

in the power of the Spirit...

Christ Church, Mount Pellon Annual Parochial Church Meeting



**Sunday 21st April 2019
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 21st April 2019, 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 (None this year)
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 25th March 2018 12.45 pm in Church

Present: Sheila Ackroyd, Mark Andrews, Pam and Caroline Bonner, Chris Butler, Michael Cockerill, Michael Crouch, Steve Daveney, Gwyneth Edwards, Kath Griffiths, Beryl Haigh, John and Karen Hellewell, Iain Lawson, June Lockwood, Lynn Lumb, Fran Nowell, Caroline & Mark Pemberton, Rosemary Power O'Mahoney, David Ramanuskas, Diane & Brian Robinson, Val Schofield, Kath Sharman, Jean Sparkes, Eileen Sutcliffe, Ken and Angela Ward, Rosemary Wright.

1. The meeting opened with prayers
2. Apologies for absence had been received from: Karen Bainbridge, Lynn Lawson, Clare and Becky Hellewell.
3. The Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 30th April 2017 having been previously circulated were proposed by Iain Lawson, seconded by Sheila Ackroyd and signed as a correct record.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. Election of Church Wardens – John Hellewell thanked Michael Crouch and Ken Ward for their work over the last year. Ken Ward has agreed to continue and a nomination received from Elizabeth Gledhill. They were both duly elected. Michael Crouch and Terry Gledhill to continue as deputy church wardens.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
held on Sunday 25th March 2018 12.50 pm in Church

6. Apologies for absence – as for the Vestry meeting.
7. The Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting held on 30th April 2017 having been previously circulated were proposed by Iain Lawson, seconded by Sheila Ackroyd 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 81 with 4 new members to be added.
10. Secretary's Report – see report in APCM Booklet. PCC Minutes to be put on the notice board asap after meetings with 'DRAFT' printed across as they will not have been agreed by the PCC.
11. 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. Question asked as to why clergy expenses half of previous year which is due to reduced clergy numbers.
12. Church Wardens' Report & Fabric - see report in APCM Booklet. John Hellewell thanked Michael Crouch and Ken Ward for their work during the last year. Report to be amended to show we are 'now' waiting.
13. Report included in APCM Booklet. David Ramanauskas has been our lone representative this past year.
14. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives: There is one vacancy if anyone interested please speak to a member of the clergy. This meeting gives an opportunity to bring proposed changes for discussion to be passed on to the diocese.
15. Election of Parochial Church Council – Terry Gledhill applied to renew his membership and additional nominations received from Jean Sparkes and Mark Andrews all of whom have been duly elected. Gareth Toy has been withdrawn from the PCC.

The following are the current list of elected PCC members (date appointed from is shown in brackets after the names as 'from Where just a date is shown this is when the term of appointment ends):

Clergy/Lay Readers: John Hellewell, Karen Hellewell, Terry Gledhill
Liz Gledhill (Church Warden) (from 2018)
Ken Ward (Church Warden) (from 2017)
Chris Butler (2019)
Michael Cockerill (2019)
Kath Sharman (2019)
Beryl Haigh (2019)
Gareth Toy (2019)
Kath Griffiths (2020)
Iain Lawson (2020)
June Lockwood (2020)
Jean Sparkes (from 2018)
Mark Andrews (From 2018)

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

16. Election of Sidespeople - No change
17. 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. Steve Daveney will arrange a thank you gift for Debbie.
18. 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.

Kath Griffiths explained how the money from Coffee morning is used to purchase food etc for events at church.

Iain Lawson thanked Elizabeth and Terry Gledhill for the work they are doing with the various Sharx Groups.

Thanks also expressed to John Hellewell for all the work he does for church.

19. Vicar's Report – see report in booklet
- Thanks expressed to all the Clergy for the brilliant job they do.
 - John Hellewell feels that we are in a different place now and we are better for it.
 - Terry Gledhill thanked everyone for the support they receive which has helped greatly in integrating the Sharx members into church.
 - Financial situation – is very precarious at the moment. We need to be praying how God will provide for us to continue.
 - We are hoping the work will start on the church building soon. We are still waiting for HLF to give OK to proceed. Still unsure how the work will affect the use of the building.
 - John Hellewell's Sabbatical – It was hoped it would still happen alongside the work on the building but this has not fallen into place. Due to difficulty in finding clergy to continue with our own and St Augustine's services it was agreed to hold a joint 10.45 am service at The Gathering Place. 6.30 services will continue either here or at St Augustine's depending on state of our building and will be held on a discussion/house group style. During his Sabbatical John is visiting churches working with asylum seekers/Iranians/internationals to see how they approach these people to see what can be learnt. He is also to undertake a coast to coast path walk and possibly a visit to Italy. Wednesday communion still being sorted out. Text prayer/facebook suggested as a communication route for service details/updates. We should look at these changes as an opportunity and not an obstacle. For those wanting lifts to the Gathering Place to meet at church by 10.30 am.

