and re-newal Nominations from Kath Sharman, Michael Cockerill, Chris Butler, Gareth Toy, Angela Ward, Andrew Mitchell. To approach Pam Bonner to see if she is interested. After the meeting Beryl Haigh completed a nomination form and as there were vacancies this was agreed.

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, Linda Maslen
Michael Crouch (Church Warden) (2017)
Ken Ward (Church Warden) (2017)
Kath Griffiths (2017)
Chris Butler (2019)
Michael Cockerill (2019)
Kath Sharman (2019)
Beryl Haigh (2019)
Gareth Toy (2019)
Angela Ward (2016)

With ex officio members: June Lockwood (2017) & Sharon Tyler (2017) as Deanery Synod Representatives (+1 vacancy) and two members of Sharx.

15. Election of Sidespeople - Gwyneth Edwards and Beryl Haigh asked to be put on the list.
16. Appointment of Auditor – Debbie Pinder was thanked for her work as Examiner and has agreed to continue for next year. Steve Daveney proposed and Dawn Trafford seconded the adoption of the accounts. SD To obtain a thank you gift for Debbie Pinder.
17. Reports from Church Groups and Organisations have been included in APCM booklet distributed prior to the meeting. John Hellewell thanked all groups for their reports and for the work they have undertaken over the last 12 months.
18. Vicar's Report – see report in booklet Thanks expressed to all the Clergy for the brilliant job they do

19. Any other business:

- Scaffolding in church – We are applying to Heritage Lottery Funding for grant but case will not be considered until September. The application will be in 2 phases – Heritage Lottery funding for places of worship goes up to £250k over £250k takes us to another category of funding. It is easier to do the work on 2 phases as the application process is easier. Currently applying for £220k we need £12,500 in bank to meet our percentage of the costs. Last application did not submit sufficient information which was why we were turned down. All required documentation is now available and will be submitted for the May deadline.
- Parish Share – we have a large deficit. Share for current year is £26k ish and we only paid £2,400 in last financial year. Not all contribution to our church is financial giving and we must also consider those who do things in the background quietly. Gwyneth Edwards asked how the Parish Share was calculated. JH advised that there is to be a new formula for calculating the Parish Share to be introduced at the end of this financial year, but there is no indication yet as to whether ours will increase or decrease.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.30 pm.

10. REPORT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll currently stands at 92. This figure includes 13 withdrawn and 4 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 – especially now that we have been awarded Heritage Lottery Funding for the works required to the church and your prayers are needed for when we apply for the Phase 2 funding later in 2017.

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

The last 12 months have seen many up's and down's regarding the church's finances. After many months of trouble with British Gas, I have finally managed to sort out a new energy provider. We have signed up to Church Energy Purchasing Group which will mean we will be paying much less for our gas supply. Not only will this stop my hair going any greyer than it already is, it should save us approximately £1000 per year. Also this past year has seen my first attempt at claiming Gift Aid on our offertory money. This was a difficult yet ultimately rewarding enterprise which resulted in a tax rebate of almost £12000. This money was used to pay St Augustines back the money which they kindly loaned to us 3 years ago.

This year we have successfully applied for a grant for repairs to the church building from Heritage Lottery Fund and we are now starting to work towards getting the church building back to how it should be without the scaffolding spoiling the inside.

Finally we had a visit from the Bishop who gave us the hard word about us not meeting our Parish Share. He told us in no uncertain terms that if John decides to leave us in the distant future we would be unlikely to get another vicar. This is a situation which we as a church should concentrate our efforts on and hopefully we will be able to pay much more than we have been able to in recent years.

