

CHRIST CHURCH EATON



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

ANNUAL REVIEW OF 2016

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THE PARISH OF EATON
CHRIST CHURCH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS
2016-2017

EX OFFICIO

Clergy The Rev'd Dr Patrick RICHMOND

Readers Mr Alistair BOLT

Wardens Prof David SCOTT
 Mrs Vivien HUMBER

Deanery Synod Mr John HARRISON
 Mrs Vivien HUMBER
 Mrs Ruth VAUGHAN

ELECTED

Mrs Denise BACK
Mr Mike BROOKES
Dr Patrick FURNISS
Dr Jessica PITT
Mr Tony GRUBB
Mr Richard RIVETT

PCC Secretary Ms Caroline GIBBS

PCC Treasurer Mr David ARCHER

VICAR'S REPORT ON 2016

2016 saw us take major steps to realise our vision. As always, I am hugely grateful 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 Sophie Clarke ('Soph') who has so helpfully put all the reports together and allowed me to see the other reports before writing mine, so please do read them to get more details on various activities.

Summary

1. The WelCome WC/storage/kitchen project has been finished, thanks to the generous legacies of Jonathan Phillips and Daphne Bass, which enabled us to build before we had raised all the money. We have already benefitted in offering refreshments and hospitality at services and events, hosting exhibitions and recently the Lent Lunches.
2. Church heating remained a challenge, culminating in major work at the end of the year to install an extra radiator in the children's corner, replace leaking pipework and replace the unreliable boiler burners. There has been a lot of cleaning required and done in church and I'm grateful to Sue Harris and to all who have helped.
3. We have increased our presence on Facebook, with particular thanks to Ros Wright, and are using email to update the congregation more.
4. In October I consulted on our Vision and Mission Statement, Worship, music and whether we needed more space, with generally supportive responses, but a few expressions of strong opposition invite further consultation.
5. Attendance at the 10am service has increased but the number of children present has not. We had about 215 worshippers in our "worshipping community", a significant increase on 2015.
6. 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 do school assemblies, school services and school and toddler group visits. We started a new youth group for 12-14 year olds and bought a laser printer for Sunday school and a new projector screen.
7. Around 1315 people attended School services in Advent, up from 1,240 in 2015.
8. We hosted Colman Road Hall Toddler group through the year. The leaders retired at the end of 2016 and the group is now suspended.
9. To aid "growth in discipleship" we ran several Lent and Advent courses, Colin Way hosted a quiet day, and we made an all age pilgrimage to Cathedral.
10. We did 16 baptisms, successfully introducing a new order of service, 7 weddings, up from 2 in 2015, and 15 funerals.
11. The PCC provided a bench in memory of Joan Widgery in the memorial garden.
12. Restoration and improvement of the Organ began and we have committed to a new CCTV system.
13. Vivien Humber took over as church warden from Jess Pitt and led on Pastoral gifts and Harvest deliveries.
14. Our monthly Services at the Cedars, Chiswick House and Hawthorns Nursing Home continued.

15. We continue to be involved in a large variety of successful joint activities with St Andrew's Church, e.g. the Garden Party, Holiday Club and Magazine and I'm very grateful to Phil Rodd, Richard Holcombe and to all at St Andrew's.
16. The Office was further restructured, with Claire Canning leaving and Lynn Glover transitioning to a Finance Officer role. We recruited Sophie Clarke in September as administrative assistant.
17. I was re-elected to General Synod when Archdeacon Jan left to be Bishop of Repton.
18. I am grateful to God, my family and to everyone supporting the church.

The WelCome WC/storage/kitchen project has been finished, thanks to the generous legacies of Jonathan Phillips and Daphne Bass, which enabled us to build before we had raised all the money.

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 social space, including an improved kitchen, disabled access WC and storage, related closely to this vision. 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. Thanks to the wonderful legacies from the estates of Jonathan Phillips and Daphne Bass, we could proceed without waiting to see how fund-raising went. Lushers, our builders, informed us early in 2016 that a staffing crisis meant delaying the start until March. By August, with completion in sight, Lushers went into administration! I am very grateful to Mike Brookes for all his work and patience. Our thanks also go to all who wonderfully supported our ministry of refreshment and welcome during this trying time, led by Robin Quine and his team. We have already benefitted in offering refreshments and hospitality at services and events, hosting exhibitions and recently the Lent Lunches, and the potential is great.

A Warm Welcome

As autumn began it was clear the problems with the boiler burners going out were frustratingly intermittent and recurrent. We installed an extra radiator in the children's corner, but, just before Christmas, the system sprang a major leak, and we have had two months without the heating system replacing the leaking pipework. We have taken the opportunity to replace the unreliable boiler burners, too.

Problems with the heating encouraged me to use Catherine my wife's computing skills to update lists of emails Sarah Scott has gathered through the Electoral Roll to inform church members about important news. The church is also now using Facebook much more, with thanks to Ros Wright for her frequent updates, and the choir and Tots Teatime Church also have Facebook groups.

With all the building work, there has been a lot of cleaning required in church and I'm grateful to Sue Harris and to all who have helped. Volunteers removed as many dusty cobwebs as they could, and we are very grateful to them and particularly Hugh Back who so kindly arranged for the remaining cobwebs to be professionally removed from the uppermost reaches of the church. Several have said how good the ceilings look now and we plan to review the entrance space and noticeboards to further enhance our welcome.

Inspiring Worship

It was a wonderful help to have Bridget Archer licensed as a reader to us, helping particularly with evensongs, and I remain most grateful to Colin Way, Alistair Bolt, John Harrison, Ivan Bailey, Douglas Durand, David Hares and others who have continued to help with services and sermons during the year.

Consultation

The Worship Committee, comprising Vicar, Wardens, Alistair Bolt, Bridget Archer, Matthew Wright and Patrick Furniss, plan and review our services and I am very grateful to them.