20. Any other business:
None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.40 pm.

10. REPORT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL

Every six years the current Electoral Roll is closed and a new Roll implemented. This is the year we are schedule to completely renew our Electoral Roll and forms have been distributed over the past few weeks for completion by those who are 16+, baptised and consider themselves to be a regular attender. We currently have forms from 84 members some of whom are new to the Electoral Roll. Forms can be completed at any time and added to the Roll.

Kath Sharman, Electoral Roll Officer

11. REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC

The PCC continues to meet throughout the year where we work together to discuss and discern what God has planned for Christ Church and 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, reviewing the Child Protection Policy, service patterns and re-ordering of the church building – especially during the time the refurbishment work has been progressing.

We welcome suggestions/comments from you our church family and 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. Members are appointed for 3 years and it is up to you to re-apply if you wish.

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

H A L L E L U J A H

At long last the first part of the roof and clock tower repairs are completed. I am sure we are all pleased to see the scaffolding go. We are still waiting for the final part of the grant money to come through so that we can pay St. Augustines back. I feel we should say a huge thank you to St. Augustines for lending us the money in the first place.

Looking at our finances as a whole we are still unable to pay our Parish Share (sorry Bishop) but I believe we are paying as much as we can afford. Perhaps if we all trebled our weekly giving we would be able to get somewhere near (just joking). I think we are all giving as much as we can afford and for that as a church we are truly grateful.

Once again a big thank you to Pam for all her hard work. If the church realised how much time and effort she puts in they would be amazed. I would also like to add my personal thanks to Pam as she certainly makes my job so much easier.

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 2018

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 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Rev John Hellewell

Churchwardens: Ken Ward
Michael Crouch (until 9th May 2018)
Elizabeth Gledhill (from 9th May 2018)

Deanery Synod: David Ramanauskas
Caroline Pemberton (from 31st April 2018)

Elected Members:	Pam Bonner (till '19)	June Lockwood (till '20)
	Chris Butler (till '19)	Rosemary Power O'Mahoney (till '19)
	Michael Cockerill (till '19)	Kath Sharman (PCC Secretary, till '19)
	Terry Gledhill (till '21)	Gareth Toy (till '19)
	Kathleen Griffiths (till '20)	Angela Ward (till '19)
	Beryl Haigh (till '19)	
	Iain Lawson (till '20)	

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 84 members entered on the electoral roll of the parish, which is 3 more than last year. The average adult Sunday attendance last year was 51, which is an overall decrease of 14 on the previous year. This partly reflects deaths in the congregation, the effect of the sabbatical and church building works disruption, and the stopping of the evening services. This last in particular gave 'inflated' figures since the majority had been at Church (St. Augustine's) in the morning.

Wednesday communion numbers were stable at 18, but considering the deaths, this is a positive number.

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 two of our Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) which focussed on the main work, rebuilding the internal arch, the tower roof and the North roof over the ladychapel. The work slightly spilled into 2019, and the paperwork will be finished by the end of April 2019. Pam Bonner has again done amazing work on this.

Messy SharX in particular has seen good growth throughout the year, and is a real strength and something to celebrate. Thank you Liz & Terry Gledhill for your amazing work!

We paid slightly less of our parish share in 2018, largely because of the effect of the building works and the sabbatical. However, it was still nowhere near what it should be, 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 £3,997.35 on unrestricted funds at the year end did not match this target, but is better than 2017.

The balance of £8,346.59 in the Barclays A/C B is retained towards meeting the final 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 2018, 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

April 2019

Financial Statements for year ended 31st December 2018

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted designated fund	Restricted fund	Total 2018	Total 2017
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Voluntary receipts:						
Planned giving		15,709			15,709	17,814
Collections at services		3,894			3,894	3,279
All other giving / voluntary receipts	a	1,657		260	1,917	1,807
Gift aid recovered		7,409			7,409	11,878
		<u>28,669</u>		<u>260</u>	<u>28,929</u>	<u>34,778</u>
Activities for generating funds						
	b	755	1,970		2,725	0
Church activities	c	<u>1,746</u>		<u>3,478</u>	<u>5,224</u>	<u>10,680</u>
Total Receipts		31,170	1,970	3,738	36,878	45,458
Payments						
Church activities:						
Parish share		9,600			9,600	12,000
Church running expenses	d	17,270			17,270	27,332
Church events	e			4,191	4,191	1,380
Mission giving and donations		1,860			1,860	2,020
Loan repayments						<u>12,200</u>
Total Payments		28,730	0	4,191	32,921	54,932
Excess of receipts over payments		2,440	1,970	-453	3,957	-9,474

