

in the power of the Spirit...

# Christ Church, Mount Pellon Annual Parochial Church Meeting



**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018**  
**12.30 pm in Church**

## **Contents:**

Agenda	p2
Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting 2017	p3
Minutes of Annual Church Meeting 2017	p4
Annual Report and financial statement	p10
Reports from groups and organisations	p19

*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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 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 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 12.45 pm in Church

Present: Sheila Ackroyd, Tracy & David Bell, Pam and Caroline Bonner, Chris & Carol Butler, Barbara Chomichi, Michael Cockerill, Michael & Pauline Crouch, Steve Daveney, Gwyneth Edwards, Kath Griffiths, Yvonne Hagan, Beryl & Terry Haigh, John, Karen, Rebekah and Clare Hellewell, Lynn Lawson, June Lockwood, Linda Maslen, Audrey Mitchell, Fran Nowell, Rosemary Power O'Mahoney, Caroline & Mark Pemberton, Freda Priestley, David Ramanauskas, Diane & Brian Robinson, Kath Sharman, Jean Sparkes, Eileen Sutcliffe, Ken and Angela Ward, Celia Zaouche

1. The meeting opened with prayers
2. Apologies for absence had been received from: Karen Bainbridge
3. The Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 17th April 2016 having been previously circulated were proposed by Gwynneth Edwards, seconded by Chris Butler and signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.
4. Election of Church Wardens – John Hellewell thanked Michael Crouch and Ken Ward for their work over the last year. Nominations received from both Michael Crouch and Ken Ward who were happy to stand again as Church Wardens. There being no other nominations both were elected.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 12.50 pm in Church**

5. Apologies for absence – as for the Vestry meeting.
6. The Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting held on 17th April 2016 having been previously circulated were proposed by Michael Cockerill, seconded by Michael Crouch and signed as a correct record
7. Matters Arising - None
8. Report on Revision of Electoral Roll – Kath Sharman advised the number of people on the electoral roll currently stands at 91.
9. Secretary's Report – see report in APCM Booklet.
10. Treasurer's Report – See report in APCM Booklet. There were no questions. John Hellewell thanked Steve Daveney and Pam Bonner for the hard work they have done in compiling the Year End Accounts. Thanks also expressed to Steve for the work in claiming the back claim for Gift Aid. Parish Share payments to the Diocese have been increased this year in an effort to meet the amount due by the year end. The building fund monies are held separately to the church general monies. Financial reports to be included in the church magazine so the congregation can see where we stand.
11. Church Wardens' Report & Fabric - see report in APCM Booklet. John Hellewell thanked Michael and Ken for their work during the last year.
12. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives: Report included in APCM Booklet. June Lockwood has completed her term of office and Sharon Tyler withdrew earlier in the year. We are entitled to two representatives and volunteers are required. David Ramanauskas offered to be representative and was duly elected - If anyone else interested please speak to a member of the clergy.
13. Election of Parochial Church Council – Resignation received from Paul Heptinstall. Kath Griffiths applied to renew her membership and an additional nomination received from Iain Lawson and June Lockwood all of whom have been duly elected.

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) (2018)  
Ken Ward (Church Warden) (2018)  
Chris Butler (2019)  
Michael Cockerill (2019)  
Kath Sharman (2019)  
Beryl Haigh (2019)  
Gareth Toy (2019)  
Kath Griffiths (2020)  
Iain Lawson (2020)  
June Lockwood (2020)

With ex officio members: David Ramanauskas as Deanery Synod Representatives (+1 vacancy) and two members of Sharx.

14. Election of Sidespeople - No change
15. Appointment of Auditor – Debbie Pinder was thanked again for her work as Examiner and has agreed to continue for next year. Chris Butler proposed and Karen Hellewell seconded the adoption of the accounts. SD has already presented a thank you gift to Debbie Pinder.
16. 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. The Challengers group were omitted from the report in error. Beryl Haigh gave a resume of the work of the group and suggested having a group for the male members of the congregation. Carol Butler from Chatterbox expressed her concern that there is no provision for children on a Sunday morning as she would like to invite the groups members to church. Terry/Elizabeth Gledhill along with Gareth Toy and some of the older members of Sharks looking into providing a Soul Patrol Sunday morning provision for children.

## 17. Vicar's Report – see report in booklet

- Thanks expressed to all the Clergy for the brilliant job they do.
- Vision and Strategy – looking at different areas of the church life. From Ascension Day to Pentecost the Diocese are concentrating on 'Thy Kingdom Come' and special days will be arranged on prayer life, children etc., both in a wider area but also our own church.
- The Building – investigatory work now done and architect producing a report to send to HLF which will outline the Scheme of Work. Once Scheme of Work has been approved Heritage England will OK the work and then we can go out to tender. The deadline for drawing down the funding is the end of September so hopefully in the next couple of weeks the report will be available to send to HLF and approval will take a couple of months. It is anticipated the work will start in the Autumn. One piece of work which will be carried out in the near future is the parapet on the tower which is leaning. Some support scaffolding will be fitted to ensure it is safe until the repair work can be carried out. We will need to raise ourselves approximately £30k of which we have about £10k so need to look at raising the remaining £20k. We will be seeking grants to help with the raising of this. It is not clear whether the work will affect the inside of the building as we may need to look for alternative meeting space.

