

CHRIST CHURCH EATON



'A welcoming church, willing to make sacrifices and room for others'

ANNUAL REVIEW
of
2015

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VICAR'S REPORT ON 2015

As always, I give a huge thank you to all those who have submitted reports for this annual review and for the enormous variety of activities going on at Christ Church and in the Eaton group of parishes. Thank you also to Lynn Glover who has put all the reports together and allowed me to see the other reports before writing mine, so please do read them and get more details on various activities.

Summary

1. The 2015 APCM unanimously endorsed the plans for the WC/kitchen project and committed to spend necessary funds, thanks to generous legacies from Jonathan Phillips and Daphne Bass. After years of discussion, work has finally begun.
2. Attendance at the 10am service was lower than previously but Tots Teatime Church grew. We think we had about 169 worshippers in our "worshipping community". We offered numerous special services throughout the year and Christmas attendance remains strong relative to other churches in our area.
3. Welcoming and making room for young people remains a priority. The Sunday School recruited some new leaders and helpers, and I continued to help with it and to do school assemblies, school services and school and toddler group visits.
4. Around 1,240 people attended school services in Advent, up from around 1000 in 2014.
5. We improved storage in the Sunday school room, helping Colman Road Hall Toddler group to meet in the church, and had the heating system cleaned and a new pump installed.
6. We ran Lent and Advent courses and Colin Way organised quiet days.
7. We had 17 baptisms, mostly at noon, two confirmations, two weddings and 28 funerals.
8. Our monthly Services at the Cedars, Chiswick House and Hawthorns Nursing Home continued, along with home communions.
9. The Office, newly restructured with Lynn Glover managing administration and Claire Canning focussing on finance, had a challenging year. Claire has now left her role as Finance Officer, with our thanks and prayers for her future career.
10. We continue to be involved in a large variety of successful joint activities with St Andrew's Church, e.g. the Summer Fair, Holiday Club and Magazine, and I'm very grateful to Phil Rodd and all at St Andrew's.
11. Personally, I remain on various synods, governing bodies and trusts, and continue to chair the Science and Faith in Norfolk group. I was not re-elected to General Synod but the Diocesan Synod has elected me to the Bishop's Council. Sadly, my father has been diagnosed with a terminal condition, but is feeling thankful, faithful and hopeful.
12. From September to November, I took my first Sabbatical and am very grateful to those who made this possible.
13. I am grateful to God, my family and to everyone supporting the church.

The 2015 APCM unanimously endorsed the plans for the WC/kitchen project and committed to spend the necessary funds, thanks to generous legacies from Jonathan Phillips and Daphne Bass.

In my first year, 2007, the PCC noted in particular our need:-

1. To develop community,
2. To provide for children and their carers, and
3. To make our attractive building warmer and more practically useful, especially given

that Colman Road Hall did not offer an ideal location.

To help focus these goals in our minds, by the end of 2011 the PCC had unanimously agreed on a vision statement for Christ Church:

'A welcoming church, willing to make sacrifices and room for others'

This reminds us that we are a church, a Christian community that seeks to welcome people, as Jesus did. The mention of sacrifice reminds us that we follow a crucified Saviour. We must face up to the costs and the reality that we cannot please everyone all the time.

The desire for a new WC and kitchen related closely to this vision. It shows our willingness to make hard changes to provide disabled access and room for changing children as well as improved facilities for hospitality. Many will remember the difficulties we experienced over seven years as we pursued plans that were acceptable to both the Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC) and the congregation. The 2014 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) unanimously endorsed both the vision statement and the recommendations of the DAC. Helped by Denise Back, we did a detailed consultation on the outline plans at the end of 2014, which was overwhelmingly positive, and in 2015 the APCM unanimously endorsed the plans for the project.

Thanks to the wonderful legacies from the estates of Jonathan Phillips and Daphne Bass, we were also in a position to commit funds to enable this project to proceed without waiting to see how fund-raising went. I am very grateful to Mike Brookes and his building advisory group for all their work. Mike and the group successfully honed the plans with our architect and got quotes in the Autumn and then DAC and faculty approval. We should also get an improved electricity supply and emergency lighting in the process. Our builders informed us early in 2016 that a staffing crisis meant delaying the start until this March, but as I write the work has finally started! I'm also grateful to David Scott and Mike Brookes, who got the heating system cleaned and a new pump installed. There seems to be a problem with the boiler occasionally going out, but spring is approaching...

Inspiring Worship

Christ Church, Eaton remains "committed to growth in discipleship" and Church services are obviously central, expressing our life as a Christian community, building up our common life and purpose, and welcoming and making room for each other and new people. Readings, sermons and Sunday School remain the main source of Christian education offered by the church. While sermons are not ideal ways of teaching, for many they are their main source of biblical understanding.

I am most grateful to Colin Way, Alistair Bolt, John Harrison, Ivan Bailey, Douglas Durand and Janet House and to others who have helped with services and sermons during the year and especially during my sabbatical.

The Worship Committee, comprising Vicar, Wardens, Alistair Bolt, Matthew Wright and Patrick Furniss, plan and review our services and I am very grateful to them. I still hope to hold a systematic consultation of the congregations' views of services later this year, but events conspired to prevent this in 2015.

I remain indebted to Richard Rivett for organising the many volunteers who read in our 10am service, to Jeff Arden for organising the intercessors and to all the 10am sides

people who have a key role, not least in welcoming newcomers. We are particularly grateful to Simon Back and Rowena Atkinson for their care for the evensong congregation and to David Edmonds and his team for organising and being on rotas for the 8am service. Additionally, I say prayers in church morning and evening Monday to Thursday and all are welcome.

Music and Organ

Thank you to Matt Wright and all who make music and sing. Music is a real strength of our church. Our worship at 10am and 6.30pm obviously relies on the organ and it has been clear for some years that the organ needs a thorough overhaul and clean. A quote was obtained in late 2013, but it proved difficult to gather more quotes and by the time of the 2015 APCM the exact nature and cost of organ restoration remained to be determined and the congregation to be consulted. In advance of fund-raising, we lacked sufficient reserves to commit to cover the cost of both the WC/kitchen and Organ. The APCM supported without opposition the suggestion that we spend reserves as necessary to get grants and funds but depend mainly on fundraising for the organ restoration. Three quotes were later obtained and I am very grateful to Julian Pitt for organising a meeting to explain the PCC's preferred quote early this year. I'm delighted that over half of the revised £73,000 cost has now been raised, and restoration and, I hope, audible enhancements can follow the repair of the bell tower above the organ.

Numbers

Statistics ought to be handled cautiously; numbers vary for all sorts of reasons, and quantity and quality are distinct. Nonetheless, numbers do give an indication of activity, involvement and commitment to the church and we are "committed to growth in numbers" of disciples. It can be seen that 2015 average 10am Sunday attendance was around six lower than previous years, but I am encouraged that it is looking better in 2016.