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Note	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted designated fund	Restricted fund	Total 2018	Total 2017
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
All other giving / voluntary receipts						
	a					
Donations		1,657			1,657	1,307
Grants				260	260	500
		<u>1,657</u>		<u>260</u>	<u>1,917</u>	<u>1,807</u>
Activities for generating funds						
	b					
Spring Fair		755			755	
Gift Day			1,970		1,970	
		<u>755</u>	<u>1,970</u>		<u>2,725</u>	<u>0</u>
Church activities						
	c					
Community use of building		567			567	1,060
Magazine sales		104			104	142
Insurance claim						4,064
PCC fees (weddings, funerals)		1,075			1,075	4,409
Parish Weekend				3,373	3,373	900
Commonwealth War Graves Commission				105	105	105
		<u>1,746</u>		<u>3,478</u>	<u>5,224</u>	<u>10,680</u>
Payments						
Church activities						
	d					
Clergy expenses		208			208	562
Church building running expenses		12,606			12,606	10,741
Upkeep of services		2,414			2,414	1,411
Repairs/replacements		1,127			1,127	13,372
Admin, printing, stationery		915			915	1,053
		<u>17,270</u>			<u>17,270</u>	<u>27,139</u>
Church events						
	e					
International night				780		780
Parish weekend				3,411		600
				<u>4,191</u>		<u>1,380</u>

Statement of Assets at 31st December 2018

	2,018	2,017
Assets		
Barclays Bank Current Account	£3,997.35	£2,167.77
Barclays Bank B Account	£8,346.59	£5,031.60
Barclays Bank Savings Account	£329.68	£329.68
CBF Special Purpose Deposit for Fabric	£2,013.30	£1,999.37
Total	£14,686.92	£9,528.42

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

After receiving permission to begin the work from HLF, and having planned the work to be done April – June, problems with the preferred contractor delayed the start significantly. In fact, work did not begin until the summer, and some unexpected things delayed the work so that it did not finish until the beginning of 2019.

During the work, there was some disruption, especially with evening services, midweek services, and day-time groups, most notably challengers and Wednesday café and Lunchbox. However, great spirit was shown by the congregation in hosting these in different places, and through it people grew closer together. The tools and the dust also disrupted the evening groups, so a big thank you must also go to the groups who put up with all the disruption, mess and uncertainty about what was happening when during the works.

The work carried out involved replacing some timbers and tiles on the North Aisle roof over the Lady chapel area and replacing the valley guttering there. The tower roof was replaced, including much of the timber work and the guttering around the roof, along with making safe the parapet stonework. Finally the Archway was repaired by first scaffolding the whole archway – who can forget the beams across the church?!) and strengthening the support for the tower by inserting custom made Reinforced Steel Joists and then rebuilding the arch.

It is good to have the church back – minus the scaffolding! – and we must now endeavour to keep it tidy and clean.

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.

Elizabeth Gledhill & Ken Ward, Church Wardens

14. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

David was joined this year by our new representative, Caroline Pemberton.

Halifax Deanery Synod met three times in 2018, with Rev. Kathia Shoesmith, the Area Dean alternating with Mr. John White (lay chair), 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. Paul's King Cross and St. Michael's, Mytholmroyd.

The February meeting was a joint meeting with three deaneries together: Halifax, Brighouse & Elland and Calder Valley. We are going to be having more joint meetings as we move towards being one larger Deanery in practice.

The main item of business was a presentation and questions by the Diocesan Environment Officer, Jemima Parker.

The June meeting was another joint meeting which where the main speaker was the diocesan bishop, Rt. Revd. Nick Baines.

In November we met at Mereside Café, Shibden Park in another joint meeting. The main presentation was from Dr. Mandy Aspland, the Lay Training Officer for the Huddersfield Episcopal Area. This was an interactive session to help us think about how we can better educate everyone in our churches, and to explain what the diocesan is putting on, pointing especially to the new Training Website: <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org>

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 21st April 2019 12.30pm in Church

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ADMINISTRATION

John has continued to compile and print 'The Hub' our church magazine for which I am grateful, and thanks must go to those who help with the distribution of the magazine. If you have anything you want to put in the magazine let me have this either written or better still emailed and I will arrange for this to be included in the next copy. If it is time critical please remember that they are only printed every two months.

Many thanks to all those who volunteer to help with the services and providing drinks after the service. It is much appreciated. If you sit there during the services and think I would like to do that or if you think you would like to do something but feel you need a little guidance – let me know and we can get you a bit of training or if not, put you straight on the rota.

Kath Sharman

BAPTISM TEAM

The number of baptisms was down in 2018 with only 8 people baptised. The effect of the sabbatical and the building works was no doubt at play, and numbers are already picking up in 2019.

A single preparation evening is still used to outline what parents and godparents can do to help their child grow in faith, and what the church provides to help. We also explore in brief the Christian understanding of God, and then walk through what will happen at the service. These are generally well received and help put people at ease on the day.

Thank you to those who stay for the baptism services to run the computer, take the collection and greet people – it makes a big difference!

John Hellewell

BUILDING TEAM

Over the last 12 months a great deal of building work has been completed with the aid of a Heritage Lottery Grant. After over four years of scaffolding inside church what a blessing it was to get the aisle made secure and seeing the arch back as it should be.

The Lady Chapel roof had to be completely stripped, rafters replaced where necessary and felted and re-slatted along with all the coping stones being removed, sealed and re-bedded. All valley guttering has been stripped, removed, relined and replaced along with the outside guttering and down pipes.

