

**Charity Number : 1144889**

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF TRENTHAM OF THE  
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH (CHURCH OF ST. MARY & ALL SAINTS)**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2016**

**DPC Chartered Accountants**  
Vernon Road  
Stoke on Trent  
ST4 2QY

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF TRENTHAM**  
(CHURCH OF ST. MARY & ALL SAINTS)

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**Annual Report for 2016**

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(to be presented to the APCM in April 2017)

**A) Introduction and Administrative Details**

For many years the Church of St Mary and All Saints, Trentham (known as Trentham Parish Church) has had registered charitable status.

The charity details are:

Name: Trentham Parish Church

Address: Park Drive, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8AB

At the year end the PCC members and trustees were:

Ex-Officio The Revd Shaun Morris, The Revd Andy Morgan

Churchwardens Mr David Finn, Mrs Iris Barcroft

Elected Members Mrs Sue Cooke, Miss Janice Hawkins, Mrs Julie Ratcliffe, Mrs Donna Yates, Mrs Sandra Baker, Mrs Pauline Ridgeway, Mrs Sue Griffiths, Mr Richard Williams, Mrs Jane Williams, Mr Stuart Mochrie, Mr Stuart Cooke, Mr James Allen, Mrs Anna France, Mr Jon Mueller.

Bankers: NatWest, 160 Longton Road, Trentham ST4 8BU

Independent Examiners: DPC Accountants Limited, Vernon Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2QY

**B) Structure, Governance and Management**

The PCC comprises the licensed clergy attached to Trentham, two Churchwardens, and up to sixteen members elected from within the church family who are on the Electoral Roll, three of whom are entitled to represent the parish at the Deanery Synod.

We have continued the practice of having one or more co-opted members.

Newly appointed members can expect to be briefed by the Vicar about their role and responsibilities as trustees of the Charity, and be brought up to date about recent discussions, also provided with copies of recent agendas and approved Minutes of meetings.

**Annual Report for 2016 (Continued)**

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(to be presented to the APCM in April 2017)

The PCC has one formal sub-committee, known as the Standing Committee; this comprises the Vicar and Churchwardens, the elected Vice-Chair, and two others elected from within the remaining membership of the PCC.

**C) Public Benefit**

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

The trustees believe that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Trentham it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in so doing it provides a benefit to the public by:

providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers; and promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

**D) Objectives and Activities**

Within the fellowship of the Church of England, the Lichfield diocese and the local community TPC has sought to incarnate the strapline "*Sharing the love of Jesus*".

(CHURCH OF ST. MARY & ALL SAINTS)

***Annual Report for 2015 (Continued)***

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(to be presented to the APCM in April 2016)

**E) Achievements and Performance**

During 2016 there have been 10 adult baptisms, 18 infant baptisms and 7 thanksgivings. There have also been 12 weddings and 14 funerals.

This has been a very challenging year for me personally with the start of Everton's 3 month extended study leave in January coinciding with the death of my father. I am very grateful to the support of David, Iris and Julie during this time, as well as the help of John Humphreys, Shaun Morris, John Hall, Dick France, Archdeacon Matthew Parker and Bishop Geoff Annas in leading services during this period. During this time of extended leave, Everton and Jeanette decided that God was calling them on to pastures new and so in July we had to say goodbye to them. We remain grateful for their ministry at Trentham over the last five years.

To discern the next step for Trentham we held a church vision away day, led by Church Army Captain Gordon Banks, a diocesan advisor. This proved an invaluable part of the process in forming the Parish Profile and instigating a new Ministry Team to oversee the vision and direction of the church. One key area that was identified was our youth and children's work, in response we have set up a new Youth and Children's Leadership Team, which oversees all aspects of our youth and children's work, and started a new joint family service on the first Sunday of the month; these have been growing steadily as people have caught the vision behind the service.

We have worked very hard on our unity as a church and focused on praying together more, our prayers were clearly answered by God as research suggests that during an interregnum churches can lose 10-15% of their congregation, but our numbers have remained steady; with our Christmas services having a slight increase, our toddler group Little Stars, the Friday Lunches for the elderly and our Mother's Union group all continuing to flourish, our Friday night youth work in the Basement growing again, more people involved in leading worship and services, an increase in our cell groups and a tangible sense of God being with us throughout the interregnum.

On a personal level I am grateful for so many who have accepted the challenge of stepping up, there are too many to name! You know who you are, Thank You! There are four people I want to thank specifically though, David Finn and Iris Barcroft (our Church Wardens), Julie Lewney (our Church Administrator) and Val Ellis (our PCC Secretary and Treasurer). Many of you will not be aware of the number of hours they have spent behind the scenes ensuring that our church is in the best possible position to be a witness of God's love here in Trentham. Without their hard work and dedication I would not be able to do what I do, so continue to pray for them and help them where you can. I am very grateful for the opportunity I have had to grow and develop in my ministry here as I begin to look forward to the challenge of becoming the leader of my own church. I pray that during 2017 Trentham will begin to see the fruit of all the hard work we have put into 2016 in making sure that God is at the centre of all that we say and do.

Rev'd Andy Morgan  
Curate

Date:

***Accountants Report***

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We report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2016, which are set out on pages 3 to 10.

**Respective responsibilities of the charity / PCC and the examiner**

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent Examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to :

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- To follow procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

**Basis of this report**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity/PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit , and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below..