Numbers at Sunday Services: average attendances and totals

Year	8am Adults	10am Adults	10am U16s	Tots Adult	Tots U16s	Standard Evensongs Adults
2010	16.54	82.38	13.17	-	-	18.52
2011	17.68	89.06	14.56	19.33	16.00	21.54
2012	15.52	85.92	11.88	16.56	9.78	17.57
2013	15.00	83.75	11.81	14.88	8.00	16.55
2014	16.42	79.33	10.31	13.64	7.91	17.78
2015	16.44	73.12	8.48	12.73	10.36	16.00

The Worshipping Community

The Church of England's Statistics Department is now recording the "worshipping community", defined as people who attend roughly once a month or more or who would if they were not prevented by illness, infirmity or temporary absence. Thanks to Ruth Vaughan and Jess Pitt for counting, we think our 'worshipping community' now numbers around 169.

Several church members died in 2015 (see funerals), Margaret Bulmer moved out of the parish, with our thanks for all her service, and I was also very sad when John and Jane

Brydon left our worshipping community. John and Jane's contribution to Christ Church has been immense and they are bringing many blessings to St George's, Tombland. John ran the Parishes Office and was instrumental in my appointment as the first Vicar of Christ Church. As Warden, he negotiated new arrangements for Colman Road Hall and the cottage and organised the repair of the chancel and the south aisle roof. He later led the fund-raising that restored the windows and gathered quotes for the organ restoration. I am so grateful to Mike Brookes for taking on the restoration of the south transept window and overseeing repairs to the cottage, and to Julian Pitt for leading the fund raising group. It was good to see John at the funeral of Claire Canning's husband, David, and to see Jane for the Stretton School Christmas concert and I hope we will see them again at our services and events.

Special Services

We welcomed many to numerous special services through the year: visiting preachers, including Phil Rodd from St Andrew's, Bishop Graham, the Dean, Archdeacon Jan, the Canon Librarian, the Director of Lay Training, the Bishop's Chaplain and Bishop David Gillett, all took services while I was on sabbatical and I am extremely grateful to them. As usual, we offered an all-age service for the Baptism of Christ; candlelit procession for Candlemas; a service of Thanksgiving for Marriage; an all-age Mothering Sunday service; dramatized passion readings for Palm Sunday and Good Friday; special communions for Maundy Thursday, Easter Day, Pentecost, and Ascension; a Garden Service; a Harvest Festival; the Memorial service for the Departed, a special Remembrance Sunday Communion; Armistice Day at the War memorial, joint with St Andrew's, with a trumpeter from the City of Norwich School and attendance from local schools; our patronal festival, with confirmation, and the special services for Advent and Christmas, of which the midnight and 8am had strong attendances.

Total Numbers at Special Christmas Services

Year	Advent Carols	Christingle	Christmas Carols	Midnight Communion	Christmas 8am	Christmas 10am
2010	107	114	282	125	21	138
2011	130	125	322	131	29	155
2012	91	179	340	122	23	152
2013	130	120	330	133	19	146
2014	117	153	285	147	28	132
2015	100	100	235	146	33	120

Thanks go to Caroline Malone for leading the crib service so effectively again.

Numbers at Crib Service and Nativity Play (often approximate)

Year	Adults	Children	Total
2010	280	170	450
2011	282	200	482
2012	300	200	500
2013	238	128	366
2014	231	102	333
2015	230	107	337

“Young People”

Welcoming and making room for children and young people remains a key challenge for the whole Church. We have over thirty children under the age of eleven attending occasionally, but only a handful in their teens and twenties. I am most grateful to Geraldine

Verschoor and all those who lead and help with Sunday School, including some new helpers, and to all those who come or bring the children. The video projector is now regularly used. As well as our Joint Group Activities with St Andrew's, mentioned below, we continued Tots' Teatime Church, thanks to Jessica Pitt, Ruth Vaughan and the team. Keeping on meeting during school holidays seems to have increased attendance and we have new families and contacts.

Assemblies and School Services and Visits

I continue to take assemblies at Town Close Prep, Town Close Pre-prep and Town Close Nursery schools, at Norwich High School for Girls Junior House, Colman Infant School, Colman Junior School and Stretton School. I have also led and been involved in services for Town Close Prep, Town Close Pre-prep and Stretton Schools and the Clare School, have welcomed visits to the Church by Colman Infant, Norwich High School, Town Close Prep and the Clare School. The Clare School now have services for Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Carols, and the Beehive Nursery from Colman Road Hall also visit. Colman Junior School held another carol service filling the church, and for the fourth year running, we presented Bibles to their leavers. The number of children involved in assemblies and services is often in the hundreds and school service attendance in Advent was around 1,240 people, up from around 1000 the year before.

Toddler Groups

The Wednesday Toddler Group from the Hall has been meeting in the church. In order to welcome and make room for them we created more storage cupboards, and I am very grateful to John Brydon and Tanya Page who helped arrange this. I continued to sing nursery rhymes with both groups, but time permitted fewer visits to the Tuesday Toddler group at St Andrew's.

Courses and Quiet Days

Colin Way and I ran Lent and Advent study courses in our homes, and Alistair Bolt ran an Advent course (and would have done a Lent course but for his trip to Sierra Leone tackling Ebola). I have tried out three parts of the Church of England's new *Pilgrim* Course and hope to use it with enquirers in future. The Dean has invited Christ Church to come to the Cathedral on the 16th July 2016, so please put that in the diary.

Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals

Year	Baptisms	Confirmations	Weddings	Funerals
2010	13	0	15	26
2011	10	5 + 1 reaffirmation	13	20
2012	9	10	22	19
2013	16	4	10	22
2014	19	0	12	22
2015	17	2	2	28

Baptisms give us an opportunity to welcome many to the church and, thanks to Ruth, David and Jess our Wardens giving their time, I was able to accommodate many baptisms at noon, which makes attendance by family and friends from far afield more feasible. Though baptisms at noon do not involve people in our 10am services, I invite families to Tots Teatime Church and other family services as follow up.

We had only two weddings. The boarded-up windows may partly explain the low number of bookings for 2015 and the number is slowly increasing again in 2016.

I am grateful to Sue Harris, Peter Kinchen, Ruth Vaughan, Vivien Humber and all who are willing to verge, and to Ruth and Jennie Nowell for leading the Mothers' Union *Loving for Life* course as part of our wedding preparation day.

We held the funerals of several members and former members of the congregation, including Joan Jarrold, Norman Sheppard, Geoff Westwell, Gillian Strangleman, Joan Dunn, and Arthur Peckham. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Our thanks go to Colin Way, Kate Skipper, Carrie Phoenix, Ruth Vaughan, the Office and all who have helped develop the new Garden of Remembrance. Entries in the Book of Remembrance and the first interments took place in 2015. We hope Daphne Bass' ashes will be interred there too and to install a bench in memory of Joan Widgery.

Services at Residential and Nursing Homes and Home Communions

John Harrison and I took monthly communion services at the Cedars as well as Chiswick House and the Hawthorns Nursing Home, and we have appreciated support at the Hawthorns by Mary Muff and Norman Sidebottom. My thanks go to them all. I am also grateful to those who sang carols with us at the Hawthorns and Chiswick House. With the help of Colin Way we took monthly home communions to Kathleen Hill, Ann Watling, Margaret Benham, Marie Randall and Brian and Winsome Hewison.