In October I consulted the congregation about our Vision, above, and our Mission Statement, shared with the diocese, committing us to grow as disciples, in service to the world and in numbers of disciples. I also asked questions about our worship, music and whether we needed more space in the south aisle. Responses were largely supportive of present policy and future proposals, but there were a few strongly opposed and further consultation is required, e.g. at the annual meeting, to understand what the issues are, so that we can proceed with as much unity and understanding as possible.

I remain indebted to Richard Rivett for organising the many volunteers who read in our 10am service, and he is in the process of circulating revised advice to readers. Thank you also 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. The annual meeting and consultation confirmed our identity as a broad, "middle of the road" church with a strong musical tradition. With sufficient funds from legacies plus fund raising in place, and a generous donation towards the repair of the bell tower above the organ, the organ was removed for a complete rebuild. The completion date was Advent, but problems sourcing parts and then Christmas contributed to a delay, but, with Easter now approaching, the first tentative notes have emerged from the rebuilt organ. We are also committed to installing a new CCTV system to coordinate the organ with the choir and processions around the church. Fund raising for the organ has gone very well and we expect to raise the full £75,000. I am so grateful to Julian Pitt and the fund-raising team, and to Tony Grubb for charring the new "Friends of Christ Church" group that has started this year, as well of course to all those who have donated to special projects and the on-going life of the Church.

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. As discussed below, 2016 10am adult Sunday attendance was noticeably larger than 2015, but attendance by under 16s continued a slight decline.

Numbers at Sunday Services: average attendances and totals

Year	8am <i>Adults</i>	10am <i>Adults</i>	10am <i>U16s</i>	Tots <i>Adults</i>	Tots <i>U16s</i>	Normal Evensong <i>Adults</i>
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
2016	16.67	80.88	6.73	12.73	10.27	17.28

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. During 2016 we think 22 adults and 6 children joined our worshipping community and 6 adults left. I'm conscious that in many cases this has involved people leaving their former worshipping community, which is rarely easy, but we are very grateful to have the presence and support of so many new people.

Reviewing the worshipping community suggests that it now numbers around 215 (compared with 169 recorded last year). Around 16 of this increase is real net growth, and the rest of the increase reflects greater awareness of people who have been with us for some time but for whatever reason were not on the electoral roll and our other lists.

It was sad to say goodbye to Mary Muff, who has had to go to Eckling Grange residential home for health reasons. Mary has been such a pillar of the church, supporting its mission at home and abroad, organising pastoral gifts for many years and on so many of the rotas that keep the church active. We are delighted she has appreciated the care and Christian fellowship there and we remain in touch.

Special Services and Speakers

As part of our desire to grow as disciples, we welcomed many to numerous special services through the year: visiting preachers, including Bishop Graham to bless the new Welcome Area, Phil Rodd from St Andrew's, Mission partner Daniel Kirk, the diocesan director of ordinands, the canon in charge of clergy training, and speakers from Barnabas Fund supporting suffering Christians, and from Mission Aviation Fellowship. We have purchased a new screen for showing slides during the service. As usual, we offered an all-age service for the Baptism of Christ; a candlelit procession for Candlemas; a service of Thanksgiving for Marriage; an all-age Mothering Sunday service; dramatized passion readings on Palm Sunday and Good Friday; special communions for Maundy Thursday, Easter Day, Pentecost, and the Ascension (at Cringleford); a Garden Service; a Harvest Festival; a Memorial service for the Departed, a special Remembrance Sunday Communion; David Scott organised an Armistice Day service at the War memorial, joint with St Andrew's, with a trumpeter from the City of Norwich School and attendance from other local schools; our patronal festival, and the usual special services for Advent and Christmas, of which the Christingle had a particularly strong attendance.

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
2016	98	139	249	136	21	123

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
2016	213	108	321

“Young People”

Welcoming and making room for children and young people and their “growth in discipleship” remains a key challenge for the whole Church. We are in touch with over thirty children under the age of eleven attending occasionally, but only a handful in their teens and twenties. We purchased a new printer for the Sunday school and I am most grateful to Geraldine Verschoor and all those who lead and help with Sunday School, including some more new helpers, and to all those who come or bring the children.

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, and I am particularly excited and grateful that Geraldine Verschoor and Tanya Page successfully launched a new youth group for 12-14 year olds.

Time permitted fewer visits to the Tuesday Toddler group at St Andrew’s and we ceased our formal involvement in it at the end of the year. Colman Road Hall Toddler group met on Wednesdays in the church, supported by Peter Kinchen and Alexis Oxley-Brennan. Its parent leaders retired at the end of the year and the group is suspended.

Assemblies and School Services and Visits

I continue to take assemblies at Town Close Prep, Town Close Pre-prep and Town Close Nursery schools, 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. The whole of Colman Junior School visited the church, seeing Vivien Humber's Eaton then and now display, they again held their carol service filling the church, and for the fifth year running, we presented Bibles to their leavers. School service attendance in Advent was 1,315, up from 1,240 in 2015.

Courses and Quiet Day

Courses are an excellent way of growing as disciples and I am very grateful to Colin Way, Alistair Bolt and Jessica Pitt for offering Lent and Advent courses. I again used the Church of England's *Pilgrim* Course for my Lent and Advent courses. We also held an all age pilgrimage to the Cathedral in July and I am very grateful to Colin Way for hosting a quiet day, too.

Weddings, Baptisms, Confirmations 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
2016	16	0	7	15

Baptisms give us an opportunity to welcome many to the church and, thanks to help from our wardens and deputy wardens, I could accommodate many requests baptisms at noon, which makes attendance by family and friends from far afield more feasible. We invite families to Tots Teatime Church and other all age services as follow up.

It was gratifying to see the number of weddings increase in 2016, and 13 are booked for 2017. Thank you to all who verged, helped and sang. I'm also very grateful to Ruth Vaughan and Jenny Holcombe for leading a successful Mothers' Union *Loving for Life* course as part of our wedding preparation day this year.

I am very grateful to Colin Way, Carrie Phoenix, Ruth Vaughan, Mike Brookes and the Office and all who have helped develop our new Garden of Remembrance. Amongst others, Daphne Bass' ashes

were interred there in 2016, and a bench in memory of Joan Widgery, a former leading member of the church, was installed.