**Independent examiners' statement**

In connection with our examination, no matters have come to our attention:

- 1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**DPC Chartered Accountants**

Vernon Road  
Stoke on Trent

**Date:**

***Statement of Financial Activities***

*For the Year Ended 31 December 2016*

	Note	Un- restricted £	Restricted £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Donations and legacies	4a	230,435	15,750	246,185	135,219
Other trading activities	4b	7,245	-	7,245	5,453
Investments		53	-	53	82
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		237,733	15,750	253,483	140,754
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Grants & donations	5a	15,065		15,065	17,500
Charitable activities	5b	128,794	8,831	137,625	135,350
Church administration & management	5c	5,826		5,826	5,742
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>		149,685	8,831	158,516	158,592
<b>NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>		88,048	6,919	94,967	(17,838)
Transfers between funds		833	(833)	-	-
Balances brought forward at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2016		72,359	923	73,282	91,120
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2016</b>		161,240	7,009	168,249	73,282

## ***Balance Sheet***

*As at 31 December 2016*

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2016 £</b>	<b>2015 £</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	<b>7</b>	21,681	21,777
Investments	<b>8</b>	866	1,187
		<hr/> 22,547	<hr/> 22,964
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	<b>9</b>	13,036	22,708
Cash at Bank		134,490	28,483
		<hr/> 147,526	<hr/> 51,191
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	<b>10</b>	(1,824)	(873)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<hr/> 145,702	<hr/> 50,318
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<hr/> <hr/> 168,249	<hr/> <hr/> 73,282
<b>REPRESENTING</b>			
General Funds	<b>11</b>	161,240	72,359
Restricted Funds	<b>11</b>	7,009	923
		<hr/> 168,249	<hr/> 73,282

Approved by the Standing Committee on behalf of the PCC on ..... and signed  
on its behalf by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev Andy Morgan  
Senior Minister

\_\_\_\_\_  
D Finn  
Churchwarden

The notes on pages 5 to 10 form part of these accounts.



***Notes to Financial Statements***

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*For the year ended 31 December 2016*

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The charity is registered in England and Wales with a charity number 1144889. The registered address is Park Drive, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8AB.

**2. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. These financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 as the applicable accounting standards and the 2015 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption available for smaller charities not to produce a cash flow statement.

The charity transitioned from previous UK GAAP to FRS102 as at 1 January 2015, No transitional adjustments were required.

**3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, the functional currency.

**Funds**

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Restricted funds are applied in accordance with the direction of the payer/donor. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

**Incoming Resources**

***Voluntary income and capital sources***

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is matched to the income.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when any preconditions have been met.

Funds raised by special events are accounted for exclusive of expenses.

**Income from Investments**

Interest on Deposits is accounted for when receivable; such income is paid to the PCC without the deduction of income tax.

**Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)**

For the year ended 31 December 2016

**Resources Used**

**Grants**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due.

**Fixed Assets**

**Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings**

Consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure where matched to specific income in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

**Other fixed assets**

Equipment acquired since 1 January 1996 for use within church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over its estimated useful life. For fixtures and fittings this is 5 years.

**Current Assets**

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December are shown at Note 9 below as "Debtors", these sums have been received after the accounting date. Income Tax recoverable is calculated by reference to receipts under gift aid to 31 December.

**Current liabilities**

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

**4. INCOMING RESOURCES**

**a) Incoming resources from Donors**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>2016 £</b>	<b>2015 £</b>
Bankers orders & regular cheques	75,591		75,591	83,316
Income tax recoverable	22,622		22,622	21,105
Collections (open plate) at all services	13,744		13,744	15,790
Other giving and sundry donations and receipts	20,978	15,750	36,728	15,008
Legacy	97,500		97,500	-
	<b>230,435</b>	<b>15,750</b>	<b>246,185</b>	<b>135,219</b>

***Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)***

*For the year ended 31 December 2016*

**b) Income from charitable & ancillary trading**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fees	6,414	5,435
Trading	831	18
	<hr/> 7,245	<hr/> 5,453

**5. RESOURCES USED**

**a) Grants**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Missionary and Charitable Giving:</b>		
UCB	2,500	3,000
Salt Box	2,500	3,500
New Wine Trust	-	1,000
Street Pastors	-	500
Morning Star	2,500	3,500
Open doors	2,500	2,500
Tearfund	2,565	2,500
Ruby Girl fierce project	2,500	-
Donna Louise Trust	-	1,000
	<hr/> 15,065	<hr/> 17,500

***Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)***

*For the year ended 31 December 2016*

**b) Activities directly relating to the Church**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>2016 £</b>	<b>2015 £</b>
Caretaker	2,652		2,652	2,767
Ministry - Diocesan Parish Share	83,897		83,897	82,468
- Clergy and Curate Expenses	3,811		3,811	5,664
Church Music (Organ)	3,382		3,382	2,652
Cleaning	2,651		2,651	2,688
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	1,859		1,859	1,565
Education and Training	617		617	1,141
Flowers	267		267	168
Leasing Costs – Office Photocopier	1,896		1,896	1,933
Miscellaneous running costs	2,079		2,079	2,108
Heat, Light and Telephone	10,156		10,156	8,430
Printing and advertising	1,693		1,693	1,211
Repairs and Maintenance	6,616	8,831	15,447	4,659
Outreach	1,928		1,928	1,918
Insurance	3,682		3,682	3,666
Expenditure re flat	1,608		1,608	-
Interns ( now staff)	-		-	12,312
	<b>128,794</b>	<b>8,831</b>	<b>137,625</b>	<b>135,350</b>

***Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)***

*For the year ended 31 December 2016*

**c) Church Management and Administration**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2016 £</b>	<b>2015 £</b>
Administration	5,826	5,742
	<u>5,826</u>	<u>5,742</u>

**6. Staff costs**

	<b>2016 £</b>	<b>2015 £</b>
Salaries (including employers NIC)	8,479	19,079
	<u>8,479</u>	<u>19,079</u>

During the year the PCC employed an average of 3 staff. (2015 – 3)

There were no transactions made in respect of PCC members, no PCC member received any remuneration, benefit or reimbursement of travelling or other expenses.