The Eaton Parishes Group

As you will see later in the report, many of our activities are possible thanks to our Group relationship with St Andrew's Church. I remain hugely grateful to Phil Rodd, vicar of St Andrew's, and the congregation there for their faith, hope and love. Phil and I both had our Sabbaticals in 2015, mine shortly after his, which was in some ways not ideal, but without the group relationship the disruption caused by three months of vicarly absence would have been much worse. I'm extremely grateful for all Phil's support.

The Parishes Office

With the appointment of Lynn Glover as Administration Manager, (line-managed by Phil, except during his sabbatical) at the end of 2014, Claire Canning (line-managed by me, except during my sabbatical) became Finance Officer. As alluded to above, 2015 was to be a very difficult year for Claire, which, together with the challenges of other changes, had an impact on Lynn and the Office and the treasurers, too. Claire will not be returning to her role as Finance Officer and goes with our thanks for the good work which she has done over the last 13 years. We wish her all the best in her future career. I'm very grateful to Julian Pitt, Mark Jones, Richard Holcombe and Lynn and all who have helped in the Office and with financial matters.

Other Group Activities

David Scott has chaired the Group Council with great skill and Vivien Humber has been an indefatigable secretary. My thanks go to them and to all the Council members. Our thanks

and prayers go to Rosemary Hanson who is taking over the chair from David after the 2016 APCM.

As you will see below, we maintained financial and practical support to Andrea Woods, St Andrew's Children, Youth and Families worker, who led the Good Friday Workshop, Holiday Club and Tuesday *Toddlers* group. We are grateful to Andrea for leading and organising such successful and strategic activities, and to all who volunteer and do so much else for the children's work at both churches.

Congratulations also to Neil Rout and the team who organised an enjoyable Summer Fair at St Andrew's, complete with hog roast, while Phil was away on Sabbatical and raised important funds for our work with young people. I'm delighted that Caroline Gibbs, Pat Funnell and Robin Quine are taking on leadership of the Garden Party for 2016, building on the wonderful foundations built by Chris and Margaret Smith.

Neil Rout, Carol Morgan and Lavinia Bailey organised the 2015 Eaton Summer Programme, which again served the local community and reached out well beyond the normal congregation in a rich variety of ways. We thank Carol, who is retiring, and Ruth Vaughan, who is taking her place. Thank you also to Vivien Humber, the editors and the Magazine team and to all who distribute the magazine, which hundreds in the parishes read and value, and to Graham Patrick who has organised the distribution of Christmas and Easter cards in the parish.

Personal Matters

As always, I am immensely grateful to my wife and family, who encourage and put up with me in so many ways. Catherine deserves especial thanks for doing the Christ Church newsletter and maintaining the joint Eaton Parishes' website, as well as producing various statistics, service sheets, posters and flyers and, during my sabbatical, fielding enquiries and coordinating special services.

I spoke and asked formal questions at General Synod and Diocesan Synod and the First Church Estates Commissioner commended my contribution to the Renewal and Reform agenda at General Synod in February 2015. I was not re-elected to General Synod in October but was elected to the Bishop's Council in November.

I've continued as a Governor at the Clare Special School and Colman Infant School, being involved in the successful recruitment of a new head teacher there at the first attempt, and continued as a Trustee of Keswick Hall Trust for R.E. In my spare time, I remain an Associate of the Faraday Institute of Science and Religion at Cambridge and a reviewer for the Journal *Science and Christian Belief*. I continue to chair the Science and Faith in Norfolk Group. The group put on many talks in the year and we were involved in planning the recent Science Festival at the Cathedral in March 2016.

Sabbatical

I have been ordained for over 18 years and Vicar of Christ Church for over eight years, and I had my first Sabbatical from September to November of 2015. I spent more time with the family and painted the kitchen, as well as finishing a paper I started some years ago about why God would work in such scientifically explicable ways and only rarely supernaturally. I am now looking for time to respond to the referee's comments. I spoke to the head of strategy at Church House in London and researchers at Durham and made several visits to local churches and particularly St Thomas' Heigham, which has grown

over the past three years to be the second largest in the diocese. This, along with interviews with other vicars in the diocese, suggested that growth has generally come by adding on new, “contemporary” services and activities, rather than trying to replace what went before. Visits to St Elizabeth’s, Earlham for its café and children’s service and to St Stephen’s Norwich to see its new facilities and traditional and contemporary services also gave me local experience of “café church”. I hope to share my impressions in the parish and deanery in due course. Sadly, my father has been diagnosed with a terminal condition, but is feeling thankful, faithful and hopeful.

Thank God for you all

I cannot help but write how impressed I am by all the time and effort you put into Christ’s Church, especially in our pressured and busy society. I am grateful to all who serve on various committees, groups, teams and rotas. My thanks go to all those volunteering, without whom the Church could not function, and to those who have little free time and contribute financially. My particular thanks go to David Scott for his service as warden and especially for chairing the PCC in my absence, and to Jess Pitt who was willing to serve as warden, despite numerous other commitments, and to Ruth Vaughan who had hardly stepped down as warden before she was stepping up as deputy warden and in sundry other ways. Their cooperation and support has been invaluable to Christ’s Church and deeply precious to me through all the challenges and changes of 2015.

I look forward to consulting more about our vision and values, and our plans, especially for the Organ and the building, at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 26th, at 11.15am after the 10am Sunday service. I hope and pray you can come.

Patrick Richmond, 21st March 2016

REPORT OF PCC SECRETARY FOR 2015

Christ Church’s Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church building, Colman Road Parish Hall and the Cottage.

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and tries to help people in the parish grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and in service to others. It maintains and develops the building and keeps it open to the public throughout the year.

The PCC met twelve times in 2015, ten times for business and twice for occasions that combined business with refreshments and fellowship. The average PCC attendance at meetings throughout the year was 11 out of 15-16 members (73%).

Tanya Page stood down from the PCC in April 2015 with our thanks for six years of service. John Brydon stood down in July; thanks to him too for his time on the PCC and particularly his tireless work in planning and fundraising for improvements to the church building and the organ. We welcomed Vivien Humber as a new member in May, and would be glad to welcome more new members in April. Photographs of PCC members are displayed on the notice board by the church entrance.

There are 152 parishioners on the Electoral Roll (down 6 from 158 because of, sadly, 6 deaths during the year). This is the figure for 2015, as the new roll is not yet finalised, as of 31/01/2016. The parish share has once again been paid in full. A budget has been prepared and the accounts for 2015 are due to be approved in April. Terriers and inventories will be available for inspection at the APCM and reports from PCC committees and other groups are in this Parish Review.

The Treasurer submitted regular and detailed updates on the accounts to 2015 meetings and has been able to report that Christ Church finances are sound thanks to good management and also to generous legacies from Daphne Bass and Jonathan Phillips this year. Issues relating to the parish employees (office staff, cleaner, organist and verger) were considered and decisions made on salary increases.

As always, building alterations, repairs and refurbishment were frequent topics of discussion in meetings and a great deal was achieved this year. Mike Brookes as Fabric Officer reported regularly on new plans for the new kitchen and WC for the Disabled which were eventually approved by the DAC in May. The PCC approved the tender from Lusher's who are scheduled to begin work 8th March 2016. Three quotes for repairs and refurbishment of the organ have been discussed at length; an information meeting for the congregation after the 10am service on 31st January supplied useful details for the congregation about the precise problems with our organ and the various available options. The PCC strongly supports the proposal for its renovation and improvement, adopting the proposals and quote from E.J. Johnson and Son, provided that adequate funds can be raised from grants and donations.