## 18. Any other business:

- Worship Group – No information available at the moment – we are looking into moving forward. Adam has a band who are doing worship music and may possibly be able to do the Parade service. Paul and Patricia will be back to their once a month service following the Easter holidays. Linda Maslen has offered to co-ordinate looking for musicians who could form a worship group.

- Health and Safety – Kath Sharman expressed concern about the items left in the fire escape corridor to downstairs. It was stated that the items in the corridor had been removed from the Lady Chapel as they should not be stored in this peaceful area. Concern was also expressed about the storage of the table tennis tables in the Lady Chapel. The solution was to provide some more storage area which will need some consideration.

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

## **10. REPORT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Electoral Roll currently stands at 81. There have been 13 withdrawals and 9 members deceased during the year.

***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 the Heritage Lottery Funding for the works required to the church which will be starting after Easter 2018. We still don't know how much the work will affect the usage of the church building but your prayers would help to keep the disruption to a minimum.

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**

Our finances continue to be a source of great concern. In the past 12 months we have tried to pay as much as possible towards our Parish Share. Yet, even though I managed to negotiate a reduction, we still only paid just over 50% of the total bill. We must continue to try to pay as much as we can afford. Our Parish Share was originally £27,000 and after I complained it was reduced to £22,000 of which we paid £12,000. This years share has been further reduced to £19,000 and we will continue our efforts to pay as much as we can.

At the time of writing we are still waiting for permission to start the roof repairs, and when this is given we will hopefully receive the money required.

The recent bad weather has had a huge effect on our finances as, not only do the heating bills go up, but church attendance drops meaning that we have less money coming in and more going out.

I have claimed last years Gift Aid which should be in our account very shortly (hopefully) and this will ease the pressure on our finances.

Once again I must say a huge THANK YOU to Pam who has worked extremely hard putting together our HLF grant application for the roof repairs. Many thanks Pam you really are a gift from God.

***Steve Daveney, PCC Treasurer***

# Christ Church Mount Pellon, Halifax

## ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENT of the P.C.C. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent:	Rev John Hellewell	
Associate Priest:	Rev Susan Heptinstall (until 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2017)	
Assistant Curate:	Rev Linda Maslen (until 6th September 2017)	
Churchwardens:	Ken Ward Michael Crouch	
Deanery Synod:	June Lockwood (until 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2017) Sharon Tyler (until 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2017) David Ramanauskas (from 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2017)	
Elected Members:	Pam Bonner (till '19) Chris Butler (till '19) Michael Cockerill (till '19) Terry Gledhill (till '18) Kathleen Griffiths (till '20) Beryl Haigh (till '19) Iain Lawson (from 30/4/17)	June Lockwood (from 30/4/17) Rosemary Power O'Mahoney (till '19) Kath Sharman (PCC Secretary, till '19) Gareth Toy (till '19) Angela Ward (till '19)

## **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 81 members entered on the electoral roll of the parish, which is 11 less than last year. The average adult Sunday attendance last year was 65, which is an overall decrease of 11 on the previous year. This partly reflects some significant deaths in the congregation last year, plus some changes in staffing. It also does not reflect the doubling in average young people's attendance from 5 to 10 on a Sunday morning, not to mention the mid-week increase in young people's numbers.

Wednesday communion numbers show a slight decrease from 21 to 18, but this probably reflects both the deaths previously mentioned and some bad weather which affected attendance.

### *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. We oversaw the successful completion of phase one of our Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) which focussed on some investigatory and preparation works. We are currently awaiting a final decision on the phase two funding, which we are hopeful will be announced shortly. Pam Bonner in particular has done amazing work on this.

We said goodbye to our assistant priest, Rev Sue Heptinstall in June 2017 after some difficult times, and wish her all the best as she finds a new direction for her ministry.

We also said goodbye to our assistant curate, Rev Linda Maslen in September 2017 as she partly changed roles to assistant curate at St. Mark's, Siddal. The launch of SharX on Sunday has proved incredibly successful, and we must thank Liz & Terry Gledhill for their amazing work!

Although we paid significantly more of our parish share in 2017, it was still nowhere near what it should have been, and we still face a considerable challenge in raising funds to pay the share as well as meet our other commitments in keeping the church running smoothly.

### *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 continue to work with the diocese 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 £2,167.77 on unrestricted funds at the year end did not match this target.