I need to put on record my grateful thanks to Pam Bonner for all her hard work. Not only does she do all the computer work for me, but her efforts in putting all the grant applications in has been immense. We should all be saying a big "Thank you" to 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 2016

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 2016 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Rev John Hellewell

Associate Priest: Rev Susan Heptinstall

Assistant Curate: Rev Linda Maslen

Churchwardens: Michael Cockerill (until 17th May 2016)
Ken Ward (from 17th May 2016)
Michael Crouch

Deanery Synod: June Lockwood (till '17)
Sharon Tyler (till '17)
(vacant)

Elected Members:	Pam Bonner (from 17/04/16)	Rosemary Power O'Mahoney (from 17/04/16)
	Chris Butler (till '19)	David Ramanauskas (until 17/04/16)
	Michael Cockerill (from 17/04/16)	Kath Sharman (PCC Secretary)
	Terry Gledhill (till '18)	Anthea Thresher (until 17/04/16)
	Kathleen Griffiths (till '17)	Gareth Toy (till '19)
	Beryl Haigh (from 17/04/16)	Angela Ward (till '19)
	Paul Heptinstall (until 17/04/16)	
	Andrew Mitchell (from 17/04/16)	

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 Delvers
Wainstalls Road
Halifax

Date 16th April 2017

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS END DECEMBER 2016
PCC RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS	DEC 2016		DEC 2015	
<i>Carried forward from previous year</i> (a)	4,006.06		6,184.66	
INCOMING RESOURCES FROM DONORS				
101 Covenants and Gift Aid (b)	14,803.38		14,790.14	
102 Income Tax Recovered	0.00		0.00	
103 Uncovenanted Planned Giving	<u>1,327.69</u>	16,131.07	<u>2,184.74</u>	16,974.88
104 Collection at Services	2,759.21		2,049.31	
105 Sundry Donations including Gift Day (c)	<u>3,227.67</u>	5,986.88	<u>3,319.60</u>	5,368.91
OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOMING RESOURCES				
201 Grants	2,500.00		1,200.00	
202 Legacies	0.00		500.00	
203 Fund Raising	<u>742.70</u>	3,242.70	<u>718.50</u>	2,418.50
300 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS				
301 Dividends and Interest	<u>0.00</u>	0.00	0.00	0.00
400 INCOME FROM ANCILLIARY				
401 Ancillary Trading	0.00		0.00	
402 Church Property Hire	508.00		112.00	
403 Magazine	190.30		121.40	
404 PCC Fees	<u>4,419.03</u>	5,117.33	<u>2,018.00</u>	2,251.40
500 NON CHARITABLE TRADING				
600 OTHER INCOME				
601 Insurance Claim	792.99		217.47	
602 Other Income	<u>80.00</u>	872.99	<u>1,085.00</u>	1,302.47
TOTAL		31,350.97		28,316.16
DESIGNATED/RESTRICTED INCOME				
100R Income from Donor (Kitchen Tiles)	0.00		0.00	
Mens' Weekend	0.00		0.00	
Parish Weekend (d)	3,800.00		1,065.00	
Sharx	740.85		822.18	
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	105.00		105.00	
International Night	0.00		0.00	
LDBOF Occasional Offices	<u>0.00</u>	4,645.85	<u>0.00</u>	1,992.18
TOTAL		<u>35,996.82</u>		<u>30,308.34</u>

- (a) not included in totals
- (b) covenanted giving, gift aid claim outstanding
- (c) Donations from 2016 anonymous donor £1,000, Gift Day 2015 £1,575
- (d) Income from Parish Weekend offset by expenditure

PAYMENTS	DEC 2016		DEC 2015	
1000 GRANTS				
1001 Missionary and Charitable Giving	1,860.00	1,860.00	3,036.89	3,036.89
2000 CHURCH ACTIVITIES				
2001 Diocesan Quota	2,400.00		2,535.00	
2002 Clergy Expenses	1,065.28		1,370.43	
2005 Church Running Expenses (a)	9,892.75		11,178.93	
2006 Church Maintenance	2,013.12		1,980.33	
2007 Upkeep of Services	2,677.83		2,850.82	
2008 Upkeep of Churchyard	0.00		0.00	
2009 Trading	0.00		0.00	
2012 Major Repairs	320.06		2,913.60	
2013 Major Replacements and Capital Exp	1,559.98		0.00	
2016 Salaries/Honoraria	0.00		0.00	
2017 Support Costs	<u>0.00</u>	19,929.02	<u>0.00</u>	22,829.11
FUNDRAISING	1,082.02	1,082.02	2,181.50	2,181.50
4000 CHURCH ADMINISTRATION				
4001 Printing and Stationery	988.37	988.37	756.89	756.89
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED PAYMENTS		<u>23,859.41</u>		<u>28,804.39</u>
RESTRICTED PAYMENTS				
Mens' Weekend	0.00		0.00	
International Night	780.00		715.00	
Parish Weekend	4,250.70		740.00	
Sharx Account	501.75		1,891.08	
WDBOF Occasional Offices	756.00		376.00	
Chatterbox	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,287.95</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>3,772.08</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>30,147.36</u>		<u>32,576.47</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) RECEIPTS		<i>10,348.75</i>		<i>4,006.06</i>
OVERPAYMENT CARRIED FORWARD				