The PCC authorised the building of new shelves and cupboards in the Children's Room, the installation of a new flagpole to replace the one felled by falling trees in March 2015 and the installation of two memorial benches (one in memory of Joan Widgery) in the Memorial Garden once the building work is finished. The PCC has also approved spending on a bible for all school leavers from Colman Primary School, a New Asbestos Management Plan, an electrical inspection and a survey of the bell tower.

Minutes and reports were regularly received from: the Buildings Advisory Group (BAG), the Colman Hall Committee, the Donations Committee, Eaton Parishes' Group Council, the Fund raising committee, the Magazine Team, the Worship Committee, the Youth and Children's Committee, Norwich South Deanery Synod and the Diocesan Synod; items raised were reviewed where appropriate.

During the last year the PCC has also found time to discuss Lent courses, literature to be available in church for interested visitors and members of the congregation, and supporting mission elsewhere, abroad and closer to home in our own deanery. The PCC discussed the Bishop's Committed to Growth initiative on several occasions and Patrick will be able to take to the diocese our conclusions that three of Christ Church's strengths are occasional offices (baptisms, funerals and weddings), community events and involvement with eight schools. Three of our main challenges are the expense of maintaining and improving the building, the age profile of the congregation and the limited number of people available for performing various roles running the church, pastoral duties and outreach.

PCC minutes for each meeting are posted on the notice board by the west door. Thanks to all PCC members who took their turn to write a summary report of meetings for the parish magazine each month.

Caroline Gibbs
PCC Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Please see the Report and Financial Statements for Christ Church, which will be available as a separate item to this review. They were not available at the time of writing.

2015 was a good year for the finances of Christ Church - we ended it in credit and improved our reserve fund. We met our £64,000 Parish Share in full. We progressed our plans to improve our facilities - awarding a contract for the construction of a kitchen and disabled WC in early 2016. I am hopeful that we can capitalize on these facilities with a programme of new activities to attract new church members.

In addition to regular giving we received £22,525 from the estate of Daphne Bass and £121,235 from the estate of Jonathan Phillips - both sadly missed.

I am grateful to Catherine Jeffries for her continued management of our Planned Giving and our sidesmen and women for collecting, counting and banking our collections. Thanks also to Lynn and the Parishes Office volunteers for their support. Lastly, I thank you for your continuing and generous support for your church.

Julian Pitt
Treasurer

CHURCH WARDENS ANNUAL REPORT

Another year gone by already and a warden's report to write – for the first time! The first thing I must say is a huge thankyou to Ruth Vaughan for all she did for the church as church warden and also for me in my first three years as warden (including writing the previous three reports!) She has continued to support me in my occasional absences (she might query the word occasional) and has been an enormous strength, reassurance and help to Jess Pitt and me since Jess took over from her in April at the APCM.

Thank you also to Jess who has also been a tower of strength and has helped so much in a busy and sometimes difficult period what with two vicar's sabbaticals, and the sad loss to our church community of John Brydon. John and Jane have moved to St George's church and we wish them all the very best in their future there but also look forward to their return to Christ Church hopefully from time to time. As a previous church warden his skills and knowledge are sorely missed – when we are not sure what to do we always say – first ask Ruth, and if she doesn't know – ask John!

This brings us on to the next major thanks which is to Mike Brookes who took on the role of fabric officer which includes many of the duties John and Ruth used to do but this has also been a huge source of comfort to us especially with the major project – the loo and

new kitchen which is now (almost) about to happen – exciting times. It should certainly be well in progress by the time of the APCM. We should remember the importance of Jonathan Phillip's and Daphne Bass's legacies in ensuring the funding for much of this work – thanks again to Ruth who was the lead executer of Jonathan's will and did so much to ensure all the legal and financial aspects were appropriately dealt with (aided and abetted to some degree by John and myself).

There will inevitably be some disruption but thanks to Mike and his building advisory group, and to Robin and the coffee group, we should be able to continue with all the services and support throughout the building/construction time, including continuing to support the Wednesday toddlers group. Also this year under Mike's guidance, the South Transept window was removed for repair and was re-leaded in the autumn, completing the work on the windows required by the Quinquennial.

Once the WC and kitchen project is completed the next plan is to update the organ – a big thankyou to the fundraising group who have taken this on and continue to find innovative ways to raise funds for our church.

Apart from the evolution of the building project there have been other important events in the last year. We survived Patrick's sabbatical – a huge thanks to Colin for all he did to support so many services and to all the clergy (bishops and archdeacons included!) who helped with our services. The PCC managed three meetings without Patrick and I hope the interim chairman (temporary) didn't make too many errors. It is so good to see Patrick back, with his renewed energy and all his drive and enthusiasm intact.

The Garden of Remembrance has continued to grow and flourish - thanks to Carrie for her gardening skills and to Ruth for organising the Book of Remembrance. The hedges continue to be controlled by a supportive group, and thanks to Richard Rivett for taking over the organisation of the team who all keep the outside of the church looking so good.

The heating continues to worry us (at least it worries me!) It has been upgraded this year with a new pump and internal cleaning of the pipes but still doesn't always work! Fingers crossed for the rest of the winter and we continue to rely on Panks when things go wrong.

Two other events were particularly notable to me – firstly the near disaster of the flagpole breaking and so nearly landing on our recently replaced West window in a storm in the spring – all witnessed from within the church by the parishes choir who were rehearsing at the time. Fortunately, all was well and the window survived and we have a new flagpole thanks to our insurers and a gift from Rosie Gill on behalf of her mother Joan Jarrold, the previous owner of the house where the tree fell, dislodging and breaking our flagpole.

The other event was happier, simpler and more personal – that was the joy of the confirmation service taken by Bishop David Gillett who quite by chance was just back from the same (actually his was slightly shorter) pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela as Jess, my co church warden, and her husband Julian our treasurer. It was so nice to hear the bishop share his physical and spiritual journey with Jess and Julian and use it so movingly as the theme for the confirmation candidates journey of faith and all the congregation's journey through their Christian belief – a really lovely and joyous occasion. It was also great to see Jess and Julian back after six weeks very hard walking, but also often an uplifting experience – they wrote an excellent blog!

The Terrier and Inventory will be updated for the APCM (see also last year's report). Our church family saw several changes through the year and we were pleased to welcome new members as well as sadly saying goodbye to others. Our thanks to all who make our church such a success and help behind the scenes and help us to keep things on track for the smooth running of all the church's activities. It is a pleasure to serve the church in this way and to continue to have such support from the congregation.

David G I Scott
Church Warden

MUSIC AND CHOIR REPORT

I start my annual review with some thanks. Firstly thank you to all who support the music at Christ Church with your kind words and appreciation. Secondly, my thanks to the members of the choir for all they've done during the year. As you'll see below, we have been very busy again and their skills and hard work have enhanced both our worship at Christ Church and elsewhere.