**7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Net Book Value 2016 £</b>	<b>Net Book Value 2015 £</b>
Sign	383	765
Computer	-	136
Audio visual	119	770
Digital stage piano	1,011	1,348
Cooker	80	
Dishwasher	1,330	
Car park	18,758	18,758
	<u>21,681</u>	<u>21,777</u>

***Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)***

*For the year ended 31 December 2016*

**8. INVESTMENTS**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 January 2016	1,187	1,201
Income received	-	62
Contribution / (encashment)	(321)	(76)
At 31 December 2016	<u>866</u>	<u>1,187</u>

**9. DEBTORS**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	-	8,696
Income tax recoverable	13,036	14,012
	<u>13,036</u>	<u>22,708</u>

**10. CREDITORS**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accruals	1,824	873
	<u>1,824</u>	<u>873</u>

**11. FUND RECONCILIATION**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
Balance at 1 January 2016	72,359	923	73,282
Transfers	833	(833)	-
Net (decrease)/ increase for the year	88,048	6,919	94,967
Balance at 31 December 2016	<u>161,240</u>	<u>7,009</u>	<u>168,249</u>

The restricted funds relate to £90 for Children's worker and £6,919 for the Vestry roof.



## AGENDA

THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR PARISHIONERS and  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
Will be held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 in the Church, starting at 7.30 pm

1. **The Annual Vestry Meeting** – In the chair, Richard Williams
  - a. To appoint a secretary for the meetings
  - b. To agree the Minutes of the Meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016
  - c. To elect Churchwardens for 2017/18
  
2. **The Annual Parochial Church Meeting** – in the chair, Richard Williams
  - a. Opening Prayers & worship
  - b. Apologies for absence
  - c. Minutes of the Meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016
  - d. Matters arising from the minutes

**Verbal summaries of the following written reports**  
PCC secretary

  - e. Presentation and adoption of audited accounts for year ending 31st December for 2016
  - f. To appoint Auditors for 2017
  - g. Report on the Electoral Roll and confirm the Electoral Roll Officer.
  - h. Fabric report by Churchwardens
  - i. Deanery Synod report
  - j. To elect members to serve on the PCC
  - k. Questions and comments submitted to guide the PCC in the current year\*
  - l. Close
  
3. **First meeting of the newly elected PCC** (Graham Vestry)
  - a. Appoint Vice Chair, secretary and accountant 2017
  - b. Appoint Standing Committee

\* **Questions about the Accounts and/or comments for the PCC are to be submitted, in writing, by 1.00 pm, 20<sup>th</sup> April, c/o The Parish Office**

THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR PARISHIONERS and  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
Held on Sunday 17 April 2016 at 7:30pm in the Church

**1. The Annual Vestry Meeting: (Rev. Everton Mcleod in the Chair)**

**a. Appoint secretary for the meetings:**

Iris Barcroft proposed Val Ellis to be secretary for the meetings;  
Seconded Lesley Symon. All in agreement.

**b. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 April 2015**

Terry Steele proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed as a true record:  
Seconded by Sue Cooke. All in agreement.

**c. Election of Church Wardens for 2016/2017**

There were two nominations for the two positions of Church Warden:  
David Finn: proposed by Jon Mueller; Seconded by Val Ellis  
Iris Barcroft: proposed by Val Ellis; Seconded by Jon Mueller  
Sue Massey proposed that David and Iris be elected as church wardens;  
Seconded by Simon Webster. All in agreement that David and Iris be appointed.

**2. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting: (Rev. Andy Morgan in the Chair)**

**a. Opening Prayers and Worship:**

The evening opened in worship with Andy reading the Francis Drake prayer and inviting prayers from those present.

**b. Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from:  
Sandra Baker, Anne Beaumont, Sue Chafe, Janet Goodall, Sue Griffiths,  
Janice Hawkins, John Massey, Jason Parrish, Julie Ratcliffe, Sue Thomas,  
Barbara Whitehouse, Jane and Richard Williams.  
(There were 38 attendees at the meeting).

**c. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 April 2015:**

Stuart Cooke proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed as a true record.  
Seconded by Iris Barcroft.  
There were two abstentions and all remaining were agreed that the minutes to be signed.

**d. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 April 2015:**

There were no matters arising.

**Verbal Summaries of written reports:**

**e. PCC Secretary**

Val Ellis spoke briefly on the PCC secretary's report. The main discussions and decisions of the PCC over the last year were:

- i. The financial position of Trentham Church.
- ii. Repairs and renovation of the church centre and Graham Vestry.
- iii. Staffing levels and the recruitment of a family worker.

There were no questions and Andy thanked Val for her work as PCC secretary.



**f. Presentation and adoption of audited accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015**

Simon Webster spoke to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 highlighting the following points:

- Page 3 - Income and Expenditure;

The year ended with a deficit of £17,838. The reduction in the forecasted deficit was due to a donation from the Parish Hall Trust.

- Page 6 - Note 2. Incoming Resources

The total income from donors is £135,219. Regular giving totals £83,316 which is an increase of £1,619 against the previous year.

- Page 7 – Note 2b. Incoming Resources:

There is an increase in fees received. The total received is £5,453.

- Page 7 – Note 3a. Missionary and Charitable Giving:

The total figure of £17,500 includes the left over balance from the previous year.

- Page 8 – Note 3b. Resources Used: Activities directly relating to the Church.

The largest payment is the Diocesan Parish Share.

- Page 4 – Balance Sheet

The cash at bank is £28,483

There were no questions regarding the accounts and Andy thanked Simon for his work in presenting the accounts.

A vote of thanks was given to Simon and his Company. Simon thanked his staff for their work.

Terry Steele proposed that the Accounts be accepted;  
Seconded by Sue Massey; All in agreement.

Andy informed the APCM that at the last PCC meeting it had been agreed that the final additional parish share was paid in full. This means we can make a fresh start to the new year.

Andy announced that Simon would be standing down as treasurer and gave a huge thank you for all the work Simon has done. A small gift was presented to Simon.

Simon Webster proposed that Val Ellis be appointed as treasurer;  
Seconded by Lesley Symon; All in agreement.