Services at Residential and Nursing Homes

John Harrison and I took monthly communion services at the Cedars as well as at Chiswick House and the Hawthorns Nursing Home, and we have appreciated support at the Hawthorns from Norman Sidebottom. I am also grateful to those who sang carols with us at the Hawthorns and Chiswick House. Numbers at the Cedars were dwindling and they have said we needn't take communion there this year, since those attending are well enough to attend other churches.

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. Thanks to Phil and his wife Cathy's generosity with their garden, there was another successful garden party, raising funds for youth and children's activities. I'm so grateful to Caroline Gibbs, Robin Quine and Pat Funnell who built on the wonderful foundations laid by Margaret and Chris Smith and organised it. Our thanks also go to Rosemary Hanson who took over chairing the Group Council from David Scott. They have done so much to help the two parishes communicate and cooperate. Neil Rout and Lavinia Bailey, joined by Ruth Vaughan, organised another successful Summer Programme reaching hundreds of people during August. Thank you also to Vivien Humber, the editors and the Magazine team and to all who distribute the Parishes magazine, which hundreds in the parishes read and value. Ismene Durand's idea for a Christmas cover competition helped build relationships with local schools. Thank you also to Shirley Meadows who kindly took over the organisation of the distribution of Christmas and Easter cards in the parish from Graham Patrick, to whom we are also very grateful.

The Office and Finances

A couple of years ago, the Diocese reviewed the way our joint administration was organised, and recommended that all key tasks should be done by paid staff. Having consulted further, the decision was taken that we should indeed move towards an office operation run by employed staff who are available through the week. With Claire Canning leaving her role of finance officer early in 2016 after 13 years work in the Office, Lynn Glover kindly and bravely took on a revised role, as Finance & Administration Officer, and we recruited Sophie Clarke to work with Lynn as Administration Assistant in September. Julian Pitt retired as treasurer after over five years of wonderful service and I was so grateful to David Archer for taking on the role in addition to his full-time job. Finally, at the end of last year, 2016, Janet Benson, Caroline Gibbs, Catherine Gurney, Kate MacMillan and James Oxley-Brennan stopped their regular volunteering. The Office and churches could not have kept going through all the momentous changes of the last few years without their help and that of others who have given of their time so generously. I'm delighted that things are starting to normalise. I'm very grateful to Julian, Mark Jones, former treasurer at St Andrew's, Richard Holcombe, St Andrew's treasurer who has been so helpful to Lynn and to David, and to Lynn and Soph and all who have helped in the Office and with financial matters.

Youth and Children's Work

We maintained financial and practical support to Andrea Woods, St Andrew's Children, Youth and Families worker, who led joint activities like the Good Friday Workshop and Summer Holiday Club, reported on later. I am extremely grateful to Andrea for leading and organising strategic joint activities, and to all who volunteer and do so much else for the children's work at both churches.

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 editing the Christ Church newsletter and running

the Christ Church website, as well as producing service sheets, posters and flyers.

It was exciting that Archdeacon Jan was appointed to be Bishop of Repton and her leaving had the unexpected side-effect of putting me back on General Synod. Having the additional responsibility of Bishop's Council, I have stepped down as governor at Colman Infant School and from being a trustee of the Keswick Hall Trust for RE.

I continue as a Governor at the Clare Special School and as a reviewer for the Journal *Science and Christian Belief* and to chair the Science and Faith in Norfolk Group, which put on many talks in the year and was involved in planning the Science Festival at the Cathedral in March 2016. We have been invited to help plan for the visit of Dippy the dinosaur to the Cathedral in 2020.

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 five years' service as warden, and to Vivien Humber, who has taken on organisation of pastoral gifts as well as the role of church warden from Jess Pitt. Their cooperation and support has been invaluable to Christ's Church through all the challenges and changes of 2016 and remains deeply precious to me. The support of the deputy wardens and Mike Brookes as fabric officer have all been invaluable and encouraging developments of the last few years, spreading the load of vicar and wardens, and make me excited for the future.

I look forward to consulting more about our vision and values, and our plans to implement them, at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 30th, at 11.15am after the 10am Sunday service. I hope and pray you can come.

Patrick Richmond, 2017

REPORT OF PCC SECRETARY FOR 2016

Christ Church's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working co-operatively with the vicar to promote 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 eleven times in 2016, nine times for business and twice for occasions which combined business with refreshments and fellowship. The average PCC attendance at meetings throughout the year was 11 out of 15 members (76%).

Jess Pitt stepped down as Church Warden in April, with our thanks for a year of service in this role. She remained on the PCC and has continued to serve as a deputy warden. The number of deputy wardens was increased this year to ease the burden for the Church Wardens, with John Harrison, Catherine Jeffries and Ruth Vaughan performing in this role, as well as Jess. We are grateful to Vivien Humber for replacing Jess as Church Warden, and to David Scott who has continued in the role for one more year. Christine Peachell, Julian Pitt and Jane Saunders stood down from the PCC in April 2016 with our thanks for their years of service, particularly to Julian for all his hard work as Treasurer and on the Fund Raising Committee. We welcomed Tony Grubb and also David and Bridget Archer as new members in May, and were very grateful to David for taking on the role of

Treasurer when still new to the PCC. Photographs of PCC members are displayed on the notice board by the church entrance.

There are 158 parishioners on the Electoral Roll. This is the figure for 2016, as the new roll is not yet finalised, as of 31/1/2017. The parish share has once again been paid in full. A budget has been prepared and the accounts for 2016 will have been approved by 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 (at first Julian, later David) submitted regular and detailed updates on the accounts to 2016 meetings and has been able to report that Christ Church finances are sound thanks to good management, two generous legacies in 2015 and generous giving to fund raising appeals for various projects. We need to pay attention to regular giving, however, as income needs to meet our running costs.

Issues relating to the parish employees (office staff, cleaner, organist and vergers) were considered at PCC meetings and decisions made on salary increases. A new assistant administrator post for the office was approved, and Sophie Clarke was appointed to start work in September. The PCC discussed and approved fees for weddings and funerals including fees for organist and choir.