Personnel news first: We've welcomed Abielle Hallas to the alto department, plus her cello occasionally too. As an UEA student she brings the average age of the choir down quite considerably! Emile has joined the front row and was formally admitted by the Archdeacon at Harvest during Patrick's sabbatical. Roz Evans has returned, a warm welcome back to her, as has Caroline Malone and it was excellent to see the family back in church for baby Jack's baptism in early September. Ros Wright has recently joined us and I'm especially grateful for her contributions to Evensong. Further alto news – congratulations to Charlotte and James on their wedding in May. Christine (a soprano stalwart) and Don Hobbs have been married for slightly longer - they've recently celebrated 60 years of marriage.

We've been extremely pleased to see our 'occasional' singers during the last year and especially the men. It's not often that we can field the same choir from one Sunday to a next (or even from Friday rehearsal to Sunday service), we all lead busy lives, but there have been a number of special moments and excellent services during the during the year, with the Advent Carol Service a particular highlight and I thank the choir for their efforts and commitment.

Away fixtures have included Evensong at St George's Tombland (excellent acoustics and singing from the aforementioned men) with a return visit already booked for St George's Day 2016. An invitation to sing at the Readers' Day service again was gladly accepted and it was inspiring to sing to a full Cathedral nave.

Recruitment is always on my agenda and a target this year is to attract some more younger members to the choir. The organ refurbishment is moving forward and I hope by the time I review 2016 we will have reached our fundraising target and have a date to begin work. I start as I begin with thanks for your support and especially for your donations.

Here's to a successful and fulfilling 2016.

Matt Wright

TOTS TEATIME CHURCH - TTC

Tots Teatime Church is now in its fifth year and we've been delighted to welcome so many families to our monthly service on the second Sunday at 3.30pm for fellowship, craft and worship. We still have some of the families attending who came to the first TTC as well as several new ones, which is great. This year we also met in the Easter and summer holidays which meant we were able to meet monthly, including the Christingle in December. This year we've shared the following bible stories, Jesus is baptised, Jesus Stills the storm, The two builders, The Easter story, The sower, Who is the greatest, The great banquet, Jonah and the whale, Zacchaeus and the Holy Family. Once again we organised a Posada following the November TTC when we sent Mary, Joseph and the donkey on their journey to Bethlehem and six families offered them hospitality on their way before arriving at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

The number of families attending fluctuated between two and eight and we welcomed between three and fifteen children and their parents. It's lovely seeing the children grow in confidence and engaging with the different aspects of our worship and we've been particularly delighted to welcome new younger siblings to our service.

I am grateful to the team Jess Pitt, Peggy Steib, Chris Peachell, Dee Scott, Caroline Malone and the Vicar for their continuing support and encouragement and it's been good to have Carol Hassan join us. Thank you also for the lovely cakes and continuing prayers. We are always looking to expand our team so do please join us on the second Sunday at 3.30pm and share in this special time of worship.

Ruth Vaughan

PASTORAL CARE AT CHRIST CHURCH

As part of our pastoral role Christ Church traditionally takes gifts to parishioners who are frail or housebound, unwell or lonely and to residents of local care homes and hostels.

At Easter, Harvest and Christmas we ask church members for the name of anyone who might welcome such a gift and that those who deliver them to let us know of any change in circumstances or requests for a pastoral visit.

At Easter little baskets of sweets, biscuits and cakes are delivered to parishioners.

At Harvest the gifts comprise fruit and vegetables, preserves and small grocery items, whilst bulkier produce is taken to the residents of Archway, which supports young women, single parents and vulnerable families, Leeway, which offers safe and secure accommodation for women or children looking to flee an abusive relationship and YMCA My Place, which offers 40 self-contained flats for young men and women as well as a support package designed to help them move forward into independent living.

In early autumn hyacinth bulbs are planted and nurtured for distribution to parishioners and local care homes at Christmas.

Also at Christmas St Andrew's and Christ Church make an appeal (which always receives a generous response) for appropriate presents for Archway, Leeway and YMCA My Place. Those who purchase and wrap the gifts will be encouraged to know that they are warmly appreciated by the residents, for some of them these may be their only presents.

Pastoral Care has an important role to play in expressing our concern for all these people. What we are able to do is only possible because of the generosity of many parishioners. 2015 has been no exception.

The Pastoral Care Team

CHARITABLE GIVING 2015

The Donations Committee met twice during 2015 in May and October, primarily to discuss which Christian-based charities to recommend to the PCC for the retiring collections for Charity of the Month. The aim is to keep a balance between local, national and international concerns. Christ Church has traditionally supported five or six priority charities every year. Currently these are Bible Society, Church Army, Families House, Magdalene Group, Scripture Union and Tearfund.

Mainly on the recommendation of the committee, the PCC authorised retiring collections for the following charities during the year (totals collected included):

- January – Scripture Union - £113 (plus £25 reclaimed tax)
- February – ChildAid - £342.55 (plus £78 reclaimed tax)
- March and Mothering Sunday – Families' House - £265.50 (plus £52.50 reclaimed tax)
- April – Bible Society - £112.78 (plus £21.25 reclaimed tax)
- May – Leprosy Mission – £225 (plus £51 reclaimed tax)
- June – Magdalene Group - £287 (plus £60.75 reclaimed tax)
- July (which includes Sea Sunday) – Missions to Seafarers – £200.77 (plus £45 reclaimed tax)
- August – Tearfund – £96.50 (plus ca. £15 reclaimed tax)
- September – Farm Africa – £1563.40 (plus £363.80 reclaimed tax) - the collection at the 10am Harvest Festival Service was included in this splendid sum, as well as one extremely generous individual donation.
- October – Church Army - £110.85 (plus £18.85 reclaimed tax)
- November – Revelation (formerly the Christian Resource Centre) - £177.02 (plus £36 reclaimed tax)
- December – Bishop of Norwich's Refugee Appeal - £370 (plus £77.25 reclaimed tax)

There was also an emergency retiring collection in April for the DEC Nepal Earthquake Appeal which raised £308.63 (plus £56.25 reclaimed tax). In addition, half of the collections from our Christmas services were divided equally between the Church Urban

Fund and St Martin's Housing Trust, resulting in a donation of slightly over £450 for each of these charities.

As can be seen from the totals collected, the congregation at Christ Church continues to be most generous. When taxpayers fill out their details on the yellow envelopes, the charities are able to reclaim the tax paid on this money and this adds 25% to their donations.

Other charitable giving from Christ Church includes £700 from church funds each year for our CMS Mission Partners the Seeds in Kenya. The May coffee morning and the Autumn Fayre, run jointly with St Andrew's, raised extra funds (£461.56 and £1200 respectively) for the Seeds and also for the Kirks in Chile. The Lent lunches in 2015, also run jointly with St Andrews, raised funds for Tearfund and the Bishop's Lent Project, Friends of the Holy Land. Also jointly with St Andrew's, £534 was raised for the Leprosy Mission through collecting boxes. In the second week in May a stalwart, though somewhat diminished, team collected door to door for Christian Aid. Thanks to all of them and to Cathy Head for organising it. A box for donations of food to the Norwich Food Bank is always at the back of the church, and is needed as much as ever. Thanks to Anna MacDougall for organising this.