**g. Appointment of Auditors for 2016**

David Finn proposed that DPC Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors be reappointed for 2016; Seconded by Sheila Palmer; All in agreement.

**h. Electoral Roll and confirm the Electoral Roll Officer**

Julie Lewney reported on the Electoral roll report

This year has seen 8 new people joining the register. There have been 4 people removed (moved to other churches).

There were no questions and Andy thanked Julie for all the work she has done.

Julie thanked everyone for making her feel so welcome since she has been working at Trentham church.

Jon Mueller proposed that Julie Lewney be re-elected as the Electoral Roll Officer.  
Seconded by Iris Barcroft; All in agreement.

### **i. Fabric report by the Church Wardens**

David Finn gave thanks to all in the church, especially Everton, for making the role of church warden easier than it could be.

David presented the church wardens report highlighting the following points:

- Roof repairs completed.
- The work to the Graham Vestry has been postponed as non urgent.
- An upgrade and repair to the church centre is to be carried out.

David and Iris gave their thanks to all the staff and many volunteers who generously give of their time and energy maintaining and supporting Trentham Parish Church.

There were no questions and Andy thanked Iris and David for their work.

### **j. Deanery Synod report**

Lamont Howie presented the Deanery Synod report highlighting the following points:

- The meeting in May 2015 was held at St Mary & St Chad Church Longton. The topic was World Vision.
- September 2015 – the meeting was held at Trentham Parish. Although this was classed as a social Archdeacon Matthew Parker shared his thoughts on how the Deanery may operate in the future.
- November 2015 – Synod met at Hanford Parish Church. Chaplains from Douglas Macmillan and RSUH shared their work.
- February 2016 – Synod met at Christ Church, Fenton. Mo Trudel talked about Ministry at Work.

Andy thanked Lamont and Jason for their work as representatives.

Lamont and Jason both relinquish the role as representatives at this APCM.

Sue Cooke asked if a person has to be on the PCC to act as representative at Deanery Synod.

Everton replied that it was advisable to have experience of PCC meetings and it is the normal practice to elect from PCC.

### **k. Election of PCC Members**

Andy expressed his thanks to the four PCC members who are retiring from the PCC this year: Lamont Howie, Jason Parrish, Terry Steele, Gordon Thomas.

There are five nominations for election to the PCC:

**James Allen**, proposed by Iris Barcroft, seconded by Stuart Cooke.

**Stuart Cooke**, proposed by Terry Steele, seconded by Jean Davies.

**Anna France**, proposed by Sue Cooke, seconded by Jean Edwards.

**Stuart Mochrie**, proposed by Sue Cooke, seconded by Anna France.

**Jon Mueller**, proposed by David Finn, seconded by Gordon Thomas.

Each candidate spoke briefly about themselves and what they can bring to the PCC.

Simon Webster asked if all five nominations could be elected.

Everton asked that everyone spend a few minutes quietly praying. The nominees were then asked to leave whilst a discussion took place.

Everton asked if all were in favour of the five being elected.

Everyone at the meeting agreed.

Terry Steele proposed all five were elected to serve on the PCC:

Seconded by Lamont Howie: All in agreement.

## I. Vicar's Report

Everton first thanked God for all that he has done and continues to do and said it is a privilege to be a servant of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Everton then gave thanks to the army of people who help with the running of the church.

Everton thanked his wonderful wife Jeanette and all their family.

Thanks were given to Andy, Claire and Caleb and the churchwardens.

Everton said that 2015 had seen many changes. Dennis and Sue Croome, Jason and Steff – both couples had moved on. This had left a hole in ministry but Everton thanked all the people who have stepped up and continue to do so to help.

Highlights of 2015 for Everton had been:

The parish weekend away. This had been a wonderful time with opportunities for people to get together. A provisional booking for the next weekend away has been made for the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The first crib service was held in December 2015. This had been a wonderful time celebrating the birth of Jesus.

There have been several deaths in 2015 including Caroline Vassiliou. Everton informed the meeting that Caroline had left a very large bequest of over £90,000 to Trentham Church.

This money needs to be managed correctly by the PCC and not wasted.

Everton thanked everyone for the privilege of allowing him to have a 3 month sabbatical. It had been a very important and blessed time. He was able to have time out with an uncluttered head to hear from God again.

Everton then read from Ephesians chapter 6 verse 10:

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power".*

No one knows what the future holds but, we do know who does know.

There were no questions for Everton.

On behalf of everyone, David Finn thanked Everton

## m. Questions and comments submitted to guide the PCC in the current year

- I. Sue Thomas, Foundation Governor at Priory Church of England Primary School, Trentham;

"Would the PCC please consider the questions raised in the 'Foundation Governor Report' and consider how as church we might respond to the opportunities for outreach at the Priory CofE Primary School".

Everton confirmed that this item will be discussed at the next PCC meeting.

- II. Janice Isherwood

"Who are the current mission organisations Trentham church currently supports?"

Everton responded and explained that the PCC had set new criteria for selecting organisations.

The current organisations are Morning Star, Open Doors, Saltbox, Tearfund (change a nation project), UCB.

**n. Close:** The meeting closed in worship and prayer at 9:00pm

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The following prayer was read aloud by everyone at the beginning of the APCM**

*Disturb us, Lord, when  
We are too pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, Lord, when  
with the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heaven to dim.*

*Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wilder seas  
Where storms will show Your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.*

*We ask you to push back  
The horizons of our hopes;  
And to push back the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love.*

*This we ask in the name of our Captain,  
Who is Jesus Christ.*

## PCC Secretary's Report for the APCM on Sunday 23 April 2017

The aim of this report is to provide you with a brief review of the PCC meetings and the issues discussed over the last year.

The attendance at PCC meetings has been very good with the meetings always starting with worship and prayer. Prayer is not only confined to the beginning of the meeting, there have been many occasions when the PCC members have felt it appropriate to pause, thank God for his Blessings and to discern what God may be saying and what he might want of his church.