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 progress with the new kitchen and WC for the Disabled. Work began in early March and was eventually completed by early June.

An information meeting for the congregation after the 10am service in January supplied useful details for the congregation about the precise problems with the organ at Christ Church and the various available options for repairs and refurbishment. There was strong support to go ahead with this and the PCC approved applying for a faculty for work by E.J. Johnson and Son which finally began in July.

The PCC has also discussed and approved spending on: pebble dash work and fire extinguishers for the Colman Hall, a notice for the Garden of Remembrance, a plinth and memorial bench, planting a protective hedge on the east verge, re-gilding and repair of organ pipes, a new cupboard for the Vicar's Vestry, a new projector screen, crockery for the new kitchen and repairs to the bell turret. Thanks are due to a generous donor for funding most of this last project which was completed in November. Approval has also been needed for spending on the church heating system which developed a number of leaks from December. The PCC has also discussed and agreed to install a CCTV system, partly as a security measure and partly to aid the organist and choir for weddings and other important services. The PCC once again agreed to provide bibles for all school leavers from Colman Primary School, funded from proceeds from the Garden Party.

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, the Diocesan Synod and the new Refugee Support Group; items raised were reviewed where appropriate. Enormous thanks were due to the Fund Raising Committee which raised substantial sums for the new kitchen, WC and organ repairs. They held a number of exciting fund raising events in 2016 as well as applying for grants and soliciting individual donations from parishioners. The Committee has now wound up and handed over to the new Friends of Christ Church group headed up by Tony Grubb.

Apart from attending to the church fabric the PCC has found time to discuss strategy and mission, ministry and pastoral care, the Bishop's Committed to Growth initiative and the consultation questionnaire circulated in the autumn to the congregation about Mission, Vision, Identity and Worship. Now that we have the new kitchen and improved facilities it is important to think how best to make use of our social space to reach out to the local community.

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

Caroline Gibbs - PCC Secretary

CHURCH WARDENS' ANNUAL REPORT

Another busy and eventful year, which has focussed on the WelCome and PipeUp campaigns to raise monies for the church fabric and, in particular, the social space, pull-out kitchen and WC and the organ. Another significant work on the church fabric has been the restoration and repair of the belltower.

The new social space was blessed by Bishop Graham in a special service on 6 November when John Brydon and Mike Brookes were each presented with a gift for all that they had done to bring the project to completion.

While the organ was being repaired Matt and the choir rose magnificently to the occasion with the help of a temporary organ and the musical life of the church has certainly not diminished. We are so grateful to them for soldiering through, and for rather longer than originally envisaged, and also to Julian Pitt for his dedicated work as main contact point with Johnsons, the contractors for the organ repairs, as well as heading up fundraising for both projects.

In addition to these projects a new hedge was planted around the east end of the church, co-ordinated by Carrie Phoenix, and improvements and additions were made to the Memorial Garden, including the Joan Widgery Memorial bench.

Jess Pitt stood down as churchwarden at the APCM and we would like to record massive thanks to her for her contribution to the life of the church which, of course, has not ended with her term of office. 2016 also saw the appointment of four Deputy Wardens - Ruth Vaughan, Jess Pitt, John Harrison and Catherine Jeffries. They have been absolutely invaluable in their support of the wardens, and their contribution has been greatly appreciated. We would also like to record sincere thanks to the wonderful team of sidespeople for their support, which ensures the smooth running of our services.

Great thanks are due to Mike Brookes as Fabric Officer - it has not been an easy or uneventful year for Mike with so many major projects to juggle and he has managed them with his usual efficiency and unshakable good humour.

Thanks also to Robin and those on the coffee rota; due to their unstinting support we have been able to continue to serve excellent refreshments for services and other events during the building/construction time and they have risen magnificently to the challenges of the new kitchen with its Quooker and dishwasher.

Thanks to Richard Rivett as organiser of the team keeping the outside of the church in such good order, to Hugh Back for organising the high level cleaning after the building work, and to Ruth for the low level cleaning which followed - the church is sparkling! The continuing diligent work of Sue Harris should also not go unrecorded in a year when it has been far from easy to keep dust at bay.

The year was not without other problems of course. Presciently, David noted in last year's report his concerns about the church's heating system. Sure enough a radiator burst in the chancel in November, soaking the carpet and needing much work before it could be restored. Scarcely had that been done than a leak was detected under the floor of the south aisle; repairs were complicated with the discovery of asbestos lagging around the pipes. At the time of writing this report this is still work in hand - and thanks are due to Mike for rising to the occasion once more - we have managed to cope with the help of temporary heaters during the cold winter weather of 2016/17.

The Terrior and Inventory will be updated for the APCM. 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, although we are delighted that Mary Muff has continued to maintain strong links with us from her base in Dereham. 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 Scott and Vivien Humber - Church Wardens

MUSIC AND CHOIR REPORT

My opening words of appreciation from 2015 say exactly what I would like to say this year, so I shall use them again! 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 been very busy again and their skills and hard work have enhanced both our worship at Christ Church and elsewhere.

We've continued to fly the flag for traditional music done well in a relaxed and friendly environment. However, we're not afraid to experiment and for the occasional adventure, perhaps in the form of a candlelit service or a big procession, and I thank Patrick for his trust and assistance during the year. We make a good team – vicar, organist and choir. We are proud to be a musical church and are always looking at ways to develop.

Personnel news: We've welcomed Jonathan Tidman and quite a few 'refugees' from St Thomas' – Val & Dick Rout, Helen Lancaster and Anastasia Moskvina. Sophie Dingle has joined the front row and as I write we're organising a date for her formal admission. Hannah Richmond took over from Elly Ross as Head Chorister at the end of the summer. Elly is the only treble (so far) I've seen through the choir from age 8-18 and we presented her with a suitable token of our appreciation before her departure for university.

We've been extremely pleased to welcome our 'occasional' singers and musicians during the last year and along with the regular choir members (who do so much week by week, especially in the cold winter months) help to boost the numbers and repertoire at our 'flagship' services. 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, far too many to list here.