This year the Donations Committee regrettably said goodbye to Margaret Bulmer who stood down after many years of service on this committee. She goes with all our thanks for her useful opinions and work over the years. The committee would be glad to welcome new members. It involves only two meetings a year, as well as members taking turns to mount a display in church and write for the magazine about the Charity of the Month. Do let us know if you might be interested.

Caroline Gibbs

(Committee members: Caroline Gibbs, John Harrison, Mary Muff, Chris Peachell, Norman Sidebottom)

FUND RAISING

2015 saw both the successful completion of our **Be a Pane** fundraising appeal as the last south aisle window was repaired, and the start of two new appeals - **WelCome** and **Pipe Up** - for our WC / Kitchen area and pipe organ improvements respectively. These new projects have been run in parallel with funds raised being split equally between the two (unless otherwise specified by the donor). They come with challenging targets - WelCome is now budgeted at around £112,000 and Pipe Up at £75,000.

Our fundraising events were local community-focused. Michelle organised a Chess Tournament that ran over several months and attracted people from all parts of Norwich - as did our second Gardens Open event in June. This was an organisational triumph for Carrie and Michelle and the many volunteers they recruited. We hosted a packed Christ Church for a Mozart Orchestra concert.

Fellow parishioners continued to be very generous in their support for our appeals. We ended the year on a high note when Catherine's application was rewarded with a £5,000 grant from the Geoffrey Watling Trust. Including Gift Aid, as a church we raised just over £51,000 toward our Appeals target (£36,000 for Pipe Up and £15,000 for WelCome).

We need a great team of people if we are to hit our ambitious targets and fortunately we have one in Michelle Woodall, Carrie Phoenix, Graham Patrick, Caroline Malone, Catherine Jeffries and Vivien Humber. I greatly appreciate their creativity, support and hard work. Regrettably, during the year we lost John Brydon who led us with such purpose and set so many activities in train.

Julian Pitt
Fundraising Team

CHURCH FABRIC REPORT

The main area of work this year has been the repairs to the south transept windows.

A new asbestos survey has been carried out and a management plan is now in place.

An approved electrical contractor's period inspection test has been carried out and test certificate obtained. Minor electrical defects have been remedied.

An application to the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund was made for work to the north aisle roof. This was not successful.

An inspection of the Bell Tower has been carried out and remedial repairs recommended. Proposals for the new Disabled WC and Kitchen were developed throughout the year and tenders obtained.

Mike Brookes
Fabric Officer

COLMAN ROAD COTTAGE

The cottage continues to be let to the same family since the major works were carried out some five years ago.

Work has been carried out to replace the roof fascias and lead work to the dormer windows.

Condensation to the windows remains an issue.

Mike Brookes
Fabric Officer

COLMAN ROAD PARISH HALL

It has been a busy year at the Hall.

From September 2015, it was agreed with Beehives Pre-School that the few weekday evening activity groups would be re-scheduled to the weekend. The reason for this was to allow Beehives full use of the hall during the week. This would alleviate the unpacking and packing of equipment each day and would also allow an increased number of pupils.

Over Christmas, Beehives arranged for the hall interior to be repainted, something it has needed for many years. The result is a much cleaner and brighter atmosphere, which everyone has appreciated.

The re-roofing and insulation of the main hall has caused some condensation problems in the un-insulated areas such as the toilets. This is being tackled by the use of insulation and ventilation systems.

We hope in the near future to start repairing the pebbledash on the exterior walls. We are approaching this in stages to test the underlying render. A section on the north side will be tackled first.

The trees and bushes on the north side and the steel barrier were removed to allow more car parking space. Two bollards at the front have also been removed, allowing easier vehicular access.

Graham Patrick
Christ Church Parish Hall Colman Road Committee

NORWICH FOOD BANK

We are now in our fourth year of collecting for Foodbank. They send us a Certificate of Appreciation every few months, with the running total of how much we have given. The most recent one is on the Mission Partners' notice board.

Each week, we donate around 5 bags of food and essential toiletries. Between January 2015 and January 2016, Christ Church gave enough food to feed approximately 77 people in need, for 3 days. These are people in Norwich, who face a sudden crisis such as an illness, family breakup, death, benefit delay or redundancy.

Thank you to everyone, for your generous and continued giving and for keeping this outreach from our church going. Thank you also for responding to the Christmas appeal by providing 16 bags of festive food for the Christmas parcels.

Once again, I am very grateful to Jacky Sutcliffe, who willingly takes on all the Foodbank duties when I am away and keeps things running smoothly.

If you would like to find out more about the work of Norwich Foodbank, please have a look at their website - www.norwichfoodbank.co.uk

Anna MacDougall

Part Two – Reports covering joint activities with St Andrew’s Church

GROUP COUNCIL

Mission Statement: *the Group Ministry of St Andrew and Christ Church seeks to Collaborate, Co-operate and Communicate in the Eaton Community*

The Diocese established a Group Ministry for the Parishes of St Andrew's and Christ Church in 2007. Its Group Council is the vehicle by which they 'consult together on any matter of common concern". It has no decision-making power and acts in a consultative and advisory role to both PCCs.

When the Group Ministry was set up it was agreed that the criteria for shared activity should be whether activities were best done together or separately. It was also decided that one of its roles was to facilitate two-way communication from the Council to the PCCs and congregations and from the PCCs and congregations to the Council.

In his 2010 Review the Bishop confirmed that the Group Ministry should, firstly, facilitate what the people involved wanted to do to benefit and develop church mission in Eaton and, secondly, to serve the future development of both churches.

- Ongoing activities within the Group Ministry include:-
 - * communications such as the Google calendar, magazine, Christmas and Easter cards
 - * supporting Mission Partners, through prayer and fund-raising events
 - * joint children and youth activities including the Easter Workshop and summer Holiday Club
- events such as the 2015 Summer Fayre & Garden Service (the former replaced the usual Garden Party), Remembrance Day and Lent lunches
- the Parishes' Office
- Groups such as the Mothers Union.

These subjects feature regularly on the agenda of Group Council quarterly meetings and the minutes of its meetings are circulated to both PCCs for report and/or response.

Each Parish has five elected representatives on Group Council, together with the two Vicars and 2015 was an interesting and slightly different year, with the Vicars taking successive sabbaticals between June and November.

I would like to record my thanks to Neil Rout for his excellent organisation of the working party from both parishes which arranged and ran such a successful Summer Fayre.

We were sorry to lose Mary Muff from Group Council; Mary stood down this year after unbroken service since its inception in 2007, but we pleased to welcome Jane Carey, who

now keeps us up-to-date on mission on behalf of Mary and the Mission Support Group. We welcomed back Pat Funnell (a founder member and one-time Chair of the Council).

Finally I would like to thank all the members - whether continuing, retired and new to Group Council - for their enthusiasm and support. I would like to record special thanks for Vivien Humber for all her support as Secretary to the Group Council.

David Scott,
Chairman

PARISHES MAGAZINE TEAM

The Parishes' Magazine Team supports the editors by reviewing contents, production, circulation and revenues with them at the two meetings each year. The Vicars are ex officio members.

The magazine is part of the two Parishes' communications package, providing an accessible Christian message to its broadly based readership. The aim is to offer subscribers with articles on subjects of interest ranging from church to community matters, as well as information on advertisers' services.