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

(b) Cooker

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

	2016	2015
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 2016

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Barclays Bank Current A/C	10,348.75	4,006.06
Barclays Bank A/C B	6,320.28	6,188.88
Barclays Bank Savings A/C	329.05	326.61
CBF Special Purpose Deposit for Fabric	1,997.73	1,995.72
TOTAL	18,995.81	12,517.27

LIABILITIES AND CREDIT BALANCES

Unrestricted Receipts & Payments A/C Balance	10,348.75	4.006.06
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RESTRICTED FUNDS

Barclays Bank A/C B	6,320.28	6,188.88
CBF Special Purpose Deposit for Fabric	1,997.73	1,977.64
Barclays Bank Savings A/C	329.05	326.61
TOTAL	8,647.06	8,511.21

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

Thank you to David and Rosemary for varnishing the board for the plaques on the wall of remembrance.

A firm has been to do the exploratory work on the roof of the tower, plus other work that needs doing to the church. We are currently awaiting their report, although we have been informed that there are no bats (only batty people!). The wood work is not as bad as first suspected.

We hope the work will commence later in the year, all being well with the architect and Heritage Lottery.

Thanks to the ladies who do the lunch club, which has resumed after the winter break.

There has been a slight increase in people attending church.

Lastly, thank you to all those who have supported the church throughout the years.

Michael Crouch and Ken Ward, Church Wardens

14. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Halifax Deanery Synod met three times in 2016 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. John's, Warley, Trinity Academy, and St. Hilda's.

The March meeting was a presentation by the Diocesan Church Growth team lead by Robin Gamble. They presented the "Leading your church into growth" approach, and helped us discuss things that were positive in our deanery, and things we might look to developing.

In June we visited Trinity Academy and heard about the successes of the school and also from the Diocesan Director of Education, Dr. Richard Noakes about the Diocesan vision for church schools and academies, and reflected on what churches might offer to schools.

In November we focused on Asylum Seekers and the work of the St. Augustine's Centre. We explored some of the facts around asylum seekers, and looked at how people might be involved in helping others. We were also told that this synod would be Stephen Bradberry's last one as Area Dean as he was retiring from that post at the end of 2016.

We now have a new Area Dean, Rev. Kathia Shoesmith, and 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 30th April 2017
12.30pm in Church

**Group Reports
Vicar's Report**

**p19
p34**

ADMINISTRATION

Thanks to John for the work he does compiling 'The Hub' our Church Magazine and also thanks to those 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 or John know. We are also looking for articles on 'Views from the Pews' for the magazine.

Many thanks to all 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

Beryl Haigh helps with the baptism preparation by meeting and befriending the families and helping at the baptism services.

We 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.

In 2016 we baptised 13 children and young people, and 8 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 65 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.

Grateful thanks to all who have assisted whilst I am not able to do as much as usual. Hopefully this time next year I will have had both knee replacements and will be back to full health.

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 third successful year and growing every week.

We currently have 42 mums enrolled and 46 children. These range from 0-4 years. Not all of them come every week but we have just over 26 regulars that come every week!! We meet on Fridays 9.30-11.30 and we keep the cost low at £1.50 which covers all their refreshments. (People say we are great value for money)

We tend to run the group casually 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 currently have one child with sight impairment and have a few with allergies.