The balance of £5,031.60 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, which are set out on pages 14 to 16, 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  
15 Moor End  
Halifax  
HX2 0TX



Date 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS END DECEMBER 2017

**PCC RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

RECEIPTS	DEC 2017	DEC 2016	
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES FROM DONORS</b>			
101	Covenants and Gift Aid (b)	16,722.74	14,803.38
102	Income Tax Recovered (c)	11,877.78	0.00
103	Uncovenanted Planned Giving	<u>1,091.52</u>	29,692.04
104	Collection at Services	3,278.63	<u>1,327.69</u>
105	Sundry Donations (d)	<u>1,307.31</u>	2,759.21
		4,585.94	<u>3,227.67</u>
			16,131.07
			5,986.88
<b>OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
201	Grants	500.00	2,500.00
202	Legacies	0.00	0.00
203	Fund Raising	<u>0.00</u>	500.00
			<u>742.70</u>
			3,242.70
<b>INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</b>			
301	Dividends and Interest		<u>0.00</u>
			0.00
<b>INCOME FROM ANCILLIARY TRADING</b>			
401	Ancillary Trading	0.00	0.00
402	Church Property Hire	1,060.00	508.00
403	Magazine	142.14	190.30
404	PCC Fees	<u>4,409.00</u>	5,611.14
			<u>4,419.03</u>
			5,117.33
<b>NON CHARITABLE TRADING</b>			
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
601	Insurance Claim	4,064.00	792.99
602	Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	4,064.00
			<u>80.00</u>
			872.99
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>44,453.12</b>	<b>31,350.97</b>
<b>DESIGNATED/RESTRICTED INCOME</b>			
100R	Income from Donor	0.00	0.00
	Mens' Weekend	0.00	0.00
	Parish Weekend (e)	900.00	3,800.00
	Sharx	0.00	740.85
	Commonwealth War Graves Commission	105.00	105.00
	International Night	0.00	0.00
	LDBOF Occasional Offices	<u>0.00</u>	1005.00
			<u>0.00</u>
			4,645.85
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b><u>45,458.12</u></b>	<b><u>35,996.82</u></b>
NB	2017 Fundraising, including Gift Day allocated directly to Building Project		
(a)	not included in totals		
(b)	covenanted giving		
(c)	gift aid claim 2017		
(d)	gift day income not included 2017		
(e)	Parish weekend every other year		

*✓ RP 21/3/18*

*D Pinder  
15 Moor End  
HX2 OTX.*

*D Pinder 21.3.18.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS END DECEMBER 2017

<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>DEC 2017</b>		<b>DEC 2016</b>	
1000 <b>GRANTS</b>				
1001 Missionary and Charitable Giving	2,020.00	2020.00	1,860.00	1,860.00
2000 <b>CHURCH ACTIVITIES</b>				
2001 Diocesan Quota	12,000.00		2,400.00	
2002 Clergy Expenses	562.36		1,065.28	
2005 Church Running Expenses (a)	10,178.15		9,892.75	
2006 Church Maintenance	562.16		2,013.12	
2007 Upkeep of Services	1,411.28		2,677.83	
2008 Upkeep of Churchyard	0.00		0.00	
2009 Trading (b)	12,200.00		0.00	
2012 Major Repairs	9,532.40		320.06	
2013 Major Replacements and Capital Exp	3,840.00		1,559.98	
2016 Salaries/Honoraria	0.00		0.00	
2017 Support Costs	<u>0.00</u>	50,286.35	<u>0.00</u>	19,929.02
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	0.00	0.00	1,082.02	1,082.02
4000 <b>CHURCH ADMINISTRATION</b>				
4001 Printing and Stationery	1,052.65	1052.65	988.37	988.37
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>53,359.00</u></b>		<b><u>23,859.41</u></b>
<b>RESTRICTED PAYMENTS</b>				
Mens' Weekend	0.00		0.00	
International Night	780.00		780.00	
Parish Weekend	600.00		4,250.70	
Sharx Account	0.00		501.75	
LDBOF Occasional Offices	<u>193.00</u>	1,573.00	<u>756.00</u>	6,287.00
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b><u>54,932.00</u></b>		<b><u>30,147.36</u></b>

*RP  
2/15/18.*

- (a) Insurance, Gas, Electricity, Water, Cleaning materials
- (b) Loan repayment

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS END DECEMBER 2017

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

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Carried forward from previous year	1997.73	1,995.72
Receipts	0	0
Interest	1.64	2.01
Payments	0	0
Balance	<b>1999.37</b>	<b>1,997.73</b>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Barclays Bank Current A/C	2167.77 ✓	10,348.75
Barclays Bank A/C B	5031.60	6,320.28
Barclays Bank Savings A/C	329.68	329.05
CBF Special Purpose Deposit for Fabric	1999.37	1,997.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9528.42</b>	<b>18,995.81</b>

**LIABILITIES AND CREDIT BALANCES**

Unrestricted Receipts & Payments A/C Balance	2167.77	10,348.75
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**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

Barclays Bank A/C B	5031.60	6,320.28
CBF Special Purpose Deposit for Fabric	1999.37	1,997.73
Barclays Bank Savings A/C	329.68	329.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7360.65</b>	<b>8,647.06</b>

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

The investigatory work was carried out successfully, and led to a detailed plan for the substantial work needed on the building being drawn up by the architect. Tenders for the work were invited and we have selected a preferred contractor. We are not waiting for the final OK from Heritage Lottery so that the work can proceed. We will still need to raise some funds to complete the work, so please give generously!

