# Christ Church GIPSY HILL



# Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council 2016

The Parish Office, 1 Highland Road, London SE19 1DP 020 8761 5920 www.gipsyhill.org.uk

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## Introduction

Welcome to our annual report for 2016 which will be presented to the Annual Parochial Church meeting in April 2017, as we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Do enjoy reading it – giving thanks for all God is doing in and through his church.

#### Our purpose

We are here to...

- build up a worshipping community of faith in God that is welcoming to all;
- equip and encourage one another to live our daily lives as disciples of Jesus Christ;
- serve God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in our church, our communities and our world.

#### Our vision

We want Christ Church Gipsy Hill to be a community of faith that, in its welcome and worship, is open and accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. In the life of the church, its worship and activities, we want to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and grow together in faith and in understanding as we seek God's will in every area of life.

We are committed through accessible and relevant bible based teaching and prayerful worship to equip one another as disciples of Jesus Christ as we serve him in our diverse daily lives. We want to provide space to ask difficult questions, share our doubts and deepen our faith. Through energetic ministry with children and young people we hope to nurture new generations of believers to their own active faith.

We celebrate the love of God for all of creation and recognise our calling to respond to God's love by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and by loving and serving our community and one another.

We want to engage prayerfully with the needs and challenges in our local community, our nation and the world, encouraging one another, nurtured and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to respond individually and collectively to God's call to seek justice and love mercy.

#### Welcome from the vicar

As you will see from this report, we have enjoyed another busy year! In many ways it has been a year of consolidation, building on all that has gone before. But we have also seen plenty of new life - the Berridge Road congregation has taken on a new form as a 'Missional Community', we created a new role of 'Ministry Assistant' to enable us to continue to sustain and develop our different ministries, and we have worked hard to plan our celebrations in 2017 for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church on this site. Those anniversary celebrations themselves reflect our desire to celebrate all that God has done among us, both recently and throughout the history of this church, whilst always looking to his work among us today and praying for his guiding of our work for the future.

I am, as ever, enormously grateful to all those who share in our life together, and particularly to those who day by day and week by week sustain the life of our church in prayer.

I hope you enjoy reading more about the life of our church this year and will, as I am, be encouraged and inspired!

Jonathan

## **Section 1: Ministry and Discipleship**

#### Services

After twenty years offering public worship in our building on Berridge Road, and after a long period of prayerful deliberation, we decided to re-focus this part of our work in the parish. The team at Berridge Road have been commissioned by the Archdeacon in September as a 'Missional Community', with the joint purposes of serving, praying for and witnessing to the estate and working with others to achieve those ends. Sunday morning meetings, although open to visitors, are no longer advertised as public worship but operate in a similar way to home groups, with sung worship, bible study and prayer. There is more detail about Berridge Road later in this report.

Our service format at Christ Church continues, with a small quiet service at 9am and our main Sunday service at 10.30am where we offer children and young people's work during the service. That service has continued to attract newcomers and we are reaching a stage where we need to think about how that service develops - with the potential to think about a further Sunday service, either by developing the 9am service or offering a full service later in the day.

Our work at the Daycare Centre in Lunham Road, just around the corner from Christ Church has also continued, though the future of the centre is now in question and their numbers are falling as Lambeth Council change arrangements for day care in the Borough. It remains a real joy to share in worship with those reaching the end of their lives but who bring such energy to their worship.

We are so grateful to the many people who ensure Sunday services run smoothly – wardens, stewards, musicians and singers, readers and intercessors, flower arrangers, sound engineers, coffee makers, leaders of our crèche, Sunday school and youth group.

Christmas saw bumper numbers at the nativity, carol service and Christmas morning family Communion, with lots of visitors responding to the cards delivered around the parish, along with others who were brought along by visiting parents and friends. The carol service is worthy of particular mention - using a theme of 'Open Door', the community choir from our Open Door drop in sang two songs, really bringing home the work of Open Door to be a place for anybody and everybody, and powerfully reminding us of the open offer from God to all people. What a joy!

#### Raise the praise

Raise the Praise continues as a very special element of our service provision every second Sunday with 40 minutes of songs, drama, storytelling, activity, prayer and sharing. We have been blessed with a number of new families this year and it is a great place to 'start' at church with small children. 'I love it!' (says Jonathan.) So thank you to all who come and make it such an exciting and fun way to be church – special thanks to the team who provide a delicious party tea every month.

#### Inspire

Inspire is our monthly evening service held on the third Sunday of the month from 6.15pm onwards. The service includes informal, contemporary worship as well as more interactive teaching, with attendance holding steady at around twenty adults. After completing our series on the challenges and opportunities of Christian discipleship in a big city like London, we have enjoyed looking at the Lord's Prayer to challenge and deepen our understanding of these very familiar words.