The group has a mix of adults from Grandma's to grandads to childminders to dads and mums which is great!! Everyone seems to mingle well and look out for each other, everyone matters. The Group is run by me, Pauline, and Carly to whom I am very grateful to them for their continual commitment.

Without the dedicated help from one mum Carly who turns up on Thursday night to set up for me I would struggle to find the time to run the group.

I am currently out of work which has made things slightly easier in that I have been able to commit more time into the planning and preparation of the group.

This has come at the right time as unfortunately Pauline has had many problems with her health and continues to struggle with her mobility which has impacted on her time and commitment to the group. This has made a huge difference to me as I have had to plan and prepare craft. Knowing Pauline does this role and does it well leaves me to focus on the other tasks of running the group. I am very, very grateful to Pauline's continual commitment to the group, Thank you.

This has been a difficult time in running the group and there was times when I felt I could no longer physically do this on my own anymore as it is physically hard work. I am so grateful for Carly's commitment then another mum Lisa also offered to help set up and help where she could but having two children to watch means her time is limited.

It was good to be able to join up with Soul Patrol children's church group to perform a nativity for you all 2016. This was totally amazing considering we had no rehearsal!! The kids did amazingly well and feedback from parents were they would love to do that again! I hope the congregation enjoyed it as much as we did!

This was a chance for the toddlers to bring family members to church and lots enjoyed this time.

I have been asked what the church provides on Sunday for children and this is where our downfall is as currently we don't provide anything so families are deciding to stay at home as it can be hard work with young ones in church.

I do encourage them to attend parade service which some do that have older children.

We have seen children from the group become baptised and some have come to church fairs and other events. I even had parents requesting the messy church again for Good Friday as those who attended last year enjoyed so much as the older children could join in so it was a family activity session.

The church has also been hired by parents for parties which have been another valuable income for the church. It shows church is still needed within the community and would be such a loss.

I am still awaiting the bank account to be transferred over to me as I do have some funds to bank once I have this I can give an account of our funds.

Most of the money we have made so far has been ploughed back into the group by providing equipment, storage units and covering the cost of group parties. We managed to purchase our own bouncing castle which saves us a huge amount as we don't have to hire one for parties.

Lee Mount Baptise also closed their group and donated/ I brought cheaply some of their equipment.

I am hoping CC Chatterbox will continue to keep growing and going. However, I really need volunteers to help in continuing to keep it running for this next year. I'm going through uncertain times myself as I search for work which could mean I may have to work Fridays, what will the group do then? If anyone has an interest in helping with the group please have a word with myself, Pauline, John or Linda or just turn up Friday morning.

I really don't want to see the group stop now we have built it up so while I can continue to dedicate my time on a Friday morning I will continue to do so but do need more help.

A Friendly face and a good listening ear is all you need and preferably someone with strength too to help clear away.

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.

A big Thank you also to John and Linda for turning up sometimes to help and take part in storytelling, much appreciated as I know it is your rest day!

Carol Butler, Pauline Fox & CC Chatterbox Team

CHRISTIAN EXPLORERS' COURSE

2016 saw a break from a formal course, but we will be running a new course shortly, beginning 29th June. Look out for more details soon.

John Hellewell

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

My thanks to all who expressed appreciation for the floral designs seen in the church. I enjoy creating arrangements with the flowers I have and if it gives joy - it is all worthwhile. I would like to thank Graeme Robinson for his advice, and help with the Advent Ring. Thank you all once again.

June Lockwood

HOME COMMUNIONS

Home communions take place on the first Tuesday of each month.

At present, Steve Daveney and I take communion to four members of our church family, and we have both taken communion to people who are in hospital, and all appreciate our visit and feel much better after receiving communion.

From our point of view it is 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.