Extensive repair work has also been completed to the bell tower. The wall tops have been taken down and rebuilt with the gargoyles being made secure. The guttering has also been stripped out and replaced and the pyramid roof had to be stripped completely with extensive repairs to rafters, wall plates and dragon ties in the internal roof corners. The cross on top has been refurbished and replaced before the slates were refitted. All damaged pointing has been repaired with lime mortar to comply with listed building regulations.

Leaded windows in the tower have also been removed and repaired or replaced. Stone louvres on the tower have had mesh fitted to prevent pigeons damaging inside the tower. The clock faces have also been removed and beautifully refurbished.

You will have noticed the improvements to the kitchen, well on the way to completion. Thanks must be made to those who gave so generously for all the tiles, worktops, sink and taps, and cupboards etc.

Looking forward to the next phase in keeping our beautiful church looking like it should.

Michael Cockerill

CAFÉ HOPE

Dear friends, another year has gone by and I would like to thank you all very much for your support and contributions.

The money we raised this last year has gone towards the Harvest Supper, Autumn Fayre and Christmas stockings for the children at the Christmas Fayre.

Two of our members reached their 90th birthdays in 2018 so we were able to purchase them a bouquet of flowers each. The money also paid for the sweets for the Christingle Service.

The attendance has snowballed and each and every one has contributed to the fellowship.

I would like to thank the people who have stood in for me during my absence following knee surgery. Also I would give grateful thanks to Lynn and David Lumb without whose help and support by opening their home to us including providing soup for lunch, the group wouldn't have been able to meet during the church's refurbishment.

Thanks again and God Bless.

Kath Griffiths

CHALLENGERS REPORT

This group which meets in church on Monday afternoons continues to grow. With the ongoing church renovations and Beryl, it's leader, caring for Terry, the group venue changed to members' homes. It continued to supply items of clothing, etc. to special care baby units, the winter shelter and other charitable organisations. The group was intended to incorporate all the community and church members, both men and women.

By the end of 2018 we now have 17 members who either help with small tasks around the church or for the wider community.

Others attend for the social aspects of the group or others pursue handicrafts or play scrabble or make cards.

The group has laughed, cried at the loss of two members, but at the end of the year has supported one another through challenging times.

Jean Sparkes

CC CHATTERBOX REPORT

During the first half of 2018 we met every Friday during term time, unless bad weather made it unsafe for volunteers and children to attend. Miriam continued to prepare exciting craft activities, and Kath produced healthy snacks for our break times. Play was imaginative and exciting for the toddlers and Mums enjoyed the opportunity to chat over tea and coffee. We made Mothers' Day and Easter gifts and cards and finished with a farewell party in May with a Royal Wedding Theme.

Chatterbox was unable to continue when the builders moved in. We expected to be back in September, at the start of the new school year, but building work overrun and our relaunch was postponed until 2019. We were concerned we would lose some of our mums, babies and toddlers to other groups during our closure, but thankfully most have returned. Some are now in school, of course, but we have new babies instead.

Here are some comments from our mums:

We love Chatterbox and are incredibly grateful for all the hard work of all involved....Snack is excellent with really healthy choices. It's a part of our week that we really look forward to....Chatterbox is a credit to the church....Such a lovely playgroup with a lovely, friendly bunch of people. Always a warm welcome and a cup of hot tea!!

Thanks to those who have helped to make Chatterbox so successful. We look forward to continuing to grow in 2019.

Pam Bonner

CHRISTIAN EXPLORERS' COURSE

Christ Church did not run a course in 2018 because of the sabbatical and John's extended holiday in October. We look forward to running something in 2019.

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 takes place on the first Tuesday of each month to those who are ill or house-bound.

They are all so grateful and appreciate our visit, and say how much better they feel afterwards.

It is a privilege to serve the Lord in this way and to take the body and blood of Christ to those who are unable to come to the Lord's table.

Yours in Christ

Rosemary Power-O'Mahony

HOME GROUPS

Some of the groups struggled in 2018 as people are busier than ever.

However, in 2019 we are looking at renewing these as we go through the Jesus Shaped People programme.

John Hellewell

INTERNATIONAL EVENING

Numbers at the International Night have been lower recently, but are still very much appreciated by those who attend.

When people are not allowed to work, finding things to do can be an issue, and International Night provides a safe space to meet with others, play games and eat together.

It is a great opportunity to get to know other people, and others are welcome to come and join us and make new friends!

Karen Hellewell

LADIES FRIDAY GROUP

The Ladies Friday Group has met on 6 occasions over the last twelve months with an average of 10 ladies coming along. We enjoyed a bring and share supper and refreshments at five of the meetings and I would like to thank those people who hosted for us.

The exception to this was the annual barbeque, which was to be held at Rosemary and David's. However, in spite of a glorious summer, rain threatened and the barbeque was moved to Christ Church where 21 people enjoyed sausages, burgers and kebabs, cooked by David indoors! Everyone brought either a salad and or a dessert and Kath Sharman purchased the meat.

Our Christmas party went ahead this year in December at Kath Sharman's with 13 ladies coming along to enjoy the festivities.