#### Sunday School

We have four Sunday school groups for children which take place during the main service – crèche (0 - 2 year olds), Scramblers (2 years – school year 1), Climbers (school year 1 – 2) and Explorers (school year 3 – 6). Crèche and Scramblers share the hall downstairs and often merge as the little ones are drawn into the Scramblers activities. Meanwhile Climbers and Explorers meet in rooms upstairs where there is a bit more space for the older ones to expend their energy without disrupting church too much! We have been using the Urban Saints resources, covering topics such as bible characters and the life of Jesus. Sessions include games, singing, bible studies, bible based activities and crafts. Thank you so much to our team of volunteers who give up their time to prepare and run the sessions in order to provide age-appropriate teaching and worship for our children.

#### Christ Church youth group

It has been another happy and encouraging year for our young people at Christ Church. We continued with the two youth group meetings on Sunday mornings, the 11 to14 year olds gathering in the upstairs youth room for games, study and prayer and the 'breakaway' group, 15 to 18 years, meeting on alternate Sunday's in the Vicarage for a more informal time of study and reflection over a cup of tea! The groups combine from time to time for outings and in total number about 18 - 20 young people. Termly social events included a trip to Madame Tussaud's, Laser Quest and an evening of outside wide games and marshmallows at the Scout Hut in Dulwich. As well as termly socials, the youth enjoyed presenting dramatic sketches to the church once a term, and reading lessons and prayers in services which we hope to continue.

In March 2016 we had our first youth residential to the Urban Saints site on the Isle of Wight. There was high excitement as we travelled by train and ferry to the venue and the weekend was packed with activities and teaching sessions, ably led by Ruth Munday (including archery, swimming, craft, drama, bushcraft and a walk to town for some shopping and ice-cream). The mantra established by the young people after they were denied a frolic in the sand and sea was 'has it been risk assessed, no, no' and the joke has lived on - they will be delighted to explain it if asked! We had 16 young people away on the weekend and the constant theme on Sunday mornings since has been the numerous requests to go again! One we are looking into for 2018 but in the meantime we gave them an alternative in the overnight sleep out in the church halls in December when a group of young people participated in the Urban Fund Sleep Out with other members and families from the congregation. Songs around the camp fire (courtesy of Johnny Crawford) and a cooked breakfast made it all worth while (even if phones were eventually confiscated so everyone could get some sleep!).

We were joined in 2016 by Hannah Miles (our XLP intern) and Ali Seal (our Ministry Assistant), both of whom have committed a lot of time to our youth work and developed some good relationships. The constancy and commitment of our regular volunteers has again been wonderful and we are blessed by their contributions to both our Sunday groups and Friday night Legacy.

#### 20s and 30s group

Much has been made in research on church attendance of the 'absence' of the 20's and 30's from church. Many don't go to church, others, in a city like London travel up to the big city centre churches. We are keen to provide a warm welcome and positive church home for this age group within our wonderfully diverse church family.

Since summer 2016 we have run a series of events for 20s and 30s to build community and fellowship amongst that age group. Following our inaugural Sunday lunch at the Vicarage we have had great fun walking in the Surrey countryside, watching films, playing board games, ice skating and trampolining. Events in the pipeline for the spring and summer include a

Thames Walk and outside cinema. It has been really positive to have more opportunities to spend time together.

#### Home Groups

Home groups are a key part of Christ Church's mission action plan. We have six evening home groups, meeting on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and three day-time home groups, meeting on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Some home groups meet fortnightly while others meet three weeks out of four each month. The Tuesday and Friday daytime groups meet every week.

The home groups are led by Hugh & Juliet Bain, Liz Maytom & Jodie Lomax, Eric Hamilton, Anthony & Pam Merifield, Pete & Esther Moorey, Ali & Rob Seal, Yvette Croucher and Richard & Rhos Roberts. The groups have generally studied the same book of the bible, and for most of the year the home groups have followed the theme or book of the Sunday sermons. Home groups have organised coffee mornings in the church garden and have led morning services from time to time. Some groups also have regular meals together or arrange social events with the aim of encouraging friendships and support within the group.

Home group leaders meet once a term to discuss the theme for the following months, to identify future leaders and pray about the groups as a whole.

#### Foundation Course

From September to November 2016 we ran our Christian Foundations Course for the second time, using the Church of England's Emmaus material. The course was led by Sam Whittington, hosted by Sarah and David Griffiths, and was attended by four participants. During the six sessions we looked at evidence for the existence of God, humanity's need for God, the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit, which enabled some really great conversations as the group shared and developed in their understanding and experience of the Christian faith together.