Emergency work was also carried out on the kitchen roof, and this is now completely watertight!

Steve and Pam have done a great job looking after the finances of the church, and it has been good to see an increase in the payment of the parish share, although we also recognise the difficulties this has caused in our cash flow.

Thank you to everyone who helps the church run on a week by week basis – giving their time generously, and creating a welcoming, friendly atmosphere which is often commented on by visitors.

***Michael Crouch and Ken Ward, Church Wardens***

### **14. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

Halifax Deanery Synod met three times in 2017, with Rev. Kathia Shoesmith, the Area Dean, as the chair. 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. Martin's, Brighouse, Halifax Minster and St. Mark's, Siddal.

The February meeting was a joint meeting with three deaneries together: Halifax, Brighouse & Elland and Calder Valley. It is the aim to have joint meetings at least once a year moving forward as deaneries are being encouraged to work more closely together.

The main item of business was a presentation and questions on the new Parish Share formula.

The June meeting was the inaugural meeting of the new synod, held at Halifax Minster, and included a celebration of communion together, as well as electing people to various roles within the synod.

In November, the main presentation was from Adult Social Care services in Calderdale. It was also agreed (after a somewhat lengthy discussion!) not to raise a levy from parishes in 2018 as deanery funds were at a sufficient level. Parishes were also reminded that they can bid for small amounts of money for mission projects.

We currently have one vacancy of deanery synod, so if anyone would like to stand, please have a word with John, or David Ramanauskas, our other representative.

***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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
12.30pm in Church

<b>Group Reports</b>	<b>p20</b>
Administration	p20
Baptism Team	p20
Café Hope & Lunchbox	p21
Challengers	p21
CC Chatterbox	p22
Christian Explorers' Course	p23
Flowers in Church	p24
Home Communions	p24
Home Groups	p24
International Evening	p25
Ladies Friday Group	p25
Listening to God	p26
Mission Group	p27
Pastoral Care	p28
SharX	p29
Textprayer	p32
Uniform Groups – 52 <sup>nd</sup> Pellon Scouts	p32
Uniform Groups – Rainbows	p33
Uniform Groups – 1 <sup>st</sup> Pellon Christ Church Brownies	p34
Uniform Groups – 1 <sup>st</sup> Pellon (Christ Church) Guides	p36
Wedding and Funeral Verger	p37
Worship	p37
<b>Vicar's Report</b>	<b>p38</b>

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Once again 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. Kath Sharman and Michael Cockerill also help at the baptism services – a big thank you!

At the preparation session 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 2017 we baptised 15 children and young people, and had one dedication.

***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.

Grateful thanks to all who have assisted whilst I am not able to do as much as usual with special thanks to Sheila Ackroyd who took over the café while I have been laid up. I am looking forward to having my other knee surgery and to get back to 'normal'.

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

***Kath Griffiths***

## **CHALLENGERS REPORT**

At the beginning of last year I was aware that there were a number of our church members who seemed lonely and needed something to cheer them up. So I had a word with Rev John and asked if we could have a group who could meet, have a cuppa and perhaps do something we could all enjoy doing. This group could be open to anyone who would feel to be made welcome whether male or female.

I then thought about what we could do as a group and got together dominoes, playing cards, colouring books, darts, knitting supplies, card craft, painting and pencils. Most important was biscuits, tea and coffee and the tables set up for a good afternoon.

I expected approximately six to come and join the group but was have about 14 regular members each week. The members started to call it a 'Knit and Natter Group', but I felt it would put off men joining the group. I thought about it and decided to call it the Challenge Group. What made me decide on this name was that everything we made was given away to special needy people or groups. We knit scarves, hats and gloves for our Gathering friends, clothes for the special care baby unit, memory muffs for those in nursing homes, cardigans for children abroad. The group impressed me so much with the items they produce and the quality of the finished products. They have met my requests so decided to call them the Challengers Group.

We are now looking at this year to see what other items we can make – especially for the Spring Fayre. So please come along if you want to have a good laugh, even do some gentle exercises some weeks and join in our prayer time where we pray for our family, friends and church. Yes – that includes gentlemen – if you are up for the challenge!!!

Thanks

***Beryl Haigh***

## **CC CHATTERBOX REPORT**

In the middle of last year it would appear that our toddler group would be without a leader, as Carol has been able to get a job which would not allow her time to continue running the group. I was concerned as I felt that it was important that we continued this group as our little ones should be able to come to a church run toddler group.

As it was some time since I was responsible for running a group for the young I suggested that we could organise a small team to enable Chatterbox to continue. I had a word with Rev John who thought it was a good idea and after speaking to a few of our church members it was agreed to go ahead.