Advent and Christmas was a particularly busy and successful period and we celebrated with a very enjoyable meal at The Cellar House.

We were invited to sing at St George's Tombland again in April and marked both St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday with appropriate music. In May, we continued our relationship with other churches and choirs in the Deanery when Cringleford hosted a service for Ascension. Our 'Choral Hits' concert, fundraising for the PipeUp appeal, was undoubtedly the highlight of the summer term and was the last time the organ was heard before being taken away for an extensive (and expensive) renovation. There have been a number of fundraising events during the year and I'm extremely grateful for everyone's support whether singing, selling tickets or plants, organising and participating/losing in quizzes or adopting organ pipes, to name but a few. Thank you all.

The organ builders have loaned us a temporary organ and it took up what turned out to be an extended residency under the pulpit at the end of July. The renovated organ was going to be ready for Advent, then Christmas, then Candlemas, but it looks like being Lent now. Services have continued in much the same way and the congregation and choir have adapted and coped admirably. In fact, a number of visitors have commented on how nice the organ has sounded and once you get used to its quirks, it is actually rather enjoyable to play. I've enjoyed being nearer the congregation, but haven't enjoyed being further away from the choir. Neil Ricketts calls it the 'microbrewery' (us organists have one-track minds) and he managed to find some excellent sounds on it for a mini-recital before the carol service.

I look forward to 2017 with the prospect of a newly-renovated organ and a re-inspired choir and congregation. Thank you to everyone for making 2016 such a success.

Matt Wright

TOTS TEATIME CHURCH – TTC

Tots Teatime Church started in May 2011 and we continue to be delighted to welcome so many families to our monthly service on the second Sunday at 3.30pm for fellowship, craft and worship. We have several families who attend regularly and we've been pleased to welcome some new families to TTC through the year. Once again took place in the Easter and summer holidays meaning we met monthly, including in December at the Christingle. This year we've shared the following bible stories: Jesus is baptised, The good shepherd, Jesus is King, The Easter story, Pentecost, The good Samaritan, Jesus and the children, Noah, Jesus stills the storm, Feeding the 5,000 and the Holy Family. Following the November TTC we again organised a Posada when we sent Mary, Joseph and the donkey on their journey to Bethlehem and eight families offered them hospitality on their way before arriving at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

The number of families attending each month was between three and eight but we regularly welcomed more than six and shared fellowship with up to fifteen children and their parents. It's lovely to see the children grow in confidence and engaging with the different aspects of our worship. It was also good to see several of the children taking part with the Sunday School production of the Christmas Story at the Crib Service.

I am very 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 Beccy Calcutt-Saunders join us. Thank you also for the lovely cakes and continuing prayers; they are greatly appreciated.

We are always looking to expand our team so please feel free to 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 or Spring flowers 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. These are warmly appreciated by the residents.

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. 2016 has been no exception.

The Team would like to express its great thanks to Mary Muff, which led and co-ordinated its work for so many years and continues to take a great interest in its work from her new home at Eckling Grange, Dereham. Also great thanks and a warm welcome to new Team members, Anna MacDougall and Jacky Sutcliffe, who have brought new life and enthusiasm to its work.

The Pastoral Care Team

CHARITABLE GIVING 2016

The Donations Committee met twice in the last year in 2016 and early 2017, 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 - Magdalene Group – £235 (plus £55 reclaimed tax)
- February - Bible Society - £118 (plus £20 reclaimed tax)
- March - Mothering Sunday - Mothers' Union AFIA project (Away From It All) – £122.29
- Bishop's Lent Appeal - £169
- April - Kirk Family - £100 (for two Sundays)
- Barnabas - £80 (for two Sundays)
- May - Scripture Union – £105 (plus £13.75 reclaimed tax)

June - St Barnabas Counselling Centre - £189 (plus £38.25 reclaimed tax)
July - Fishermen's Mission - £100 (plus £18.75 reclaimed tax)
August - CARE - £93 (plus £10.75 reclaimed tax)
September - Tearfund - £160 (plus £27.25 reclaimed tax)
October - Church Army - £146.75 (plus £23.75 reclaimed tax)
November - MAF - £290 (plus £26.25 reclaimed tax)
December - St Martin's Housing Trust - £200.76 (plus £30.50 reclaimed tax)

In addition, half of the collections from our Christmas services (Carol, Crib, Midnight and Christmas Day) was divided equally between Families House and the Church Urban Fund, resulting in donations of £502.97 and £497.50 respectively (because there was one envelope with £5 specifically for Families House).

We were lucky to have speakers from Mission Aviation Fellowship and the Barnabas Fund to visit 10am services and tell us about the work of their charities. Daniel Kirk also visited in early April and told us about his and Ellelein's missionary work in Chile.

As can be seen from the totals collected, the congregation at Christ Church continues to be very 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 these 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 raised extra funds for the Seeds and also for the Kirks in Chile. The Lent lunches in 2016, run jointly with St Andrews, raised funds for the Barnabas Fund and the Bishop's Lent Appeal (Christ the King School in Orobada, Papua New Guinea). Also jointly with St Andrew's, £250 was raised for the Leprosy Mission through collecting boxes. In the second week in May a stalwart 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 regretfully said goodbye to Mary Muff who moved into a home in Dereham and so stood down after many years of service, including many years as Chair. She goes with all our thanks for all her dedicated work raising money for charities as well as generous personal giving. The committee would be glad to welcome new members. We have welcomed Jane Saunders at our most recent meeting. We have only two meetings a year, and members take turns to mount a display in church and write for the parish magazine about the Charity of the Month. Do let us know if you might be interested.

Caroline Gibbs

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

FUND RAISING

2016 was a busy and successful one for the fundraising team. Our **WelCome** and **Pipe Up** appeals topped £106,000 by the end of the year (£71,000 for Pipe Up and £35,000 for WelCome include Gift Aid). The WC / Kitchen area was completed and the pipe organ improvements started (and will hopefully have been completed by the time you read this).