#### Advent in Art

This advent we enjoyed a slightly different approach to Advent, with a series of 'Advent in Art' reflections. The idea behind these was to provide for those who did not or could not commit to a regular home group programme and provide a slightly different focus than a standard bible study. We ran four evening sessions looking at aspects of the Advent and Christmas Story through art. Ali Seal's mother Hilary, who is an art historian, selected images through the ages depicting the annunciation to Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, the Holy Family and the annunciation to the shepherds. We considered artwork spanning almost two millennia, from Roman mosaics, through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century with pictures by Dali among others.

Each evening was a journey of discovery of the unknown. Hilary talked about the style of the images, the awe and excitement the artists must have felt trying to express those amazing happenings, the symbols the artists had used and the historical context. Breughel for instance used his picture of the Holy Family travelling to Bethlehem to highlight the political situation in the Netherlands at the time and the discontent with Spanish taxation.

Each picture session was followed by a reflection, bringing together the images and the story. We considered how the artists represented the Holy Spirit at the annunciation, how the Christmas story fits into history and how the advent story foreshadows so many events in Jesus' ministry. Each evening ended with a brief discussion followed by Compline.

People really enjoyed the concept and by popular demand we put on an extra event at Epiphany and the team is exploring ideas for future occasional events.

#### Weekend Away

Every two to three years all Christ Church members are invited to join together to spend a weekend away from central London in order to study some aspect of the Christian life, pray and have fun and fellowship together.

In June 2016 the weekend away took place at Pilgrim Hall, a beautiful conference centre set in lovely surroundings in East Sussex. The theme of the weekend was prayer and the speaker was Rev Sandy Christie from St Michael and all Angels, Blackheath. 61 adults and 25 teenagers and children attended the weekend away (with a further seven adults and three children attending as day visitors on the Saturday) which began with an evening meal on the Friday night. The main teaching sessions took place on Saturday with separate activities for teenagers led by Imogen Mules from St Barnabas Church, Dulwich, and for children, led by members of Spinnaker. There was also a crèche for babies and toddlers. Saturday afternoon was a time for relaxation, a swim in the outdoor pool or a session on the bouncy castle! On Sunday morning there was the opportunity to experience different types of prayer in small groups, before a family communion service led by Jonathan and members of the congregation. The weekend finished with Sunday lunch after which everyone left to travel home.

The weekend was a very positive experience when we were able to learn more about prayer and get to know each other better.

#### **Pastoral Care**

#### Prayer

Our monthly prayer meeting continues on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 pm where we pray for the church, local community and wider world. Attendance has grown during the year though we would, as always, welcome more people to join us for this vital area of church life.

On Good Friday we have a prayer walk around the parish which begins at Berridge Road and journeys round different streets in the parish before stopping at Christ Church and then on to the Churches Together Act of Witness up at Sainsbury's. It is a reminder of our witness and our calling to be people of prayer for our community and our world.

This year we again hosted for a week, the 24/7 Prayer for Lambeth prayer room, offering space in the chapel with a selection of creative prayer resources to focus on God and offer prayer for our local communities and churches.

#### Pastoral prayer team and pastoral visiting team

A small group of members meets every six weeks or so to pray for individuals within, or closely associated with the church fellowship who are facing difficult personal challenges. Many of the issues involve serious or long-standing ill health, including mental health problems; others can be the result of relationship breakdown, financial hardship, old age or immigration status. The prayer group operates on a strictly confidential basis with matters only being referred to the group with an individual's consent and not being discussed outside of the group.

The Christian message is about the whole person and a separate pastoral visiting team meets monthly to identify and address practical problems faced by church members and attendees. A small team prepares meals, on request, for elderly, needy or sick members and for families following the birth of a child. Members of the team visit housebound members, as appropriate, and arrange lifts to and from church for those unable to use public transport.

#### Outreach/Community

#### Open Door

Open Door continues to serve the community each Tuesday as we provide tea, coffee, cakes and chat during the morning, a hot nutritious lunchtime meal and an advice clinic in the afternoon. New people often come having heard of us by word of mouth and we would love to welcome more to Open Door. Those who attend regularly say it is the highlight of their week.

This year, thanks to funding from the Lambeth Flagship Food Programme, we have been able to employ Sepidieh Black to cook the meals and she has been a welcome addition to our team of volunteers. Our numbers for lunch vary between 20 and 30.

We have also introduced other activities: games, table tennis and a community choir, which has proved very popular. Open Door relies on our faithful volunteers to run and we are grateful to all who bake cakes, make drinks, and provide advice and a welcome each week.