I had a few ideas about what we should do and discussed these with the team, some of whom had been part of the previous team and they also had some great ideas. We looked at the toys we had as to where they could be kept and how we should use them and also reviewed the registration form. It was a lot of hard work. Some of the toys we had and didn't need any more were sold on and some were stored in the loft for future use. We cleaned all the toys and dressing up clothes and then looked at how best we could store them in the cupboard.

We then looked at the different areas to lay out the toys for different age groups to make it easier for observation by the team to ensure everything was safe for the youngsters and parents. In addition to the toy areas we have a craft area, an action singing session with instruments, story time and mid-morning snacks and drinks and finish off with a special prayer time.

We have regular team meetings to ensure we are covering all aspects of our plan and discuss suggested changes.

Since taking up this role I have had to take a step back whilst Terry is undergoing his chemotherapy to avoid the risk of infection. I have asked Pam to take control of the group whilst I feel I can take over again but am looking forward to joining in when we have a visit from Father Christmas.

I felt that I was leaving a very happy group that Pam could take over and continue to keep happy little faces.

***Beryl Haigh***

## **CHRISTIAN EXPLORERS' COURSE**

In 2017 we ran the Alpha course with an average attendance of 6 people. We used the new videos, which stimulated some interesting and meaningful discussions.

***John Hellewell***

## **FLOWERS IN CHURCH**

Sincere thanks to everyone for their donations and money in the Flower Box at the back of church. Thank you as well for your appreciation of the altar flowers and pedestal arrangements. I try to vary the vases and flower colours and if they give joy, it is all worthwhile. Thanks again to Graeme Robinson for his advice and help with the Advent Ring. Thank you all once again.

***June Lockwood***

## **HOME COMMUNIONS**

Home Communion is on the second Tuesday of the month, and the numbers vary from month to month.

Sadly in the past year we have lost much loved members and we miss not calling on them.

Steve Daveney and I are happy to take communion to private homes, hospitals or care homes, and we consider it a privilege to serve the Lord in this way.

***Rosemary Power-O'Mahony***

## **HOME GROUPS**

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

In 2017, three groups ran, 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 ask a member of the church leadership.

***John Hellewell***

## **INTERNATIONAL EVENING**

International evening has been running for over 6 years now. It continues to provide an important place for our international family to come together to talk, pray, and play games. It has been good to see members of the group cooking for one another.

We are currently averaging around 20 people on an evening who come from many different countries, and it is a joy to see so many different people getting along well together.

Thanks to Michael Cockerill who, along with the Hellewell family, are the main team who run the evening. They have been supported by others at various times and it is always good to see other church members coming along and getting to know some of our international friends. You are always welcome!

***Karen Hellewell***

## **LADIES FRIDAY GROUP**

I am pleased to report the Ladies Friday Group is a very well supported social group associated with Christ Church. We celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June this year (2017) with 20 ladies sharing a supper and a birthday cake. There were two of the original founder members there, Kath Sharman and Eileen Shaw.

Tracy Jagger hosted our meeting last April and we had a lovely time catching up and hearing everyone's news.

In August we held a barbeque at Rosemary's, with David doing the cooking. The weather was fairly dry with just a little rain and 25 came along to enjoy sausages, burgers, lamb kebabs and all the trimmings. Of course, with wine and dessert.

In October Bronwyn Firth hosted our meeting and 12 ladies enjoyed a chat with supper.

Unfortunately, the weather wasn't kind to us in December and due to ice and snow we had to cancel our Christmas party, which was to be at Kath Sharman's.

Our last meeting of the year was at mine and 15 ladies came along to share supper and chat.

My thanks go to all the ladies who host and contribute to all of the socials in any way.

All ladies are welcome to come along and if you need a lift please let me know.

There is a card available in church, for you to keep, detailing the dates of the meetings and venues. I also put a card up on the notice board in the church porch.

If you need any more information please contact me.

Thank you

***Ann Gardner (01422 341962)***

## **LISTENING TO GOD**

The Listening to God meeting takes place in Christ Church on the first Thursday in the month at 6.00 pm, and everyone is welcome.

The best way to describe our meeting is that it is like a form of Christian Meditation. We begin with a short prayer inviting God to speak to us, and then we sit in silence for twenty minutes.

The aim is to clear our minds of junk and allow this space for God. During this time we don't pray, we just listen. If we feel we have received anything from God, for ourselves, for others, or for the church, we make a note. At the end of twenty minutes we share with one another what we have received from God.

Sometimes God may have given us a picture, a word, a scripture or a message. Sometimes we may not have received anything, but still feel a sense of peace and the presence of God with us.

Then we finish with a time of prayer related to what we have received from God, and for the needs of those at the meeting. We usually finish our meeting by 7.30pm.

If you are interested in developing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in your life, then this is an excellent opportunity to develop the gifts God has for you. Also we have lots of laughs, because God has a great sense of humour.

Everyone is welcome to join with us, just turn up! Or for more details have a chat with David.

Yours in Christ

***David Ramanauskas***

## **MISSION GROUP**

Special collections during the year were sent to UNICEF (Lent Boxes) £150, Christian Aid Week £85 and Children's Society (Christingle Collection) £233.07.