There have been a total of twelve meetings over the last year. The PCC has met together for five ordinary PCC meetings with an additional three special meetings due to the vacancy. The Standing Committee has met on four occasions.

The financial position of Trentham Church has occupied a great deal of PCC time and effort, and will be covered separately with the accounts report.

Other matters which have been discussed and managed by the PCC this year include:

Everton's resignation and the subsequent vacancy;

Repairs and renovation of the Church Centre;

The Church family away day;

The financial support given to our Mission Organisations and the receiving of reports from these organisations.

The renting of the flat at The Parks;

The plurality at Hanford and Trentham;

Members of the congregation are welcome to bring any matters of concern to our PCC representatives. A list of current PCC members is displayed in the entrance to the church.

Val Ellis, PCC Secretary  
20 March 2017

## UPDATED ELECTORAL ROLL - AS AT 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017

2017	2016	2015
<b>TOTAL 199</b> 133 IN PARISH 66 OUT OF PARISH	<b>TOTAL 198</b> 133 IN PARISH 65 OUT OF PARISH	<b>TOTAL 196</b> 131 IN PARISH 65 OUT OF PARISH

### 2016 – DETAILS

**9 PEOPLE JOINED REGISTER SINCE APRIL 2016**

**(3 within Parish, 6 Out of Parish)**

**8 REMOVED (3 moved, 2 left, 3 Deceased)**

# Wardens Report

## 2016 / 2017

We would like firstly like to praise and thank our amazing God for his goodness to us in this church for being so close to us during this year of change.

This year has been full of many challenges. When Everton called Iris and me to his study to inform us of his decision to leave for pastures new, we immediately realised we had to act decisively and prayerfully for the future of our church. We weren't prepared to stand still we felt we needed to grasp every opportunity to build on the foundation of the past and go forward encouraging as many as possible to fulfil their destiny here.

We made a very quick decision that the first priority was for us to set up a weekly prayer meeting to seek the Lord for direction. We believe that this was the most fundamental action that enabled us to make decisions in line with God's will.

The second decision was that we recognised that we were fortunate to have a very experienced Curate in Andy and that he should be honoured and brought into the leadership team to help and encourage us. (The irony is that although Andy is a priest and has lots of experience in legal terms he had no authority). We are sure that you will all agree that Andy's leadership role has been significant in bringing harmony and unity to us all here.

It was decided that we needed to expand the team, and it was felt that Sue Cooke, Ann George and Dick France could be the right people to join.

From our time together, we decided to change the way we our children's activities operated and to create a leadership team for each segment with Sue Cook as the person to link them all together to give direction, vision and purpose.

Also it was decided to hold an Alpha Course, and immediately Dick and Anna were thrilled to be asked to run it.

We were so pleased that forty one people enrolled, and most have attended all the sessions.

We give thanks for the hospitality team that has arranged for the cell groups to provide food every week for the candidates. We are trusting that God will speak individually to all who attend and bring them all into a relationship with the Lord Jesus.

We also asked Ann George about the pastoral care of our church and she indicated that Everton in the past had done the majority of visiting but that she was willing to continue and extend and enhance her role. She was trained as a pastoral Minister which had lapsed so we have reapplied for her reinstatement which also enables her to give communion on behalf of the church in people's homes.

Ann is currently running courses for those who are on the team.

Another most important decision is that we asked Jim and Shelia Palmer to head up a new team to oversee the prayer ministry which we see as most important; this resulted in further training, with Andy, Jim and Sheila hosting it.

We now have six teams that are on duty at 9.30 and 11.00 am services .on Sunday.

Andy has overseen our worship groups and has formed two bands; in addition we are pleased that four of our young girls are integrating with Nick's team singing and leading worship in our family services Another step forward is in encouraging others to lead and preach and we feel that this has enriched our services.

We are so grateful for our retired ministers, John Humphreys and John Hall who have been able to step in and have given us much to think about and digest .As well as Shaun Morris from Hanford, Matthew our Archdeacon and Bishop Geoff and visiting preachers.

Iris and I would like to thank all the people who have supported us; fortunately the list is long, the hospitality team, cell group leaders Children and Youth workers, treasurer, the PCC etc. However I would especially like to thank Julie our office PA and Ray our caretaker and also our cleaners, Elaine and her daughter Mandy who do a wonderful job quietly in the background.

This year has also had its sadness; we have lost some of our dearest friends, Anne Beaumont, Frank Percival Valerie Young and George Slater.

We would like to honour them here and thank God for their contribution to his Kingdom,

As many you are aware we are at the beginning of the refurbishment of the Church Centre, we have been helped by the Parish Hall Trust to finance part of it .We thank them so much for releasing £55,000 towards the cost. This is so important for our growing young people's activities

Iris and I also had a very constructive meeting with the chief executive of Trentham Gardens earlier in the year; we aim to cooperate on a number of opportunities to work together to enhance heritage and open doors, we are in the early stages and have to get back to them with our proposals which we are actively working on.

Following the resignation of Simon Webster as Treasurer Val Ellis has picked up the mantle and with the help of Sheila Palmer our bookkeeper and Richard Williams the Covenant Secretary. All are working very hard to keep our finances on track to balance our books.

We wish to thank Andy and Claire for helping us move on and to tell them that we love them and will miss them greatly when they move to Hereford, our loss their gain and we feel sure that they will bring a great deal of wisdom, youth and experience to help them build something special .

We are really excited about the future of the church here as we wait expectantly to welcome our new Vicar Adrian Stone and his wife Esther and family and in the meantime we trust that all the church will work together for our mutual benefit.

David K Finn

Iris Barcroft

# Deanery Synod Report

April 2017

**8<sup>th</sup> June 2016– St. Mary’s, Bucknall.** - The speaker was Rev. David Primrose who delivered a talk on dementia friendly churches.