I would like to thank all members of the Team for their enthusiasm and commitment in a year which has seen considerable changes. Peter Allies came and went (to Acle and Bure) having produced some excellent issues. John and Jennie Nowell left the Team in the Spring and John Brydon and Graham Patrick in the second half of the year. All of them will be greatly missed. I am grateful to Lavinia Bailey for the additional issues she took on, and Rachel Taylor for her continuing support. I am pleased to say that new editors will be joining them in 2016. Thanks are also due to all contributors, especially those who provide material on a regular basis.

Finally, the magazine could not function without Brenda Varnava, its hardworking advertising secretary, or the sterling work of all the magazine distributors. I am very grateful to them all.

Vivien Humber
Magazine Team Chairman

EATON PARISHES OFFICE

The office continues to be a challenging place to work for both staff and volunteers! On taking up my post 14 months ago I have to admit to being very 'green' about *what actually goes on in a Parish Office!* The roles and responsibilities are too many to mention here but ask a Volunteer in Church one Sunday, I am sure that they will be pleased to enlighten you!

Our job has been more difficult this year as we have been dogged by illness as well as losing two very valuable and experienced volunteers. Thank you to Denise Back and John Brydon for all they contributed to the office. We have, however, been blessed with two new volunteers this year: Liz Dye who comes in Friday mornings and Catherine Gurney

who is an invaluable stand-by for sickness, holiday cover and anything else we throw her (and even on one occasion, her husband's) way! We continue to be blessed by our longstanding volunteers Janet Benson; Caroline Gibbs; Kate MacMillan and James Oxley-Brennan.

I personally want to express my gratitude to the volunteers who faithfully come every week. Each of them has a 'specialism' and is kept very busy during their time here. They provided invaluable support to me when I was new and continue to do so now in many ways. They conscientiously covered the office before I was in post and do a sterling job at providing cover so that I can take holiday. My thanks also go to Margaret and Chris Smith who shoulder many administrative burdens largely behind the scenes. Margaret has also taken time out of her busy schedule to cover the office when we have been desperate! Please bear with us if we cannot always meet your needs. The Administrators role had grown enormously over recent years and we rely largely on the good will of volunteers to get through the volume of work that comes through the office.

Lynn Glover
Administration Manager

EATON EVENING MOTHERS UNION

Members enjoyed another full programme of events which include our monthly meetings and fund raising activities. We work hard to provide an interesting and varied programme for our monthly meetings which are a prayerful and pleasant time of fellowship together.

These included in January a delicious Indian meal provided by Valli Rao who then told us all about their work with leprosy, giving us an insight into it's wonderful care and history. Our Lent meditation in March was led by Rev. Lorna Allies. We also enjoyed talks from "The Red Hats", Elli Rodd told us of the wonderful experience of "Working with Tearfund in Rwanda" such a great time for her and the members to hear about. Our evening meal and walk was in the Swainsthorpe area which provided us with splendid food. The co-ordinator from Quidenham Hospice enlightened us on the amazing work supporting families in their great time of need and the plans and vision for a new purpose built building hopefully soon to be started with the help of the EACH campaign. A talk from a representative from Age UK in October was of great interest, especially to some of us! Our Advent Meditation was led by Rev. Andrew Parsons and gave us a lot to think about for Advent at our November meeting and our year was ended by a South Norwich Area Advent service held in St. Andrew's led by our vicar. Sadly, because of unforeseen circumstances our Day of Reflection in June had to be cancelled but one is planned for May 2016 and members enjoyed a Diocesan Quiet day at Overstrand on a beautiful warm sunny day led by the Bishops' Chaplain.

Our Marriage Preparation (L4L) Workshops continue are now well established in February and March. We are grateful for Phil and Patrick's' support and hands on involvement in this outreach. These workshops are spreading throughout the country with Norfolk leading the way. Couples attending give very positive feedback which is encouraging and so we hope that in some small way we are providing building blocks for their future life together. We are also present at The Wedding Shows held during the year at various venues around Norwich.

Our main Fund Raising event, in aid of "Away From It All" (AFIA) was a very successful raffle of a beautiful quilt, sewn mainly by Lois Hughes before her untimely death, this was drawn at The Summer Fete and raised around £430.00. The support from church members and friends in Eaton was greatly appreciated, as this is such a good cause.

The 2016 programme can be found on the Information Desk area in St. Andrews' and Christ Church, visitors and new members are always welcome to join us.

Ongoing, MU Diocesan council and members meetings, the Cathedral Festival Service plus others, we are busy people and are involved in a number of worthwhile projects, such as knitting for newborns at our 3 local maternity units, "Angel Tree" with the Prison Fellowship, making cakes for Messy Church and helping out at The Toddler group, the list goes on but we are also prayerfully busy too, locally, nationally and worldwide.

Our thanks to Phil Rodd and Patrick Richmond for supporting us in Holy Communion every 3rd Thursday at 10am when the collection goes to our overseas fund in support of MU literacy projects.

Once again, without the encouragement, support and joyful hard work of the members we would not have been able to help so many needy individuals. My thanks to EMU members for their constant fellowship, commitment and attendance over the past year.

Branch Vision for the Future

Our vision remains one of continuing to work alongside the Norwich Diocesan Mothers Union and promoting the wide range of projects, supporting families, children and the stability of marriage. That the Loving for Life marriage preparation workshops continue to grow successfully and our membership increases to benefit all that The Mothers Union stands for.

Jennifer Nowell
Branch Leader

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES (CYF) REPORT 2015

Having completed my fifth full year in post I have been greatly encouraged by what God is doing in the area of children, young people and families both within St Andrew's and the community. We have much to give thanks to God for as we have aimed to engage people with the realities of the Christian faith. Thanks must go to the Church Council for supporting and continuing to support the work of CYF. Joint activities between St Andrew's and Christ Church are supported by the joint Children and Youth Committee. None of this work could happen without the amazing team of volunteers who give up their time in many different ways to support this work.

Joint Events with Christ Church

1. Families workshop for Good Friday

On the 3rd April 2015 Families from the parish of Eaton gathered together for a morning of music and craft activities followed by a short service for Easter
Attendance: 16 adults, 23 children, slightly up on last year

2. Garden Party

This year with a change of venue to St Andrew's Church car park there was not room to safely run side shows. I did however run a quiz in the church and we were treated to the recorder group and the Indian dance group from Colman schools.

3. X-pedition force Holiday Club

26 adults and 1 teenager were involved during the actual week. As well as the St Andrew's congregation who cleared all the chairs on the Sunday before, in double quick time. Over the course of the week 44 children attended.

Many thanks go to those in both congregations for their financial contributions which enabled each child who attended to go home with a Christian story book.
Our ratio of adults/children was overall 1:5

Both churches were encouraged to pray for this event by giving them all a prayer card with a bible verse on the front and a prayer on the back of it.

Praying as a team at the beginning and end of each day was a great time and helpful in bringing us all together.

Once again this year children and parents were invited to stay for lunch. Our thanks go to star value catering for this lovely spread. It was a very positive time no-one was in a rush to get away.