Donations have also been made throughout the year to CICS, Gesarya (our Link Parish), Carol Butler's trip to Uganda and the support of the two babies in the orphanage there, The Gathering Place, St Augustine's Centre, Christian Aid, Leprosy Mission, Mercy Ships, Alpha House and WaterAid. 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 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.

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**

Pastoral care is a very important part of church life, taking care of those we know and love.

The team give freely of their time, with home and hospital visits. Delivering church magazines, and get well we have missed you cards, made by the Challengers at Christ Church.

Two of the team have retired this year, Dawn Trafford and Audrey Mitchell. And I would like to thank them for all their efforts in the past.

We also have a new member, Angela Ward – welcome to the team!

As ever, I need your help to inform me if someone needs a visit.

My grateful thanks to my kind, caring and committed team. Thank you God for such willing volunteers.

***Rosemary Power-O'Mahony***

## SHARX

In brief, SharX have had an Amazing year! Praise God!

Building on last year's increased member numbers, we now have three SharX 'branches' to report on...



### **Wednesday SharX – serving age 10-18.**

We estimate that Wednesday SharX reached over 70 young people this year, and our regular register has stabilised at around 60 members. Running in its traditional form SharX had reached its full capacity, so in August the group split according to age: Group 1 for 10-14 year olds, Group 2 for 14-18 year olds. These groups meet on alternate Wednesday evenings. This has worked well, with a lively and larger younger group, and a smaller, but more engaged older group. We can now tailor our sessions and continue to welcome new members.

At regular SharX meetings our members enjoy pool, games consoles, karaoke, chill out café, chess and more. This year some members have learned to knit, as we began to knit squares for the charity Woolly Hugs, who use the squares to make blankets for refugees. We have attempted slime making (the latest craze) and remain open to activity ideas from our members. One of the year's highlights was our Christmas show in December where several members worked hard, keen to showcase their talents and entertain.

We have enjoyed several outings. In May, 25 SharX attended Big Church Night Out at Lightwater Valley. In July, 15 of us went to Spree North West, a camping weekend in Cheshire run by Urban Saints. 5 older members served on the service crew, and 8 younger members enjoyed outdoor activities and worship along with other young Christians. In November over 40 of us descended on Laser Zone in Huddersfield for the evening - a huge success! In January, 25 SharX spent the evening at Atik Nightclub, entertained by the Christian band Twelve:24, a brilliant example of contemporary faith and worship.

We have struggled to maintain our Christian discussion sessions. Early last year we recruited Mike Swinton, a second-year reader trainee, to take on this role. For around 8 months Mike successfully led these sessions, bringing his vibrant faith to our members. Sadly, in the autumn Mike was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and passed away in January. He is greatly missed. Lacking regular leadership for these sessions we've had to adapt. Neil Deakin, youth worker at Kings Church provides input when available, Terry and Liz lead when numbers permit, and peer led sessions have also been encouraged. We are trying to improve our Christian resources – bibles, Christian magazines, books etc, age-appropriate items our members can explore under their own steam. Our SharX have many faith questions and we strive to provide a safe environment where they can explore this, without pressure. All are welcome at SharX regardless of belief or background, and we continue to learn from and respond to the needs of our group. Although some remain sworn atheists (very interesting in itself!), three SharX have been baptised this year and several more are exploring this option – watch this space!

### **SharX on Sunday – for all children and young people.**

Noting an absence of children's work in church on a Sunday morning, we sought to fill this void. In September we began running SharX on Sunday, meeting in the Barn and Samuel Room, alongside the main church service. All under 18s are welcome at this session although we ask that preschool age children are accompanied by a carer.

Run mainly by SharX leaders Terry, Liz and Oli – we are open to volunteers from within church and this would help us develop our work. Although we sometimes run bible-based activities (we've looked at the Lord's Prayer, the ten commandments, the Exodus, and Corinthians for example), this session prioritises fellowship over traditional Sunday School activities. Although separate from the main service, our position in the Barn allows our members (several who have never experienced a 'traditional' church service) to watch what is happening in church. We can answer questions they have, and we talk about communion, prayer and worship.

We encourage those who attend to participate in communion, or to receive a blessing. With a regular attendance of around 20 children, there is a positive community feel to this session. Family members of some of our SharX have begun to attend church while their children enjoy the activities we provide, and our youngsters are becoming more comfortable mixing with older congregation members after the church service. Although open to feedback we are pleased with the success of SharX on Sunday and hope to continue the work we have begun.

### **Messy SharX – aimed at Primary School children.**

Considering the families of our existing SharX members we realised there was a demand for a church-based group aimed at younger children. After several months of prayer and discussion, in January 2018 we launched Messy SharX. This session is aimed at primary school children although pre-schoolers are welcome with a carer. It runs on the third Saturday of each month, 3-5pm.