**9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 – St. Mary & St. Chad’s, Longton** – A Deanery mass was held in a “high church” setting. The service was somewhat different to that which we are used to and, at the same time, very meaningful. It was followed by a bar-b-que at the vicarage.

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 – at St. Alban’s Centre, Blurton** – Rev. Sally Smith gave a talk on the work of Sanctus, which is based at St. Mark’s Shelton and the Central Hall in Longton. This organisation does very important work supporting asylum seekers and refugees in the city, providing prayer, advice, crèches for children, meals and a social environment, where advice is freely available.

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – St. Mary’s, Bucknall** – The area Dean, Rev. Nigel Evans outlined the proposal on the structures for the new Deanery, which will be formed by the joining of the Stoke-upon-Trent Deanery and the Stoke North Deanery. At present this is a proposal and there needs to be a legal process which could take up to two years.

It was agreed that the two Deaneries should meet together at joint meetings throughout 2017.

*Richard and Jane Williams*



## **Pastoral Care 2016 Report**

There are six members of the Pastoral team who bring their own varied abilities and experiences to the group, enabling them to minister more effectively as directed. Visits are made to people at home, in residential care and in hospital. These may be at times of special need, or ongoing for those who are housebound.

The team meet monthly to learn, discuss and pray about pastoral matters.

One of the main causes for concern in this area is that there are many people living in their own who lack family support, so we look at ways of introducing them to activities such as the Friday lunch and Mothers Union and creating opportunities for fellowship. Tea parties at Barbara Whitehouse's home are a regular event which have been much enjoyed and have helped people to get to know each other.

This year we have engaged with a number of community activities to which people who are on their own can be introduced. These include a weekly coffee morning at the Man in Space, a monthly group called "Brinsley Befrienders" run by a local surgery.

We ask for your prayers for the team and that you will be mindful of those known to you who could benefit from visits, either during a difficult time or as an ongoing befriending.

Ann George     March 2017

## **Mothers' Union Report**

The 36 members of Trentham Mothers' Union are proud to be a part of this Global Church of England Charity, now active for 140 years, begun by Mary Sumner in 1876.

We continue to raise funds to help in 83 countries-the "Make a Mothers Day" appeal which congregation members also support, bringing hope to many families and communities. Mothers Union is also quick off the mark when there is a disaster, ready to go with funds and practical help.

In our Diocese we have 9 prisons to which we contribute Christmas cards to every prisoner. Cards also go to those having wedding, baptism or thanksgiving services in our church.

Knitting is prolific, providing neo-natal items, blankets for the care homes, homeless, and Donna Louise children. Large production has happened this year with "twiddlemuffs" to help those with dementia to keep their hands busy. Many have gone to the North Staffs Carers to help those in their own homes as well as care homes and Frail units in the Royal Stoke hospital. Requests keep coming and we hope to fulfil more.

A&E is provided with toiletries packs for those who come without local family support, many of our patients come from as far away as Wales. The local Women's Refuge receives toiletries from us on a monthly basis.

The group took great pleasure in sharing food and friendship with the African Choir when they visited in July.

We have monthly meetings, a mixture of discussions relating to MU work, activities or visiting speakers—feel free to find out more or join us sometime. We are like all charities that you may support, but not necessarily as a member.

Maureen Pennington

## Little Stars Report

Little Stars has continued to thrive in that we are still running at full capacity ie forty families and continue to have a waiting list. Almost every family lives in Trentham and it is good to see relationships growing, not just between the staff and the members, but between the members themselves. Indeed, it has been a delight to see so many men attend our sessions; we regularly see four different generations of one local family.

Our aim has been to build relationships with the parents and grandparents and to share the gospel in as many ways as we can – ways that inform the children but have an adult message, too. We are intentional in everything that we do; there is absolutely no doubt that we are a Christian toddler group, not simply a toddler group which meets in a church. We share Bible stories, have talks and dramas based on scripture and pray – as well as enjoying lively worship songs. Prayer is also offered to members on occasions.

The team has changed slightly but we have a core of twelve people and we benefit from building on one another's strengths. The sessions are not run by one leader but, as the team has grown in confidence, are led by different members who encourage and support one another – adding to the great sense of fellowship between us all.

One of the highlights this year was the Italian supper which we provided for the grown-ups at no cost; this was a superb evening and we were so thankful to the whole church family for the donations of food and drink. Another highlight was the crib service which began as an experiment of sorts but which was a great success. At this point, we would like to add that, if it weren't for the committed volunteers who set up for us on a Monday evening, there would be no such group – we are indebted to you.

We are delighted that requests continue to come from the members for more baptisms and thanksgiving services; being able to relate to Andy on a personal level during the sessions has quite probably made these services more accessible. We ask that you continue to pray for relationships to flourish and that we will, as a team, be always ready to hear what God has in store for us as we continue to share the love of Jesus with these young families.

## **TREKKERS APCM Report 2017**

Trekkers has had another good year. We have remained in two groups; 'Little Trekkers' aged 3-6 years who meet in the Graham Vestry and 'Big Trekkers' aged 7-11 years who meet in the Church Centre. Generally over the two groups we have between 12 -15 children attend each Sunday, but we can have as many as 20.

We have been using material from TnT Ministries, called 'Mustard Seed'. Little Trekkers have completed series on creation, thankfulness, and God knowing everything. Big trekkers have been looking at God's Kingdom and Kingdom living.

We have a core group of nine ladies supporting Trekkers. Four leaders, two for each Trekkers group, who lead alternate weeks. Accompanied by five helpers, who support one in three weeks. Due to changes in circumstances, we have recently had a couple of ladies step down.

Trekkers are currently meeting as a combined group in the Graham Vestry as the work to the Church Centre is completed. Once this is complete, we would like to split the two age groups up again to cater more specifically for the children's needs. To enable this we will need more leaders/helpers to support the existing team.