All ladies are welcome to come to the Ladies Friday Group and if you need a lift please let me know.

If you need any more information please contact me. All our meetings for the next twelve months have been arranged and I can give you a list if you would like one. The meetings are always advertised in the church magazine and in the weekly church notices.

Thank you.

Ann Gardner

LISTENING TO GOD

Learn How To Hear God's Voice

Learn how to hear God speak to you through visions and dreams, for yourself and for others.

Being able to hear God speaking to you is the gateway to the Spiritual Gifts described in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

At Christ Church we run a monthly Listening To God meeting, that has enabled Christians to develop their ability to hear God speak to them in dreams and visions. Over the past five years we have all developed our ability to hear from God more clearly, and we have helped others start and develop this gift from God.

Sometimes we may receive a word of knowledge or of a prophecy. Sometimes it may be a word of guidance for individuals or the church. And through learning how to listen to God, we all develop and deepen our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Our regular meeting is on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00pm and ends at 8:00pm. This is an open meeting and any Christian from any denomination is welcome to join us.

On the last Thursday of each month we now run a Listening To God Training Evening. We go through the basics of how to get started, and have the time to encourage you on this journey with God. We meet at 6:00pm and end at 8:00pm.

So if you would like to learn how to hear from God, please contact David Ramanauskas or John Hellewell for more details, or come along to the next meeting. Just bring a notebook, pen and your Bible.

Yours in Christ

David Ramanauskas

LUNCHBOX

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 and we even had a Volunteer from a member of staff at the Halifax Head Office as part of her staff community service, who enjoyed the experience so much she intends bringing more volunteers next year.

I would like to say a big thankyou to all who have helped in the last year - setting up tables, serving and washing up, preparing for the Christmas Lunch etc your work is much appreciated.

During the summer whilst the refurbishment works were under way at church we continue to hold our regular monthly Lunchbox at the home of Lynn and David Lumb and even when it wasn't Lunchbox David provided us with soup and bread/toast for lunch. It was such a success that I found myself asking if the group wanted to continue with soup when we got back to church and the answer was a resounding yes. So from March this year we have been having home made soup and French bread on the Wednesdays it is not Lunchbox with approx. 18 staying after the morning communion service. We charge £1 for the soup days and £3.50 for lunchbox. If you are not doing anything on Wednesday mornings/lunchtime come and join us for coffee morning, Communion or Lunch or any part thereof, we look forward to welcoming more people.

We have recently applied for two grants one from Calderdale Luncheon Club Grant Scheme where we have secured funding to purchase 12 new tables for church as we are struggling with the number of tables we have at the moment for lunchbox, and a grant from the Warley Isolation Funding Scheme for the purchase of two large slowcookers, a soup kettle, bowls and spoons for use for the soup days.

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

Kath Sharman

MISSION GROUP

Special collections during the year were sent to The Children's Society (Christingle Collection) £300, UNICEF (Lent Boxes) £46, Macmillans Coffee Morning £233 and DEC for the Philippian Crisis £60.

Donations have also been made throughout the year to St Marks Siddal towards their heating fund, CICS to support the provision of Its Your Move booklets to children moving from Junior to Secondary schools.

If any of you as a church group or individuals 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

Pastoral Care – a Gift from God

This past year we welcomed a new member to the team. New members means more pastoral visits and care in the church and the community. However, without a team of willing workers we would not be able to achieve this. I always appreciate help and information from the church family as I may not be aware of situations. We continue to meet bi-monthly, sharing tea, cake, and a good catch-up.

Lastly, to my kind, caring and committed team. My grateful thanks, and keep up the good work.

Yours in Christ

Rosemary Power-O'Mahony

PRAYER WALK

This has been on our agendas for some time. We decided that the launch day would be Saturday, 1st June. We would start at 1p.m. at Mount Tabor, we were thinking about half an hour at each church., and then follow the route as outlined here. Mount Tabor, St. Columba's, Highgate, Christ Church, Pellon, St. Hilda's, New Hope, St. John's. From this you should be able to deduce when it would be necessary for the church to be open for one hour, and be prepared to give out leaflets about the church and provide drinks etc if required. It was felt that most people would be travelling by car, and it was hoped that lifts could be offered. Leaflets outlining all the activities and contact details need to be available well before the date and so to this end I will need up to date information by the 25th March at the very latest. I hope that this information will be able to be passed to me at some time during the Lent Course.

Rosemary Power-O'Mahony

SHARX

Following a very prosperous year between 2017-18, the past twelve months have presented several challenges to SharX.



Wednesday SharX – serving ages 10 -18.

This group meets each Wednesday from 6.45-9pm.

While last year's high numbers required us to split the group to meet demand (ages 10-13 and 14-18 met on alternate weeks), lower numbers towards the end of 2018 led us to reunite the group in January 2019. Average attendance currently ranges between 30-40 each Wednesday, although numbers on our register remain over 50. While some of our older SharX have left to pursue further education and work, other SharX drifted away in the autumn term when the continuity of our meetings was significantly affected by church building work.