We have run two successful sessions so far with around 20 children attending each time. The SharX Team have happily welcomed new adult helpers on board, and again are always open to new volunteers! This session offers games, story time, and craft activities. We end by sharing a picnic style tea together. As I write we are eagerly preparing for our third session, and feel positive about building on the initial foundation of this group.

### **Future Planning...**

Two seeds are planted at present. For the SharX who have been recently baptised, or wish to explore their faith further, we are looking to set up a monthly bible-study group. For those age 18 plus, we are looking to establish a fellowship group, to meet perhaps bi-monthly.

Please continue to pray for SharX and support us however you can, thank you.

***Liz & Terry Gledhill, SharX leaders***

## TEXTPRAYER

Textprayer currently has 54 members, the highest it has ever been. we have prayed for all sorts of situations, illnesses, bereavements, to support people through stressful situations, and for church events. many people have told me how much they have appreciated the prayers, and they have felt valued, blessed, peaceful and uplifted. thanks to all who pray along, and if you want to join in, have a word with me.....

*Iain Lawson*



## UNIFORM GROUPS – 52<sup>nd</sup> Pellon Scouts

52<sup>nd</sup> 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

This year we have a further change to the leadership team and with us getting a new District Commissioner we are stronger than ever.

We have even introduced young leaders because children didn't want to leave when they got too old for scouts and we now have 3 young people taking on this exciting challenge.

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 and having fun learning new and exciting things and as children slowly move up to Cubs we are excited to meet new children.

Jenny continues to do a fantastic job and has introduced a new assistant cub leader. Again they continue to do exciting badge work and are preparing to go on their first camp.

Scouts are being run by the fantastic Clair who has taken the challenge of Scout leader with so much passion and determination and has organised various fund raising activities which has paid for her first Scout camp which will happen this Easter.

All three groups are attending a St. George's fun day which will be held at the leisure centre and will involve all scout and guide units within the Halifax district.

***Gareth, 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), and one young leader Alice

As usual 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 based around the four key words in our meeting opening song Look, Learn, Laugh and Love and held theme evenings including:

- Rainbow Promise
- Harvest
- Road Safety
- Looked at ways of keeping healthy
- Bonfire
- Christmas craft
- International Thinking Day

In October we had a visit from Jumping Clay who are a company who hold workshops for children of all ages to make clay models

In November the Leaders attended their Safeguarding training and we also helped staff the cake stall with the Brownies and Guides at the Church Christmas Fayre.

In February we went to the pantomime at the YMCA to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

As this report is being written we are looking forward to a visit to Pets At Home to find out a bit more about pets and how to look after them.

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](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested)

***Jane Webster, Rainbow Guider***

## **UNIFORM GROUPS – 1<sup>ST</sup> PELLON CHRISTCHURCH BROWNIES**

We had 13 new Brownies to the unit this year and most have now completed their promises. Currently we have 22 Brownies.

Brownies have completed the following over the last 12 months - Flamingoland Challenge badge, Free Being Me, Hear Our Voice and various interest badges.

We took the unit to the Pantomime at Salem in February 2017 Dick Whittington as one of our Brownies was performing.

The unit went on Pack Holiday in May 2017 to Fanwood Scout Camp in Gomersal and enjoyed a weekend full of activities including Archery and Nightline. This years theme was Roald Dahl and we have various crafts and activities around the author.

On Saturday night we had a sing-a-long at the campfire which was kindly lit and controlled by Mr Rathbone-Wade one of our Brownie parents. The Brownies obtained the following badges – Pack Holiday, Cooks, Cooks Advanced and Craft badge.

Our last meeting in July 2017 we made full use of our Sainsbury vouchers sport equipment and took the Brownies to Shibden Park, where a number of Brownies took their promise.

The leaders and a small number of Brownies had the opportunity to go to Flamingoland on 16 September 2017 to visit the zoo and go on the fantastic rides the park has to offer. It was a really good day full of adventure and the Brownies and leaders were all worn out at the end of the day.

The Brownies performed at the Harvest Supper on 22 September 2017 and they performed a number of campfire songs which I know went down a treat, we thank the attendees for allowing us to collect and raise £61.50. This is for our Young Leader Jade and Phoebe the Young Leader in our Guide unit, who are both going on the International Camp in August 2018 to Switzerland.

We assisted in running the cake stall at the Autumn Fayre and brownie parents donated cakes and buns for the stall and we appreciate their continued support.

As a unit we went to the Victoria Theatre on 1 October 2017 to a Science Show, which showed the wonders of science and some great experiments were performed and the Brownies were excited.

We had a joint meeting with the Guides in November for Bonfire night and we had sparklers and fireworks, followed by hot soup and parkin.

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

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 (Young Leader) and Elizabeth Warner (Leader in Training) 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 – 1<sup>ST</sup> PELLON (CHRIST CHURCH) GUIDES**

We are currently running with only 5 Guides at the moment but this is not stopping us having fun.

We have had our usual varied programme including: Craft, Badges, Go For It's and some Challenge badges – one a Harry Potter theme and another based on Votes for Women.