A super team of people and supporters organised a number of very successful events to support fund raising during the year - a sell-out Quiz and Chips, a memorable concert with the Hermitage Ensemble, a keenly fought Bridge Ladder, a very popular and well-stocked Plant Sale, a humid and

happy Summer Concert by our choir (and friends), a rousing concert with the Cawston Brass Band, an inspired glassmaking workshop and lastly a warm and noisy Carol Singing evening in the Beehive Pub. We also hosted an organ pipe inscribing event for donors to write their names and took some pipes to Stretton School for the children to do the same. We also benefitted from sales of Bridget Archer's inspired Christmas Cards. I think these events not only provided entertainment and enjoyment but also allowed people to get to know each other and Christ Church better.

Nevertheless, most money was donated by our fellow parishioners who continued to be very generous in their support for our appeals. Thank you.

During the year we also received grants from the Allchurches Trust (£2,000), Paul Bassham Trust (£1,000), the Rackham Trust (£500) and the John Jarrold Trust (£500).

I thank everyone who helped, encouraged and supported us over the year, but particularly the wonderful team of people who made things happen: Michelle Woodall, Carrie Phoenix, Ros Wright, Bridget Archer, Ruth Vaughan, Catherine Jeffries, Vivien Humber and Tony Grubb. I greatly appreciate their creativity, humour and 'can do' spirit.

At the end of 2016 the Fundraising Team ceased and the team transitioned into the new Friends of Christ Church under the leadership of Tony Grubb. I wish them every success.

Julian Pitt - Fundraising Team

CHURCH FABRIC REPORT

The new disabled WC and Kitchen project has been completed and is in full use.

Repairs to the Bell Turret have been carried out. More work was necessary than anticipated but all was made possible by a most generous donation.

The soakaway to the East end has been replaced and now surrounded by hedge planting to prevent car parking to this area.

The heating system continues to give problems with unreliable firing of the boiler and leaks to the pipework.

Mike Brookes - Fabric Officer

COLMAN ROAD COTTAGE

No work has been undertaken this year. The cottage continues to have condensation problems. A programme of replacement windows is anticipated for 2017.

Mike Brookes - Fabric Officer

COLMAN ROAD PARISH HALL

Pebble dashing to the North elevation has been completed. This work is anticipated to be continued to the West elevation in 2017.

Beehives nursery are undertaking more work by inserting a new mezzanine floor above the recently converted stage area. This will allow them a greater intake of children.

Bushes and shrubs have been removed to the south side of the car parking area to create extra spaces.

I would like to record my thanks to Graham Patrick for his help and support over the past six years.

Mike Brookes - Fabric Officer

NORWICH FOOD BANK

Our donations to the Foodbank have been steady and we are now into our fifth year of supporting this charity. This would not be possible without the food that is brought in every week by the members of the congregation. Thank you to everyone, for continuing to fill the collection box and keep this outreach going.

Each week we deliver 3-5 bags of food and toiletries to the warehouse, where the items are sorted and packed and taken on for distribution. In November, there was a special appeal for Christmas parcels and we donated 21 bags of festive treats.

That we have Foodbanks at all is a sadness, but for the people who turn to Foodbanks the food they receive is a lifeline and a support. In sharing our food with them we are doing a good thing.

You can find out more about the work of Norwich Foodbank at www.norwichfoodbank.co.uk

Once again, I am very grateful to Jacky Sutcliffe, who willingly helps me with the deliveries.

Anna MacDougall

I volunteer regularly at one of the several Food Bank distribution centres in the city, St Stephen's Church, where on a Wednesday and Saturday morning people in need may come and collect boxes of the sorted foodstuffs plus toiletries and occasionally pet food. Nearly all will have been given special vouchers by agencies such as a doctors' surgery or social worker, but no one in want is turned away. There is a wide demographic among the users. Low income and delayed benefits are principle reasons for recourse to the service and many only need to use it for a short amount of time, but for all it is an important resource when there appears to be nowhere else for them to turn.

Rachel Taylor

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 the two 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 parishes' 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 Garden Party & Garden Service, Remembrance Day and Lent Lunches
- the Parishes' Office
- Groups including 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.

I would like to record our thanks to Caroline Gibbs, Robin Quine and Pat Funnell for organising the very successful 2016 Garden Party on behalf of both parishes and to all those who supported them.

The joint Remembrance Day Service took place at the War Memorial on Newmarket Road on 11 November and once again we were delighted to have so many people attend, including a number of school children and their teachers. Particular thanks to CNS for providing us with a trumpeter each year (Sarah Walton this year) and to the Dobbins family for allowing us to use their electricity supply for our speakers once more.

David Scott, who has been an excellent chairman since 2012, stood down at the APCM in April (although continuing as a member) and I became Chair, having also been one of the founder members of Group.

Jess Pitt joined and John Harrison, Chris Peachell and Jane Saunders stood down during the year. Thanks are extended to all members, whether continuing, retired or new to the Group - for their enthusiasm and support. Vivien Humber continues to provide support as Secretary.

Rosemary Hanson - Chair, Group Council

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.

A significant change occurred this year with a new, all-colour, cover replacing the long-standing version from July/August and I am pleased to report it has been widely welcomed. We also continue to have a special cover for the Christmas and Easter editions and this year children from local schools took part in a competition to design our excellent Christmas cover, whilst one of the entries was chosen as the parishes' Christmas card.

I would like to thank all members of the Team for their enthusiasm and commitment in a year which has seen a number of changes, with Sarah Scott, Michelle Woodall, David Archer and Ismene Durand signing up as editors.

I am also very grateful to Lavinia Bailey, who continues to provide invaluable back-up, wisdom and knowledge and to Rachel Taylor for her wonderful support. Thanks are also due to all contributors, especially those who provide material on a regular basis.

The magazine could not function without its advertising secretary and we were very sorry to say goodbye to Brenda Varnava, who has stepped down after many years of dedicated and invaluable service. Christine Mortimer has been kind enough to take her place and has attended her first meeting. I am also most grateful for the sterling work of all the magazine distributors.