We are praying for another blessed year to come, for Gods leading and guidance and for a renewed passion for our children and young people. We thank God for the children that we have in Trekkers and we pray that they would continue to grow in their relationships with the Lord Jesus.

Lisa Walters

Trekkers Leader

# In Transit report

## Membership

In Transit currently has 5 members (all girls) ranging from 11 – 14 years of age. Attendance is very regular, and we have on average 3 or 4 young people per week. The girls are highly motivated and have a wonderfully real faith which they can talk about with confidence. They are extremely supportive towards each other and are accepting of new members as they reach In Transit age. In response to the girls' wishes and to help ease the pressure on leaders, In Transit members have also been supporting the younger Trekkers once a month.

## Leadership

The group continued to be led by Sarah Parker and Iris Barcroft until July 2016, when, due to the pressures of the interregnum, Iris stood down. We decided to review the list of helpers at the same time, as a number of them had joined the team as a stop-gap when Steff Brown left. Julie Ratcliffe, Lamont Howie and Andy Mason also stepped down at this point due to changes in their personal circumstances. We would like to register our grateful thanks for the help and support they have given us. The current team is comprised of 5 people (2 leaders and 3 helpers), with the sessions planned by Sarah and Cathy Allen. This is the bare minimum with which we can run the group, and we are hopeful that one or two more people will volunteer to help following our recent appeal.

## Resources

We felt that we had exhausted the Urban Saints material, so we have been using material from a variety of sources since September. Sessions have been planned in response to some of the girls' questions and needs. We are currently completing a series on prayer and will then be looking at self-esteem after May half-term. We may possibly wish to purchase/ subscribe to some resources in the Autumn if the PCC can find the funds.

## Accommodation

When the Basement room became unusable in Summer 2016, we were meeting in the small upstairs room in the church centre. Our pattern until February was as follows:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday | Joint Service  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday | In Transit   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday | In Transit help with the younger Trekkers in the Graham Vestry |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday | In Transit   |

Since the work began on the Church Centre, however, we have been homeless! Each week, we walk down to Frankie & Benny's at Trentham Gardens, where we have a drink and conduct a session of sorts. Obviously, we do not have much time once we have got there and it has meant that we have done much less actual praying than we would like. For this reason, we are hoping to be able to hold some open-air sessions in late spring/ early summer. Please join us in praying for good Sunday morning weather!

## The Future

The girls currently help out with the younger Trekkers occasionally and have played with the worship band. We are hoping that this will provide them with meaningful ways in which they can continue to be involved at church once they have 'outgrown' the group. We also hope that the contact between Trekkers and In Transit will make it easier for the younger ones to make the transition to the older group. And we confidently hope for and expect both new leaders from the congregation and new members as local young people have more opportunity to hear about Jesus through 'Fierce'!

## The Basement Report

The Basement's numbers had dropped to 3 or 4 kids by the end of the school year in 2016, so relaunched in September 2016, via presentations to the outgoing Year 6s at Ash Green & Priory schools, and leaflet distribution to Years 7 & 8 at Trentham High. Attendance now averages 18 per week, with the kids being aged between 11-13.

The main issue we have needed to deal with has been the lack of "basement", as the church centre has been unfit for use, and continues to be in process of repair. This has meant that the team has had to create & manage a schedule of events (eg bowling, rock climbing, trampolining), so as not to be in the church itself every week, and parents have therefore needed to pay between £3 and £10 on average every other week.

Of the members, only 5 are practicing Christians, which means we have had the opportunity to introduce 15+ young people to church and Jesus, though we do this through low-touch messages when we have a natural link to talk about our Lord. Only 2 of our non-Christian kids attended the first Fierce event, so we are working to improve these numbers, as we see it as a great way for them to get to know Jesus further.

Volunteering has been excellent, with congregation members stepping up to help each term, to help when the team haven't been available, or to help with a themed event, such as cookery, ice skating, mocktail-making, music, and our Christmas party. However, using the same promotion for the next school year is likely to see our membership rise, meaning we will need at least 1 more member to join the team, to ensure we have a sufficient adult:children ratio. Can you help, even with just one or two Friday evenings a month during term time? No special skills are needed, as you can simply run the tuck or just be present for safety. Please speak to Jon Mueller, Rebecca Smith or Lottie Morris for more information. If you can't help directly, please add The Basement and its kids to your prayers.

## **FRIDAY LUNCH MINISTRY - 2016 REPORT – Sue Massey**

From January 2016 I took over the running of the Lunches with some of the team carrying on to help; Our aim was to “keep it simple” and to allow more time to spend with Guests without it being too demanding on the team. So, we have made some changes and we continue to meet monthly with an average of 32 meals provided, which is the number we feel comfortable to cook and provide this ministry for. We also provide transport for a few of our guests.

Currently we have the maximum number attending (plus 7 on a waiting list), and there are now 12 team members. The team have the flexibility of being rota'd on duty with the occasional month off. Overall, this has reduced the amount of cooking, and work involved, giving the team specific role's to provide this ministry each month. If we are aware of anyone not being able to attend, we use their place that month, to invite someone from our waiting list.

We also wanted to “add value “ to our ministry and from a questionnaire we did, our guests told us what other activities they attend in the community, and also if there was anything they might be interested in if we found out the information for them. This resulted in producing a program of events with details of days, times and contact numbers. In addition we also, on a street map, showed where everyone was located so if they wished they could meet up with someone near to them, from our group outside of our monthly meeting. This has been quite popular with our guests.

Over the past few years we have enjoyed our Christmas Lunch at the Man in Space. However, we decided to hold last years in our Church, where we had a 3 course meal for 48 people (some extra help was required!) , a sing along with Philip and we took photos, which our guests enjoyed dressing up for. A wonderful time was had by all.