In March we held a sleepover in church and in July held a joint Holiday weekend at Fan Wood Scout Activity Centre with another Guide Unit from Sowerby Bridge – and all had a great time. Our last meeting in July before the summer holidays was an evening at the Pizza Hut.

We supported the church along with the Rainbows and Brownies at the Spring Fayre with a games stall and Autumn Fayre with a cake stall also also raised money for one of the Guides who has been selected to go on an International Trip to Switzerland in August 2018.

For Bonfire night we again had a joint fireworks and food night with the Brownies.

In December we said goodbye to our Unit Helper Amy Moran and presented her with a card a voucher as a thank you for the time she has given to the unit.

Another busy, busy year.

***Louise Cater, Guide Guider***

## **WEDDING AND FUNERAL VERGER'S REPORT**

### **Weddings**

There were 6 weddings held at Christ Church in 2017, all enjoyed by everyone who attended. They were happy and stress free for the bride and groom and Kath Griffiths, my Deputy and I, made sure their guests were welcomed into our church. Thanks to the organists, David Barker and an enthusiastic new organist from The Minster, Anthony Greenwood. Thank you to the staff who worked hard at the music centre, because not every bride wants the organ. Our grateful thanks to John who officiated at these happy events.

### **Funerals**

We again had 6 funerals held in Christ Church during 2017. We were happy to work with the Funeral Directors and thank them for their assistance. Once again thanks to John, Linda and Rev. Stephen Bradberry who took the services.

### ***June Lockwood***

## **WORSHIP**

Because of all the changes during 2017, we began using iSing worship videos for leading many of our services, and these have proved very popular. They provide a range of modern and traditional music in easy-to-sing keys, and have enhanced our worship experience on Sundays.

We are very grateful for Paul & Patricia's continued support on second Sundays, and Caroline when she is available, and are excited at the developments in 2018 where others are also offering their skills as we develop our worship team – slowly but surely!

Continue to pray that God provides the people and skills, and that however we are lead, we all grow closer to God through our worship.

### ***John Hellewell***

## VICAR'S REPORT

2017 was, in many ways, a very difficult year, but it was also one in which we saw many, many answers to prayer as well!

We said goodbye to so many of our members in 2017 as they passed into God's nearer presence, but left us all the poorer for their deaths: Ruth Drake, Peter Walton, Margaret Sanders, Ian Buckley, Margaret Blower, Keith Wilcock, Hilda Lawther, Ida Brooksbank and Pauline Crouch. Rest in Peace, and thank you for all you gave!

We also said goodbye to Sue & Paul Heptinstall in 2017. This was, I know, a difficult time for everyone, not least Sue & Paul themselves. Do continue to pray for them in their new situation.

It also seems that we didn't get very far with the building repairs. Yes, we did get the phase one investigations completed, but we are still awaiting the OK for the actual work in phase two which will hopefully see the removal of the scaffolding in church this coming year!

But as I said, there were also answers to prayer as well.

We prayed last year for helpers with the Sunday young people's work. And God provided in a spectacular (if unexpected) way in the launch of Sunday SharX. It has been really fantastic to see so many young people in church on Sundays, and in particular, so many young helpers! A huge thanks must go to Terry and Liz for their vision and their energy!

Indeed, God, as usual, provided abundantly, as Messy SharX is also proving a great provision for primary age children and Chatterbox has gone from strength to strength as first Beryl and now Pam took over from the excellent foundation that Carol Butler had laid.

And although we didn't pay our parish share in full last year, we paid significantly more than the previous two years put together, which was a fantastic achievement – thank you to everyone for a brilliant effort!

The termly vision events are also proving a great way of discerning God's purposes for us as a church, and have led to several new initiatives and changes.

In particular, it has been exciting to see the development of the wider prayer life of the church, with the numbers joining in prayer before services, and at our monthly Saturday prayers meetings.

It is also humbling to hear what God is doing week by week in the lives of all the congregation as we share times of testimony week by week.

And although we don't currently have 'live' musicians every week, most people have been encouraging about the use of the iSing resources, which has deepened our worship week by week.

But there also things to look forward to and pray about over the coming year.

First, still, is our financial position. Although we did fantastically last year, we still need to do more, and especially we need to still cover the projected shortfall in the building work as it (hopefully) goes ahead this year.

Second, is that building work itself. Pray that it happens quickly and with the minimum of disruption to the work of the church, and that it provides a suitable base for mission into our community.

Thirdly, pray for that mission itself. Pray for wisdom to know where we should focus our resources to best reach out to our community and see our numbers grow as people come into a living relationship with the Lord Jesus. After all, that's why were all here in the first place!

And finally, as we pray that others will come to know Jesus, pray that we all, together, may continue to grow together in faith and love for one another and for the God who calls us to be his family in this place.

And be encouraged! As we look back at the generous way God answered our prayers last year, what amazing things is he going to do this year?!

Thank you, everyone, for your faithfulness, love and support!

Yours in Christ

***John Hellewell***