4. Toddlers

On a Tuesday morning in term time St Andrew's Church Hall is buzzing with the sound of babies and toddlers enjoying time playing alongside their friends. Parents, grandparents and carers chat together. On average 23-25 families attend each week. My thanks go to the team of ladies, many from the Mothers' Union, who ably assist with refreshments, setting up and clearing away. Three times this year at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest we have held a Toddlers Service over in St Andrew's Church.

Andrea Woods

St Andrew's Children, Young People and Families' Worker

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

This committee met three times in 2015; it is chaired alternately by the Vicars, with some of the leaders, helpers and supporters from the youth and children's programmes of both churches, Caroline Gibbs, Vivien Humber, Jessica Pitt, David Hughes, Cathy Rodd and Andrea Woods. The committee aims to coordinate our work, with a view to reaching out to more of the young people in Eaton.

Although our two churches have quite distinctive emphases in their ministry to children, young people and families, as Andrea Woods' CYF report details, they cooperate directly on the holiday club and the Good Friday families workshop, along with the Tuesday morning Toddlers Group, and discuss matters of joint concern to children's and youth work, such as financial cooperation, schools contacts and assemblies, the Garden Party and Autumn Fayre and child protection issues. In 2015 the group discussed how to increase the effect of the holiday club contacts through the year, and tried a harvest activity day.

Our thanks go to all those who help support our vital work with young people and children in any way.

Patrick Richmond and Phil Rodd

NORWICH SOUTH DEANERY SYNOD

The February Synod meeting featured Professor Charles Clarke, former MP, who was invited to address the question: 'Where does power lie in society today?' Many people and often the church too, felt they had little influence and power to change things in society today. He argued that the media and law makers were more powerful now and frequently used their power in a negative way. The church did not use its power as much as it could, even though it did not have the respect in society it once had. We needed to pray more for the bishops and archbishops as they sought to speak out on important issues.

The June meeting was taken by Patrick Richmond. He described the decline in church attendance outlined in the recent Anecdote to Evidence CofE report and Evidence to Action website. Members discussed the 8 factors that were likely to help churches to grow in numbers:

- Having a clear mission and purpose helps church members to work together in a more united way.
- Clergy and people wanting to grow. Priority for the 'not yet' members.
- Willing to change.
- Lay people in active leadership.
- Active work with children.
- A welcoming culture and then building ongoing relationships.
- Nurturing disciples in small groups.
- Clergy/leaders giving a definite lead.

The November meeting was led by Angela George, Children, Youth and Families Development Officer for the Diocese, who presented the Children's Task Force Roadshow with two assistants. Their aims were to encourage, equip and support young people. Churches are encouraged to be positive and try something new such as Messy Church, Toddlers, ask for the Play Van to visit, experiment with the 'Who let the Dads out?' materials, use the 'Open the Book' materials from the Bible Society for school assemblies.

Chris Smith
Deanery Synod Secretary

NORWICH DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

The Diocesan Synod consists of the bishops, archdeacons and elected laity and clergy.

We met the usual three times in the year and:-

- received the new canon allowing women to be bishops.
- heard that 93% of the parish share asked for had been received – the highest ever percentage and actual amount received, but accumulated deficits of £2.4 million over the last four years remain and the need to ensure the momentum continues.
- welcomed developments in children, youth and families work in the Diocese and the establishment of the Diocesan Academies and Education Trust, accepting my amendment asking for a report on progress with seeking funding and reaching children, youth and families with the gospel.
- Debated a revised report about preventing and dealing with bullying and harassment, agreeing unanimously it was committed to encouraging healthy relationships in all areas of church life, but asking the Bishop's council to revise the guidelines again.
- Heard my report on General Synod and the Archbishops' 'Reform and Renewal' proposals. Due to retirements, the number of clergy is projected to fall, so extra funds are to be released by the Church Commissioners to recruit more clergy and help dioceses move to a more mission-focussed use of central funds. Work simplifying laws and regulations, training laity as well as clergy, tackling the opportunities and challenges of our 16,000 buildings and rationalising the National Church was also in progress.
- The June meeting dealt with the annual reports of the diocesan bodies and committees and accepted the Diocesan Budget.
- Synod thanked Mark Heybourne, who has resigned for personal reasons as the Children, Youth & Families Development Manager. Angela George is acting as temporary replacement.
- Heard about and took some questions on the Bishop's plans to renew and develop the diocesan mission strategy.
- In October, Diocesan Synod heard the results of the General Synod elections: Robin Back and Caroline Herbert were re-elected and Andrew Gray newly elected to the house of Laity and Archdeacon Jan and the Rev Charles Read were re-elected to the house of Clergy with Canon Sally Gaze and Canon Howard Stoker newly elected.
- Heard about the Cathedral's new vision and strategic plan,
- Discussed the national report on growing the rural church, and
- Heard reports on diocesan pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Papua New Guinea.

Patrick Richmond,
Member of the House of Clergy

OVERSEAS MISSION SUPPORT

Our Mission Partners have continued serving with the Church Mission Society throughout another year. Rev. Dr Dick and Caroline Seed in Nairobi, Kenya; Rev. Daniel and Ellelein Kirk in Valparaiso, Chile.

Dick and Caroline's work is in theological education. Dick is Adviser to the Organisation of African Independent Churches, preparing Education by Extension Material. He has also continued in a part-time at St Paul's University in a teaching and consultancy capacity and is responsible for the pastoral care of students. He continues lecturing and training pastors and church leaders in theological education both in Kenya and further afield aiming to overcome the old tribal superstitions and traditions.

Caroline was Director of Academic Affairs and the School of Mission at Carlile College (Church Army) until 20th February 2015. Before her departure Caroline was also Acting Principal. However, the College is situated in a dangerous area and there have been major ongoing problems in the College itself including a serious financial situation. Ultimately this resulted in the General Secretary of the Church Army, Africa taking over the management of the College. Subsequently Caroline has completed PhD thesis. Since September she has been working at the Presbyterian University in Kikuyu, just outside Nairobi, where she is teaching East African Church History, Mission and New Testament. Whilst Dick and Caroline were UK leave, they visited our two parishes on Sunday 26th July. They attended a service at St Andrew's at each church, where they talked about their work. There was opportunity for the church members to get to know them over coffee at St Andrew's and an afternoon buffet at Christ Church. Thanks to the kindness of Church Members, they were accommodated overnight and given lunch on the Sunday.

Daniel and Ellelein have been extending their work this year to plant a new church in Valparaiso. The church has grown numerically and they continue teaching and focusing on prayer. They have also held Alpha courses and conferences. With the necessary leaders and locations, they were able to start four new missional groups to serve the communities in which they live and bring many more people to know Christ. In March they moved to a new Church venue as they had outgrown their previous one. It was good that Phil Rodd and his daughter Elli were able to visit the Kirks in Valparaiso during Phil's sabbatical and see the progress of their work first-hand.

The Kirk family will be taking six months home leave in the United Kingdom commencing December.

It is clear that our Mission Partners continue to need our financial and prayer support. Please join us at 3 Daniels Road whenever you are free at 2.15 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Updates can be found in the notices and the prayers letters which are available in both churches.

Finally the Mission Support Group member say "Thank you" for your support at the May coffee morning and especially the Autumn Fayre, which raised £1,200 towards their financial expenses.

Jane Carey
For Mission Support Group