We currently have three groups running, one daytime and two evening groups. 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 EVENING

Meeting fortnightly on Friday evenings we have great fun playing games, eating together and generally socialising. We currently have around 35 people meeting who come from all over the world, nearly double last year's average. 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

Once again, the ladies Friday Group have met on six different occasions over the last twelve months. One of the meetings was on a Sunday afternoon when Kath Sharman hosted a barbecue for the group and their partners. The weather wasn't great but it didn't dampen our spirits and it was greatly enjoyed by all who went along. David Ramanauskas cooked for us. Thank you David.

Our first meeting of the year was in June when Jane Webster made supper in celebration of the Queens 90th birthday. Donations totalling £75 were received for charity.

We had a Christmas party at the beginning of December, at my house and we had a quiz, with prizes.

Tracy Jagger and Bronwyn Firth have also hosted an evening for the group. My thanks go to them and to all those mentioned above. Without the generosity of those offering to have the meetings at their home it would become more difficult for us.

We have had between 5 and 21 people attending the group meetings, depending on the weather, and have had a bring and share supper at 4 of the meetings, with of course the compulsory glass of wine. It is always good to chat and catch up.

All ladies are welcome to come along and if you need a lift it can be arranged.

There is a card available for you to keep detailing the dates of the meetings and venues because we don't meet every month. Please ask me if you need one. I also usually place a note in the weekly news sheet in church and if you need any more information please contact me.

Thank you

Ann Gardner (01422 341962)

LISTENING TO GOD

On Thursday evenings at 6pm we meet together in church to Listen to God!

Following a short prayer inviting God to speak to us, we sit in silence for twenty minutes and give that time over to God.

Sometimes we are asking God to speak to us for ourselves, other times we invite God to speak to us for those who have come to the meeting, or we may ask God to speak to us for the church.

We are often quite amazed at what God shares and reveals to us, and it is as a result of Listening to God, that we have developed the Healing Ministry and monthly Healing Service.

Healing prayer is always available at our meeting, and if anyone has an unusual or reoccurring dream, we are here to ask God for the interpretation.

If you would like to know more about what we do, then come along to a meeting – everyone is welcome

Did you know that God has a sense of humour? Well, you would do if you came to our meeting as there is always laughter.

David Ramanauskas

MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETINGS

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!

The last couple of sessions have not been able to be hosted by the Fountainhead Inn, so we are currently exploring other options, and possibly linking with other men's groups to see how we can best serve the men of the area.

We already 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) £204, Christian Aid £57 and Children's Society (Christingle Collection) £239.50.

Donations have also been made throughout the year to CICS, Mara (Bag of Maize Appeal), Gesarya (our Link Parish), Leprosy Mission and supported a member of clergy to attend a Conference in India. We also supported the provision of 'It's Your Move' booklets to Christ Church Junior School leavers through CICS.

If any of you as a church group or individual fundraise 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.

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 continue to meet bi-monthly to enjoy tea and cakes and lots of chat, and everyone leaves with a few referrals for pastoral visits. There are always people who need pastoral care, and without a team of willing workers we would not be able to provide the level of care we strive to achieve.

Once again I appeal to members of our congregation to inform me of situations I may not be aware of, so please do continue to assist me in this way.

My grateful thanks to my wonderful, kind, caring and committed team, I am in their debt.

Thank you God for such a willing Team.

Rosemary Power-O'Mahony

TEXTPRAYER

Continues to be widely used and provides a fantastic way for urgent prayers to be circulated widely so that a large number of people are praying for situations in a short space of time. These include people who are not members of our church, and indeed do not all live in this country!

We also are privileged to hear of answers to prayers, and updates on situations so that we can continue to provide ongoing prayer where needed, and receive encouragement ourselves about how great a God we have and how generous and gracious he is towards us!

If you wish to join, just send a text to 07885224486 or an email to ilmsj@btopenworld.com.

Iain Lawson

SHARX

The past year for SharX has seen a period of transition and growth. Since leadership changes last April, our team has grown in strength and we are optimistic about the future of SharX. Numbers have significantly risen, with over 60 young people currently on our register and an average attendance of 40. In terms of numbers, SharX in its present form is at full capacity and we are now operating a waiting list for new members. We are exploring ways that we can continue to expand and accommodate young people from the local area, whilst providing them with the quality attention that they deserve, enabling them to explore and develop their Christian faith if they wish. There certainly is a demand for groups such as ours in Pellon.