Finally, the magazine generates a surplus which has been used over the past few years to support the work of the two churches and, in the autumn, the Team were able to approve the release of further monies to Christ Church and St Andrew's. We are grateful to Richard Holcombe for his work on the magazine accounts.

Vivien Humber - Magazine Team Chairman

EATON PARISHES OFFICE

The office went through a time of tremendous change during 2016. We said "goodbye" to Claire in March and there followed a period of transition as we thought and prayed about how the roles should be distributed between the office staff. From March until September, I covered both roles, with the office closed on a Wednesday morning in order, mainly, that I could focus on learning our very complex accounting package! I could not have done this without our faithful group of volunteers (Janet Benson, Caroline Gibbs, Catherine Gurney, Kate MacMillan and James Oxley-Brennan) and the sacrificial time and support given by Richard Holcombe, Treasurer of St. Andrews.

During these six months we had a new (and cheaper to run) photocopier installed. It has the capacity to perform many more functions, i.e. folding, stapling etc. and has increased our efficiency in this area enormously. We then had new computer systems installed which, I was given to understand, had been mooted for some length of time. We then had the office decorated during its two weeks closure in August. Obviously, as you can appreciate, new systems have their teething problems and packing up the office to allow free access to decorators was no small task! I want to thank you all for your patience and understanding during this period.

We appointed Sophie Clarke in September. She has taken over the day-to-day administration role and I am now responsible for the Finance and Management of the Office. Soph has proved an invaluable asset and has brought personal many qualities with her. Whilst the six months between

March and September were challenging, the wait and preparation for a new member of staff proved fruitful.

The autumn brought a period of further reflection and brought us back to the Bishop's review of the office. This recommended that paid staff should run the office. After a period of consultation, it was felt that this was now the time to implement this. We, therefore, said "goodbye" to our volunteers at the end of the year. I personally, want to thank them for their invaluable support for the office. They faithfully 'kept the show on the road' through some particularly difficult times. I pray that they will be blessed with new ministries within their respective churches.

Many people are asking for a clearer picture of what the roles and responsibilities of the office are. As you can appreciate, we are still going through a period of transition. However, it is our intention, when things settle down, to have a feature on the churches' websites. In the meantime, it would be appreciated, when considering approaching the office to undertake an additional task, if you would be mindful of our busy times: November to January (parish magazine subscriptions, Christmas and financial year end) and Lent to Easter.

Lynn Glover – Administration Manager

EATON EVENING MOTHERS UNION

Members continue to meet on the last Monday of each month at 7:30pm, usually in members' homes. We work hard to provide an interesting and varied programme which is a prayerful and pleasant time of fellowship. We were very sad to lose Dorothy Howes in the summer after a long and very brave battle with cancer. She is remembered and missed by us all.

This year MU celebrated 140 years since Mary Sumner established what is the worldwide organisation of Mother' Union, and a cycle challenge to Horstead was the focus of our fundraising. An exercise bike did the rounds of various venues and branches with volunteers pedalling a mile each, those more fit and able managed over the summer to cycle 140 miles in total. An Eaton member raised £500.00 alone towards a grand final total.

Unfortunately, our Marriage Preparation (L4L) Workshops did not take place this year as there were not enough wedding couples committing to the day. However, this year we have again lots of couples signed up and county and nationally L4L is a growing support to those getting married. We are grateful for Phil and Patrick's support and hands-on involvement in this important outreach. 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 a continuing presence at the Wedding Shows held during the year at various venues around Norwich, promoting Church weddings.

On-going, with MU Diocesan council and members' meetings, the Cathedral Festival Service plus others are involved in a number of worthwhile projects, such as knitting for new-borns at our 3 local maternity units, "Angel Tree" with the Prison Fellowship, making cakes for Messy Church and helping out at the Toddler group.

Our thanks to Phil Rodd and Patrick Richmond for supporting us in Holy Communion every third Thursday at 10am in the Old Church when the collection goes to our Overseas Fund in support of MU worldwide.

The 2017 programme can be found on the Information Desk area in St Andrew's and Christ Church, visitors and new members are always welcome to join us.

Branch Vision for the Future: With a number of Syrian refugees expected to come to Norwich in early 2017. We hope to raise funds and give time to support them and make them welcome in their new environment, whilst continuing to promote the work of The Mothers' Union, encouraging new membership and awareness of all that we stand for.

Jennifer Nowell – Branch Leader

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES (CYF) REPORT 2016

But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.' Luke 18:16

It is hard to believe that I have been in post for 6 years already and it has been a real blessing to have seen how God is working in the lives of so many. Looking back on the past year I have been encouraged at how readily children and young people have been to engage with the Gospel. In assemblies and Sunday club and even a couple of conversations in the street. Our children and young people are beginning to open up about faith and how it relates to their lives. Please pray for them as they move forward in their walk with Jesus.

2016 saw the launch of a year-round programme which aims to connect with children through more regular activity days and connecting them with other services and events happening.

My thanks go to the Church council for their ongoing support of CYF work and to the joint youth and children committee who support our activities at Easter and in the summer.

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, ensuring that all those we come into contact with have the opportunity to come and see Jesus for themselves. Thank you.

Joint Events with Christ Church

1. Easter Fun day

On the 26th March 2017 Families from the parishes of Eaton gathered together for a morning of music and craft activities followed by a short service for Easter

Attendance: 19 children plus 3 pre-school and their parents and 2 teenagers helping.

2. Garden Party

This year we welcomed the help of the 34th Norwich scouts to help with the sideshows. Being the Queen's jubilee we ran a colouring competition to design a party hat for the queen.

Other sideshow's included hook a frog and bowling.

3. Mega makers Holiday Club

Taking the theme of Ephesians 3:18-20 we focused on the width, depth, strength, greatness and eternity of God's love for us.

25 adults 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 38 children attended. Thanks, go to Liz Bibby who once again came up trumps with a great variety of craft activities. Also to Les Moore who created a truly wonderful flashing and bubble producing Mega machine.

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 Cathy Rodd and her team for this lovely spread. It was a very positive time and no-one was in a rush to get away.