Weekly SharX meetings continue to offer a safe and welcoming place for young people to meet. Games consoles, pool table, karaoke, table tennis and chill out café remain on offer. Occasional craft sessions are popular – several SharX enjoyed making papier mache poppies for our Remembrance window. Again, we have struggled to maintain our Christian discussion sessions. Irregular meetings during building works, fluctuating numbers, and leaders with busy lives impacted on this. However, we are currently supporting a group of SharX interested in baptism and this has a positive vibe.

Unfortunately, this year we were unable to offer our SharX any specifically Christian trips. The annual Big Church Night Out at Lightwater Valley did not run, and due to restructuring within Urban Saints, we were unable to access a Spree camp. Our team are on the lookout for similar events that may suit SharX as we've really missed these opportunities.

However, we have still had lots of fun! Over 20 SharX attended an Easter sleepover enjoying games, a time of reflection, food and a film, before waking early (in fact, some never actually slept!!) for the sunrise service.

In June we had great fundraising success at the Halifax Charity Gala, several SharX helped on our stall, running 'Play your cards right' and hook a duck. Money raised here allowed us to fund trips to Airtime trampoline park and Electric Bowl during the autumn term when we were unable to meet in church due to building work.

Usually SharX continues to run through the school holidays giving our members continuity, however church building work meant we took a break over the summer. In September, SharX returned to the sad news that Norman McDonnell had died. Norman was such a vibrant, driving force behind SharX for many years and this news was received with shock and sadness from both SharX members and leaders. Although handing over the SharX reins to the current team three years ago, in the background, Norman continued to be a huge support and mentor for all of us. Our young people planned and held a memorial evening for Norman, this was well attended, and we think it was a fitting tribute.

Following the challenges of last year, we seek to continue to serve the young people of our local community whilst upholding SharX central premise - to 'Share in Christ'.

Messy SharX – aimed at Primary School children.

This session runs on the third Saturday of each month 3-5pm.

Messy SharX has had a fantastic first year! We now have 36 primary and preschool age children on our register, with an average attendance of 20 plus at each session. We ask that preschool age children are accompanied by a carer and this has been a lovely way to get to know new families and welcome them into our church community.

A typical Messy SharX session begins with games - these break the ice, get the children playing together, burn off some steam! There are toys and quiet activities such as playdough and colouring for those who don't wish to join in. We then enjoy story time – each session so far has focused on an Elmer the Elephant story. These are popular with the children and often provide a theme for the session's wider activities. Following this, activities are available for the children – this year we've decorated buns, biscuits, made bread, bird feeders, planted seeds. There are often painting or other crafty activities available, we've made windmills, snappy crocodiles, goggle eyed penguins. Each session ends with food. It really is a lot of fun!!

In short, Messy SharX plans more of the same for the year ahead.

SharX on Sunday – For all children and young people.

Runs in 'The Barn' alongside Sunday morning services, apart from the first Sunday of each month.

After a positive start in September 2017, this group has had a difficult twelve months. Being frank, the decision to move Sunday services to The Gathering Place for the duration of John's sabbatical had a significant, negative impact on the group. Meeting space, location and safeguarding were all legitimate concerns, and despite a regular attendance of 25 plus under 18s, we reluctantly suspended the group between April and September, sadly letting down those members who clearly benefitted from these sessions.

As regular Sunday services resumed at Christ Church, we attempted to restart these sessions, but not without challenges. Numbers significantly dropped (averaging 6), changes to service patterns made planning tricky, existing leaders were finding themselves stretched in terms of time. Then the huge scaffold combined with dusty atmosphere from building works in church led to further disruption as we decided the environment was not suitable for small children – and so SharX on Sunday was suspended again.

Further, the purpose of the group was considered, as we are not a 'traditional Sunday School' what could and should SharX on Sunday provide? How appropriate are games consoles? How could we cater effectively for such a wide age range? Was more Christian input necessary or was the existing 'gentle' approach enough?

SharX on Sunday restarted in the New Year and has since run each Sunday apart from the first Sunday of each month – this allows our regular leaders time to participate in the main service. We are working hard to rebuild the work that was started in 2018 and numbers have slowly risen to an average of around 12. We are grateful to those members of the church who have agreed to help on Sunday morning, and to those who have provided donations to the group.

Please continue to support and encourage us and to make our young people feel welcome in church.

SharX 18+ Group.

This is a new group aimed at young adults. Several of our SharX have become leaders within our existing SharX groups, others simply leave SharX at 18 as they are too old to stay with us. This group was started with them in mind, and indeed any other person age 18 or over would be welcome to join too.

So far, the group has met just once, spending an evening at Electric Bowl. The aim is to meet every month or so, however coordinating meetings has proved tricky, juggling our member's work, university, college, general life commitments. If you'd like to be involved, please let us know.

Elizabeth, Terry and the SharX team

TEXTPRAYER

Textprayer currently has 57 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..... Everyone welcome!

Iain Lawson



UNIFORM GROUPS – 52nd Pellon Scouts

We meet on a Tuesday at Christ church and run from 17.30 to 20.30

Over the year we have done many different activities and have earned lots of badges. Scouts and Cubs have been on various camps and hikes and have earned lots of badges.