We have donations from our guests to cover the cost of the meal. From this money we were able to give a donation in December 2016, to Douglas Macmillan Hospice, and to our Church (to help cover the cost of the use of Church heating, electricity & Kitchen use). To date this year we have also donated to the **Christian Aid Society**, to support the famine relief in East Africa.

We pray this ministry will continue to provide an opportunity for fellowship/friendships for our guests, and the team are blessed as they happily support by serving our more mature members of our community in this way.

I would like to say a big thank you to the team for supporting me during this time of change, particularly Sue Cooke & Jane Williams, as the three of us meet regularly to discuss the requirements and purchasing for each month. On behalf of our team and guests we give thanks for the valuable work that was done by our sister **Anne Beaumont** who played a key role in the Friday Lunch ministry from its inception in 2008 until late last year.

We thank God for the opportunity to serve in this way and would appreciate it if you would pray for this group and all we minister to. With Blessings, Sue Massey and Team: **Enid** di Castiglione, **Gwen** Hall , **Jane** Williams, **Jim** Tennant , **John** Massey, **Maureen** Pennington **Pauline** Wright, **Roy** Langhorne, **Stuart** Cooke, **Sue** Cooke, **Sue** de Costobadie & **Terry** Steele

**Report for the APCM of Trentham Parish Church April 2017 from Sue Thomas**  
**Foundation Governor at Priory Church Academy, Jubilee Road, Trentham**

It has been an exciting year and a privilege to continue to serve on the Governing Body (GB) at Priory Church Academy (formally Priory Cof E Primary School). The school is moving towards academy status and later this year will become part of the City Learning Trust a cooperative Multi – Academy Trust based in this city. With 440 children on the roll from a catchment area of Trentham & Hanford, our parish churches are represented by myself and Rev Sarah Morris as ex-officio Foundation Governors with Rev Shaun Morris acting as chaplain, leading worship regularly and supporting RE lessons.

The Governors and the School consider the Christian faith of great importance and clearly value the distinctive character and ethos that this gives the school. I was asked to advise the GB on how it could take a more effecting role in protecting and embedding its Christian character and as a result “*Christian Distinctiveness and Effectiveness*” now appears as a regular agenda item at every Governing Board meeting, we have had a number of discussions on “*How are we a distinctively Christian school*” and our meetings now conclude with prayer. In December 2016 Shaun and I, along with the Head Teacher & other staff conducted a “*Christian Character Learning Walk*” around the school which allowed us to start to audit the features that make us distinctively Christian & which will be fed back to the GB. We plan to further develop and build on this in the coming Autumn term.

I have visited the school regularly developing my role within Early Years and, having been asked to be the RE link, have been working with the RE lead teacher to develop an understanding the new Stoke RE Syllabus, supported the re writing of the RE policy and looked at the evaluation of RE; this is a work in progress. I am hoping to attend a Diocesan training day for Governors later in year.

Having been asked to take particular responsibility for Christian Character of the School it has been exciting to be able to develop links with both our local parish churches. In particular I was asked to find Christian volunteers to provide practical support to the school and so using the Diocesan “Pray Bake Read” initiative Shaun Morris and I invited members of both our parish churches to volunteer. It is inspiring to be able to report here that in July 2016, together with our friends at Hanford Parish Church, we established the Kaleidoscope Team made up of a number of volunteers from both our churches. Our aim is that through prayer, reading and baking we bless & support the school & that we take the opportunity to become Salt & Light. It has been a delight to see how the school values this support and their enthusiasm to welcome us as we go in. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers for blessing the school with their love, their prayers and their time. Since September 2016 we been able to provide the staff with cakes at the end of each term (a very much appreciated gift), to have a half a dozen people going in each week to listen to children read and to have a team of people who pray regularly for the school. I found it particularly encouraging to spend time with a group of children who had prayer requests for their school & families as well as to know the Head Teacher’s openness and encouragement of this. It is also thrilling to see how prayer is an important part of the life of the school, with the children being provided with opportunities to pray & taught about prayer by Shaun during Worship. On a Saturday in the Autumn Term we held a Prayer Morning in the school which Shaun led. Everyone involved with the school was invited and the prayer time was attended by approx. 40 people, representing school staff, governors, parents and a number of our volunteers. We plan to hold another prayer morning in the Summer Term.

I have loved attended their vibrant Collective Worship, Christmas and Easter services at Hanford Church and meetings of the school’s Worship Council. It has also been my pleasure to lead Worship on a number of occasions throughout the year & to focus on stories of people in the Bible who encountered Jesus & how this changed their lives. Rev Shaun Morris continues to lead Worship each week and has had the opportunity to follow themes including the Parables of Jesus, the Lord’s Prayer and to link the schools values with Bible stories. During the year we have welcomed our Archdeacon, Rev Matthew Parker to the school to lead Collective Worship & discussions with the Headteacher reveal an openness to invite other Christian friends to come into the school to share this act of service. This is an area that we are keen to develop and encourage others to support possibly using the Bible Society’s “Open the Book” scheme.

The Spring Term ended on a high note with BBC Radio Stoke recording the school’s joyous Easter Celebration in Hanford Church for their Easter Sunday morning broadcast. The pupils learnt to sing *Jesus Christ I look upon your sacrifice, In Christ Alone*, *This is Amazing Grace* and others and through his talks in Collective Worship for the preceding five weeks, Shaun helped the children gain an understanding of the words they were singing. It was wonderful to hear them enthusiastically worshipping, hearing the real meaning of Easter & to be able to share their worship with people all over the city.

As well as those mentioned above there are many other opportunities open to us as a church to support and bless our church school; staff reminded me recently that they would like to have a Bible Club for the children, that they would like to bring children to visit Trentham Parish Church regularly again, something that has been lost over the years, we would welcome more volunteers to join the Kaleidoscope group to Bake, Read & more importantly Pray for the 400+ young lives who attend the school. During this next year are we up for making more of the opportunities that we are being given through our Church school?