At SharX we continue to enjoy a range of activities including games consoles, board games, table tennis, pool and arts. Each meeting, our members take part in a short Christian discussion group – this is one area which we seek to develop over the next year.

In May 2016, several SharX members attended the Big Church Night Out at Lightwater Valley, where they enjoyed the theme park rides on offer and ended the evening with entertainment and worship led by current Christian bands. We will be taking a small group of our members to this event again this year.

Unfortunately due to leadership changes, last year's annual camping weekend at Holly Bush Christian Fellowship had to be cancelled. Although some of our older members attended and served on the service crew at this event and had a fantastic time. This year we are back in action and in June plan to take 20 members to Spree North East for a weekend of fun and Christian fellowship.

In June SharX participated in the Halifax Charity Gala, with a hook a duck stall and float in the procession themed around the Queen's coronation, for which we won joint first prize! All being well we will be back in the procession at this year's gala to defend our title – watch this space!

Throughout the autumn term several of our members planned, choreographed and rehearsed dance routines and songs for our annual Christmas performance, which we held in church in December, inviting friends and family to see what we do at SharX. This was a fantastic evening and our member's hard work paid off, they really did us proud!

Please continue to support and pray for all of us at SharX, and if anyone wishes to know more about what we do don't hesitate to ask!

Liz & Terry Gledhill, SharX leaders

SOUL Patrol

This last year has been a mixed one for SOUL patrol, and we are currently not meeting. This does not mean we have given up on our young people! Quite the opposite. We would like to begin something new, but would very much value help and support in running the group, so if you might be interested, please have a word with me!

S.O.U.L. patrol



Seeking Out U Lord

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

We have had some changes in leadership this year and unfortunately with some leaders leaving we were almost close to having to shut the doors to 52nd scout group. But with dedication, hard work, and a fantastic new team we are stronger than ever and the numbers are slowly growing.

Beavers continue to enjoy spending time together and as the numbers grow we have been forced to start a waiting list. We have been doing lots of badge work and enjoyed a Christmas themed sleep over.

Cubs and scouts have gone through the most change with different leaders but now have Jenny as cub leader and Clair as Scout leader who are doing an amazing job.

They are also doing an lots of badge work and organised a danceathon to raise money for an outing of their choice.

We are hoping to organise a camp for both cubs and scouts very soon.

All three groups are attending a st George's day parade as we march our flags up to Beacon Hill and show how proud we are to be scouts.

Gareth, Jo, Jenny & Clair

UNIFORM GROUPS – RAINBOWS

We currently have 15 Rainbows, two qualified leaders – myself (Miss Rainbow) and Amanda (Miss Tulip), one Unit Helper Keeley (Miss Rose), one Occasional Helper - when she's home from Uni - Sammy (Miss Blossom) and one young leader Victoria who is helping us as part of the service element of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

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 bulbs
- Road Safety
- Looked at ways of keeping healthy
- Modelling clay and painting
- Bonfire biscuits
- Christmas craft
- Easter craft

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

At February half term we went to see the Dick Whittington and His Cat pantomime at Salem church.

Between January and March we had a Journey Round the World making passports and looking at countries around the world finding out about The Netherlands, South Africa, India, Australia and USA including what the equivalent of Rainbows in those countries are called, wear and get up to. The journey ended with a short show and singing songs of the journey which we present to the Rainbow's families and our Brownies.

Between now and the summer holidays we have a fun packed programme and are also going to be celebrating 30 years since Rainbows were formed.

1st Pellon (Christ Church) Rainbows didn't start till 1991 and I can't believe that I have just clocked up 21 years as Rainbow Guider with this unit.

Attendance of Rainbows at parade services isn't brilliant but we have attended and 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 14 new Brownies to the unit this year and most have now completed their promises. Currently we have 16 Brownies.

Brownies have completed the following badges over the last 12 months Brownie Traditions badge (taking them back to what Brownies used to be like), Fire Safety and Stargazing badge.