Beavers are getting ready for a camp and will soon be having a sleep over in preparation for this.

A member of the church has recently held a fund raiser event to raise money for her and her daughter to go and do some Mission work and all three groups were invited to do some entertainment which they greatly enjoyed.

At 52nd we pride our selves on the ability of allowing children with mixed abilities to join our group and although this can be challenging it gives us, the leaders a sense of satisfaction that we are able to provide this and give struggling parents much needed support and respite whilst providing these children with key skills which will enable they to function in society at a higher level.

This year has unfortunately seen one of our leaders hit with illness and other leaders hit with personal loss but as a group we have kept going with the support of the team and parents.

Hopefully 2019/2020 will see the group grow even stronger and continue to support the children of our community with the skills to succeed in life.

If any one is wanting to come on board to help this group become fantastic please get in touch

Gareth, Amanda, Jenny & Claire

UNIFORM GROUPS – RAINBOWS

We currently have 18 Rainbows, two qualified leaders – myself (Miss Rainbow) and Amanda (Miss Tulip), one Unit Helper Keeley (Miss Rose), one leader in training Sammy (Miss Blossom), one young leader Alice and a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer Ebony.

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
- Recycling
- Remembrance when we made a poppy window display for church
- Looked at ways of keeping healthy including dancing with Alice and Ebony
- Bonfire
- Christmas craft
- Snow
- Pancakes
- Mothers' Day
- Easter

- International Thinking Day – we are currently journeying round the world learning about Rainbows in Australia, Africa, The Netherlands, India and America – our journey will end in June with our Journey Round the World concert when we will tell our audience about and sing songs from these countries.

In November we had a visit from Yvonne from Calderdale Council who told us all about recycling – even though they are only 5, 6 or 7 years old the girls certainly seemed to know what should be put in each of the recycling containers.

In February we went to the pantomime at the YMCA to see Peter Pan.

We helped by contributing gifts for the tombola at the Spring Fayre.

Guiding has introduced a new programme for us to follow which should be introduced by September this year. It seems to involve a lot of additional admin for the leaders but hopefully we will eventually get our heads round it. In the mean time we seem to be doing something right with 18 girls who come each week and have fun which for me is the main aim of our meetings.

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 9 new Brownies to the unit this year and have now completed their promises, four went up to Guides. Currently we have 22 Brownies.

Brownies have completed the following badges over the last 12 months - Hear our voice (Girls Matter), Parliament Week 2018 (Vote 100 - celebrating women's right to vote), House of Parliament Equaliteas 2018.

We took the unit to the Pantomime at YMCA on 2nd February 2018 Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, as one of our Brownies was performing.

Visited Halifax Town Hall on 12th March 2018 and had a guided tour of the building learning about the history plus what happens at council meetings. Some of the Brownies were able to try on a smaller version of the Mayor's gown.

The unit went on Pack Holiday in July 2018 to Fanwood Scout Camp in Gomersal and enjoyed a weekend full of activities including Archery and Nightline. This years theme was Harry Potter, so we had various crafts and activities around the book.

The Brownies obtained the following badges – Pack Holiday, Cooks, Cooks Advanced badges.

On 8th July 2018 a number of Brownies and Leaders went to Eureka for a fun day out and enjoyed a trip around the complex, with all Brownies gaining a badge for attending.

Jade Gray our Young Leader fund raised for the past 12 months (thank you for your support) and went to Switzerland in August 2018 with a number of other Guides/Young Leaders from the district on an Internatinal Camp. This was an opportunity of a life time to visit the Swiss Lodge owned by Girlguiding. She also got to meet other Guides from other countries and of course swap badges and interests. She got to swim in a lake and bravely bungy jumped off a bridge.

The Brownies went to the Harvest Supper on 21st September 2018 and they performed a number of campfire songs.

The unit ran a Brownie bake off competition on 24th September 2018 where brownies invited a guest and baked at home, bringing in their creations which Kath Sharman judged. We had winners in the biscuit and cake category, all Brownies were presented with their Hostess badges.

Leaders had a chance to have a training day at Heath Training centre and learnt about the new programme being introduced in 2019, plus they also got chance to make Yorkshire Daisies, try Indian cookery and had a go at taskmaster challenges.

We had a joint meeting with the Guides on 5th November for Bonfire night and we had sparklers and fireworks, followed by hot soup and parkin.

We assisted in running the Tombola stall at the Autumn Fayre and Brownies came to support the event.

Brownies have had many craft activities this year from making Mother's Day gifts to Christmas decorations. We had a flower arranger come into the unit to show the Brownies how to make a Christmas table decoration, showing all their flower arranging skills. The finished products were really surprising, as if adults had completed the task - well done to the Brownies.

Our Assistant Brownie Guider Joanne Hellowell had the wonderful arrival of her son Issac Peter Popple in September 2018 and we see many updates on her facebook page at his continued growth.