Andrea Woods - St Andrew's Children, Young People and Families' Worker

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

This committee met three times in 2016; it was 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 purpose of the committee is to coordinate and extend the work of the church to take the Gospel to more of the young people of Eaton. Along with the regular weekly and monthly opportunities for children and young people at both churches, Andrea Woods (St Andrew's Children, Young People and Families' Worker) has now produced a coordinated programme of special events extending through the whole year. These include a Harvest/Light Party, Christingle/Christmas events, Pancake Party, Easter Fun Day and Summer Holiday Club. At our last meeting in 2016 Jessica and Cathy retired, receiving our heartfelt thanks for all their contributions, and we felt that we needed to move away from regular meetings to a single meeting in September 2017 to review how the programme has gone, allowing those who actually plan and deliver the programme of events (who are already pressed for time) more time to focus on the events themselves.

Our thanks go to all those who help support our vital work with young people and children in any way – and particularly to Andrea, for all her hard work in leading and coordinating this joint work.

Patrick Richmond and Phil Rodd

NORWICH SOUTH DEANERY SYNOD

The February meeting of Synod congratulated Alan Strange on his appointment as chaplain of Christ Church, Amsterdam and welcomed the new rural dean, Revd Ian Dyble, vicar at St Thomas, Earlham.

Ian spoke about: Where is the Promised Land for our Deanery? He was excited by what the deanery might do and become! All the talk of church decline was nonsense! This was God's church and he had a plan for us individually and as a church. Members then discussed in small groups what we would like to see happen in the future.

At the November meeting Ian Dyble reported on the National Deaneries Network Conference. He had been very encouraged by the conference on the theme of reform and renewal of the church. The church must re-imagine what God wants of his church and adventure together or it would die. Working together would be more effective than working alone. The Diocese was offering financial support in its Mission Strategy 2021.

Suggestions of what we could do together included:

- A prayer pilgrimage to a different church each evening as a response to the Archbishop's call for churches to pray as part of the Thy Kingdom Come initiative 25th May to 4th June, Ascension to Pentecost.
- A church plant within the deanery. Bishop Graham was very keen on this idea and would help provide a curate to work with different churches to formulate a suitable plan of action.

Members then discussed how the deanery churches could act together and how churches could support each other more.

Chris Smith - Deanery 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 March, June and October and: -

- Received amended canon law about safeguarding, requiring safeguarding advisers and empowering risk assessments of clergy.
- Were told the results of the consultation on a diocesan mission strategy and of the launch of "more than we can imagine" with four main, funded work streams, to develop strategy under the headings LISTEN, CELEBRATE, IMAGINE, and EMPOWER.
- Were informed that current funding from the Archbishop's council of £1.6Million would fall to 1.3Million over ten years, but an extra £700,000 was available over the next five years and there would be new funds the diocese could apply for.
- Agreed the revised report, *Dignity in Ministry*, about preventing and dealing with bullying and harassment and encouraging healthy relationships.
- Received a report on the February 2016 General Synod, including a debate on caring for and using church buildings and progress with the Archbishop's *Renewal and Reform* Strategy.
- The June meeting dealt with the annual reports of the diocesan bodies and committees and accepted the Diocesan Budget.
- I asked about diocesan strategy for dealing with clergy retirements, given that 34% of parochial clergy in the Diocese were 60+ years old, the third highest in the country. The bishop noted that he would be ordaining eight deacons and four priests and twelve trainees were being considered. He was committed to recruiting as many curates as possible. Experience showed they tend to stay in the diocese.
- Supported a motion from Great Yarmouth Deanery Synod requesting a radical review of administrative expectations placed on PCCs, such as health and safety and finances and information for diocesan and national bodies. It was noted that the simplification strand of *Renewal and Reform* and the LISTEN stream of *More than we can imagine* aimed to help.
- Saw presentations about the education challenges facing the diocese, and the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT), which were increasingly significant as government policy created risks and opportunities.
- Heard a review and update about benefice and parish share, *The Responsibility is Ours* (TRiO) suggesting that it was serving the diocese well and continued to increase revenue. Benefices that were not paying what they were asked and were not asking for help were increasingly being invited to discuss with diocesan officers what could be done.

- Heard reflections on the “shared conversations” about sexuality that had taken place around the country and at General Synod in July to try and improve understanding. Bishop Graham noted there was no agreed endpoint and he did not expect a change in legislation but hoped for a new tone.

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 part time at St Paul’s University in a teaching and consultancy capacity and is also responsible for the pastoral care of students.

Caroline is working at the Presbyterian University of East Africa (PUEA), just outside Nairobi, where she now teaches biblical exegesis of the Old and New Testaments and has several students being truly born again!

Daniel and Ellelein have been continuing their work in church planting and forming missional groups to serve their communities. The church they have planted in Valparaiso continues to grow and both Daniel and Ellelein have continued their teaching and focusing on prayer.

For the first part of the year, they were in the U.K on leave until the end of May. On Sunday 10th April, Daniel visited both our churches and preached at the 10am services. After a buffet lunch for Daniel and members of both churches, he gave us a presentation with pictures about their work in Chile.

In November, Daniel was ordained a priest in the main Anglican Church in Valparaiso. In addition to his work there he has been appointed as a director of part of the archdeaconry with responsibilities for four nearby churches.

There have been changes in the Mission Support Group. In April, Mary Muff who has led the group so ably for over 50 years, had to retire because of increasing ill-health. She is very sadly missed by us all. Jane Carey has taken over the leadership of the group. In May, Jane Saunders from Christ Church and the Rev. Douglas Durand from St Andrew’s joined the group.

The group usually meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month (see the Notices Sheets for details of venues and dates). Please join us whenever you are free. Updates can be found in the notices and the prayer letters which are available in both the churches. Both our mission partners continue to need our financial and prayer support.

Finally, the group says, “thank you for your support at the May coffee morning which raised £580 and the Autumn Fayre which raised £1,310 towards our Mission Partners’ expenses.”

Jane Carey – Mission Support Group