In April Brown Owl Tracy Jagger got to meet Princess Anne at Green Withens near Ripponden which is a venture by the Scout Association where they provide water sports. Princess Anne spoke to our group asking if they still did a sailing badge, as she has once completed this when she was in Girlguiding.

The unit went on Pack Holiday in May 2016 to Fanwood Scout Camp in Gomersal and enjoyed a weekend full of activities including Low Ropes and Nightline which is an assault course blindfolded which some of the Brownies found a little bit scary. We also managed Crate Staking and Caving with the assistance of Bradshaw Scouts, we thank them for volunteering their time to run these activities for us.

On Saturday night we had a sing-a-long at the campfire which was led by some of our leaders. The Brownies obtained the following badges – Pack Holiday, Cooks, Cooks Advanced and Out and About badge.

Sarah Rochford has successfully completed her Go Away with Brownies qualification and ran the 2016 pack holiday, congratulations to her in all her hard work.

We had a joint meeting with the Guides for the Queens 90th Birthday celebrations and the Guides invited passed members of girlguiding from the congregation or community. The Brownies were asked to perform at this event and they did a variation of campfire songs for the audience. This was well received.

The Brownies were then asked to perform at the Harvest Supper on 30th September 2016 and they performed a number of campfire songs which I know went down a treat and the Brownies wanted to sing more.

Some leaders ran a swimming session at Sowerby Bridge baths on 3rd September 2016 to allow brownies to obtain either their first swimming badge or the advanced swimmers badge. Sowerby Bridge baths were very supportive and laned off a section for us, whilst we completed the badges. We had seven brownies attend and 4 brownies completed both levels and 3 completed level one.

On the 9th October 2016 we took the Brownies to Tesco's car park in Sowerby Bridge to complete their Cyclist badge with the aid of Happy Days cycles. They supplied a leader to assess the brownies bikes prior to the exercise, which was an eye opener for some parents, as to the maintainance of the bikes.

They worked with the brownies on their badge and also supplied some cycles for girls without a bike. The brownies were put throught their paces, going through obstacles and signalling. Happy to report they all passed and were given free puncture repair kits as a prize for completion. My special thanks go to Happy Days for their assistance in running this event. Thank you.

We assisted in running the cake stall at the Autumn Fayre on 19th November 2016 and brownie parents donated cakes and buns for the stall and we appreciate there continued support.

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

We went to the King Cross fire station booked by our Leader in training Elizabeth as part of her leadership module.

The girls had fun as the firefighters set off the alarm as a test and one of our brownies got to put on the full fireman's gear and noticed how heavy and how many layers they wear.

They were shown all the equipment on the fire engine and had chance to sit on it. The brownies were enthusiastic and kept on scaring the watch leader as they kept invading his personal space and he was not used to this.

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 Elizabeth who give up valuable time to help run the unit and without there support and enthusiasm the unit would not function. An additional mention to Sarah Wade-Rathbone who assisted us a occasional unit residential helper, thank you.

Brown Owl, Tracy Jagger

UNIFORM GROUPS – 1ST PELLON (CHRIST CHURCH) GUIDES

Sadly numbers have slowly decreased over the year and we currently have 10 girls. We have had our usual varied programme including: cards for Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas.

We joined with the Brownies to hold a 90th Birthday Party to Celebrate the Queen's birthday where we invited members of the congregation to join us. The girls joined in a sing song during the evening.

In July we once again had a weekend on the County Narrowboat which the Guides greatly enjoyed.

We supported the church along with the Rainbows and Brownies at the Autumn Fayre running a cake stall.

For Bonfire night we again had a joint fireworks and food night with the Brownies and in February we went to see Buggy Malone at the Playhouse.

A busy, busy year.

Louise Cater, Guide Guider

WEDDING AND FUNERAL VERGER'S REPORT

Weddings

There were 6 weddings in 2016, all lovely, and my deputy Kath Griffiths and I tried to make them enjoyable, happy and stress free for the bride and groom. We made sure their guests were welcomed into our church. We are grateful to the Organists, Joan Woodall and David Barker who played both the organ and inserted CDs, which seems to be the modern thing these days. Our grateful thanks to John, Sue and Linda for officiating at these lovely and happy events.