Can I say a really big thank you to Sarah Rochford (Assistant Brownie Guider), Joanne Hellowell (Assistand Brownie Guider), Julie Gray (Unit Helper), 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.

Brown Owl, Tracy Jagger

UNIFORM GROUPS – 1ST PELLON (CHRIST CHURCH) GUIDES

We have had very few girls for a large part of this year but towards the end of the year our numbers have increased and we are now up to 8 girls. They are a great bunch and work together well have a lot of fun during the meetings.

Louise our Unit Leader left us as we broke up for summer holidays, she was travelling from Dewsbury every Monday as well as working in Huddersfield and was finding it difficult especially when she didn't get home until late at night. So she made the decision to find a unit nearer to home and is well settled there now and at least she is still Guiding. We all went to the Pizza Hut for a meal to say goodbye to Louise and presented her with a gift voucher and card. I then took on the role as Unit Leader and with Kath as my Assistant and Michael as Unit Helper we continue to work well as a team.

We have had our usual varied programme including: Craft, Badges, Go For It's and Challenge badges. In March we took the girls to AirTime where they had a great evening on the trampolines followed by a bag of chips when we got back to church. We created a display for Remembrance Sunday with a Guide Badge shape filled with red and black scrunched up tissue paper to create a poppy in the badge shape. For Bonfire night we again had a joint fireworks and food night with the Brownies. As usual we finished the year off with a party where the girls played games and ate party food.

In August Michael and Kath had a very late night when they went to see Phoebe one of our girls off on her County international trip to Switzerland. The set off at 1.00 am from the Tesco Supermarket Car Park in Sowerby Bridge!! She had a great time and brought us some lovely photos of the views to look at.

We supported the church along with the Rainbows and Brownies at the Spring Fayre with a games stall and the Autumn Fayre with a tombola. .
Towards the end of the year the new Guiding programme for all sections was launched and the Leaders have had a hard time getting round it never mind putting it over to the girls, but we will get there.

Another fun packed busy, busy year.

Elizabeth Gledhill, Guide Guider

WEDDING AND FUNERAL VERGER'S REPORT

We only had three funerals and one wedding in 2018 probably because of the restoration in church and outside. However, Kath Griffiths, my Deputy, and I always try to make visitors feel welcome and comfortable in our church. Thank you to the staff who worked the music centre as we were unable to use the organ. Our thanks to John who officiated at these events. This year it is my 16th year as Verger of Weddings and Funerals. It has been a pleasure to serve in this position and I hope to continue for as long as I am able.

June Lockwood

WORSHIP

iSing continues to be the main source of music at Christ Church, although others have helped. During the sabbatical, Jon Hirst in particular (along with others) made a huge difference and provide live and appropriate worship.

Adam Butler, has also lead services on occasion, and so have Brian and Diane Robinson, along with others.

This is beginning to grow into a team that is growing in confidence and skill, and we look forward to what the future will hold.

A particular highlight was the Candlelit Carol Service, with a large team of musicians and singers, and again, we look forward to developing this!

John Hellewell

VICAR'S REPORT

2018 was an unusual year in so many ways, both challenging and exciting!

Two things in particular stand out.

Firstly, the building work carried out on the fabric of Christ Church. As is often the case with such projects, things didn't go exactly according to plan or in the timescale we had hoped, but it is now complete, with just a final few bits of paperwork to finish off. You can see a report on the work elsewhere, but we should not underestimate the impact of the disruption and uncertainty that was caused during the process. Thank you to everyone who put up with so much over the time it took, and thank you to everyone who helped it to go as smoothly as it did – especially to Pam!

Secondly, and more importantly, my sabbatical and the arrangements during those three months proved an important time for many. There was much that was positive that came out of that time, not least the experience of worshipping from our brothers and sisters at St. Augustine's on a regular basis. This has led to the development of worshipping together on the first Sundays every month at Christ Church in 2019, and at first sight, this seems to be going very well.

The discussions around this began an important conversation and some serious soul-searching which is far from over yet. In particular, what does it mean to represent Jesus in our area, and what should this look like on Sunday and during the week? And what else should we be doing together that we aren't currently?

The continued development of Listening to God and the monthly Prayer meetings means that we are getting better at letting God decide the direction we should be going rather than any other priority. This can only be a good thing!

Alongside this is the times of testimony which is building our faith in the God who is active in our everyday lives – every day!

We continue to face the challenge of our finances, and there is no doubt that Christ Church must and can do better in contributing appropriately to the wider church through the diocese. The completion of the building project will help with this, but so will our deepening discipleship and new people coming to faith!

The exploration of Jesus Shaped People will also make a difference as we explore together how to be 'Jesus-shaped' people, taking responsibility for our own walk with God and our walk with God as a church together.

Out of this, as well, we must pray that those around us will come to faith – from the youngsters attending Chatterbox and their parents and carers to those that might attend our community café or challengers. We must, in short, be more outward facing and mission focussed.

Doing this will make for a more exciting year to come!

Thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey this year – you have all helped to make Christ Church what we are today – and what we will be tomorrow!

Yours in Christ

John Hellewell