Funerals

We had 6 funerals held in Christ Church during 2016. We were happy to work with the Funeral Directors and thank them for their assistance. Once again thanks to John and Linda who took the services. Once again Joan and David played the organ beautifully.

June Lockwood

WORSHIP

Worship was provided faithfully during 2016 by Paul, Paul & Patricia, Adam, Diane & Chris with the occasional help from others – thank you everyone.

At the moment, that provision is not available, and we are currently looking at how we might better provide worship for the whole life of the church. DO please pray about the situation, and for God to provide the right people to help lead us into his presence through music.

John Hellewell

VICAR'S REPORT

There are so many people that we should give thanks for as we reflect on the year just past.

Without everyone playing their part in the life of the church then we wouldn't be able to do everything we have done over the past year as witnessed to in these reports. Every single person is important, and when anyone is missing then the whole church suffers,

In all the things to give thanks for, the most exciting are the people who are coming to a living faith and who have made Christ Church their spiritual home for this part of their journey. It is always great to see people encounter the living Christ and find their lives changed.

Of course, this isn't limited to those who are new to the faith – we are all on the same journey, and it is a privilege to walk part of the that journey and see lives changed along the way, including my own!

Amidst all the thanks, however, we also have to recognise the challenges that lie ahead, and there are perhaps three I would like to focus on.

The first comes out of the thanks that we were just talking about. In order to continue to sustain the great work that God is doing in us and through us it does require everyone to play their part, and some ministries in particular are struggling in finding enough people to sustain them in the longer term.

The most obvious of these is perhaps the work amongst young people, both on Sunday and midweek. Without further help from people it will (and indeed, already is) proving hard work to maintain this ministry which is so much valued by so many people. Please do pray about whether God may be calling you to be involved in one of these ministries.

The second, of course, is the building. It seems like a long time that the scaffolding has been up in church, but we do seem to be getting closer now to the work being started that will remove it! There are two challenges that go along with that. Firstly, it will probably require some changes to things that happen in church whilst the work is taking place. We do not know exactly what they will be yet, but we would ask for your understanding and support by being flexible about what happens when in order to maintain as much of the ministry as we can whilst the practical things are sorted.

The second part of the building challenge is the financial one. Although we have a significant grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, but it does not cover the whole amount, and we still need to raise a significant amount to cover the shortfall. The exact amount isn't known yet until we get the latest report from the architect, but we will keep you posted as we discover things.

The third, and in some ways the hardest, challenge is our overall financial situation. As many will be aware, we have not paid our parish share to the diocese in full for many years (at least 15), which has led to a notional debt to the diocese of over £250,000. Last year, as the accounts show, we only paid £2,400 out of a request for over £25,000. Of course there are some reasons for this (not least the work on the building!) but it is still a pitiful amount.

When we do not pay our share in full, it means that we are being subsidised by the diocese – which in turn means that other local Christians are effectively paying for the ministry at Christ Church! And of course, not unreasonably, they would ask why!

I know many are already giving sacrificially to God's work – and not all of that is channelled through the local church, but we do need to reflect both individually and as a church on the level of our commitment. How often do

we review our giving? Does it reflect what we have received from God? Does it honour God to those beyond our church (in the diocese, in the local community)?

We need to focus more specifically on our financial stewardship this coming year, and the diocese will help us to do this.

The solution, however, is not just financial, it is spiritual and it involves looking at ways of drawing more people into the life of the church – and more importantly into the life of the Kingdom – so that the burden is shared, and we become more like the body of Christ – here for everyone, and acting more fully as his hands and feet and voice in the world.

I see no reason at all why we, the people of Christ Church, would not rise to the challenge, for I see a people who are hungry to be faithful to Christ, and keen to see their own and others' lives transformed. May that be our experience in this coming year!

And finally, thank you most of all for being you!

Yours in Christ

John Hellewell