#### Engaging with the Berridge Road community

As part of the Mission Action planning process, we reviewed how our small but committed congregation on the Berridge Road Estate might develop. After much prayer and consultation, the PCC agreed that instead of operating as a separate 'congregation' offering public worship on a Sunday morning, our work and presence on the estate should become a 'missional community' – a group still focussed on being a Christian presence on the estate, with the core purposes of witness and service on and prayer for the estate, whilst working with other Christians and churches to achieve those aims.

To that end we developed a new format for Sunday mornings which is similar in format to our home groups. Dave Scroby continues as Berridge Road leader, with support from Nenetia Nelson and Richard Winborn. Members at Berridge Road have been appreciating the bible study format rather than sermons as this gives everyone the opportunity for questions and comments on the passage. We tend to follow the passages that are covered at Christ Church and in the other home groups.

To mark the change, Simon Gates, our archdeacon, led a service of commissioning of the missional community on 2 October 2016.

We recognise that with our small numbers we cannot reach out to the estate on our own, and we have been strengthening our links with the Berridge Road Partnership (mainly the church that meets on the Berridge Road premises on Sunday afternoons). We now have monthly joint prayer meetings to pray for the people on the estate.

XLP continue to bring the XLP bus to the Berridge Road Estate on Thursday evenings. They have around 18 young people coming to the bus.

#### Christ Church Children and Young Families

Last year we again had a great year with lots of fun at our Night Light Party, Crafts and Christingle Service, Nativity Service and Easter Baking and Crafts Morning. Not to mention the monthly Raise the Praise Service and weekly Children's Church sessions. We have a wonderful team of volunteers who give up their time and energy to help our children to know Jesus and to reach out to children in the community. It is a privilege to see children growing in faith within our church.

#### Legacy

Our Legacy group has continued to meet weekly on Friday evenings in the upper halls and we have tried to develop a combination of free time, football, games and a chill zone alongside a more structured part of the evening with leaders introducing a weekly activity

involving all the young people for some group fun. Numbers are a little erratic but on average 12 teenagers attend (predominantly the 11 - 14 year olds).

#### XLP

Our partnership with XLP has continued to bear fruit and the second year of their work in Lambeth has continued to be favoured and blessed by God. The work at the Pupil Referral Unit on Gipsy Road has grown and the bus project on Berridge Road is now a much appreciated resource on the estate. Jerome Hughes, the borough leader, now has three team members including the wonderful Hannah Miles who joined Christ Church as an XLP intern in September, full of godly joy and passion for the work. XLP operate in Brixton and Tulse Hill and are looking for more volunteers to support their work.

#### Playpen

Playpen is our church run 'Stay and Play' Baby and Toddler Group for 0-4 year olds and their parents / carers.

It is a really friendly playgroup, and a great place for people living in the community to make friends, or to meet up for a chat and a cuppa, while their children can enjoy a whole host of activities. Each week we have a variety of different activities set out from threading beads, craft activities, play dough, small world toys, a home corner, book corner, wheelie cars, slides, tunnels and tents!

We have recently been purchasing new toys and equipment and changing the layout more frequently, this has seemed to please those coming, who have commented on the lovely new toys and different layouts. Special thanks to Sharon, who has been keeping an eye out for bargains on selling sites for us and for her love of 'moving things round'.

This year we have also moved our song time to slightly later in the morning, so after singing the children can enjoy a fruit snack and water, and then make their way home.

We see between 30 and 45 toddlers come through the doors every Wednesday and Thursday morning during term-time. With a lot of the adults commenting that we are the best playgroup for miles – which is always lovely to hear!

Helen Williams has been managing Playpen for about five years, along with a great team of volunteers from the local community and more recently Ali Seal our Ministry Assistant.

Thank you to Glenys Wood and Beth Peters, both from church, who have volunteered at Playpen over the past year.

A big thank you to the Wednesday Volunteers; Christine Woollard, Sue Chalcroft and Sharon Robinson Walder who all work as childminders in the area. They have been coming to Playpen for many, many years and are an amazing help! They come early each week to finish setting up, help to prepare fruit, drinks and crafts. Christine also leads our song time. Sue and Sharon have taken to coming up with craft ideas and cutting out lots at home, ready for Playpen. Along with purchasing toys and coming up with new suggestions - I honestly don't know what I would do without the help of these 3! Thanks also to Katie Wrigley, who used to attend with her children who are now all at school, for the excellent job she does in the kitchen, serving drinks, washing up, being a friendly and welcoming presence and more!

Also to the Thursday Volunteers: Tim Eveleigh (previously a member of Christ Church) who has helped for over 10 years on a Thursday, his wonderful guitar playing and song leading, Jon Caddell and Tracey Fuery for helping with anything and everything, for Jon's amazing ability to get everything done at super speed and always leaving the kitchen pristine! To Sarah Milner who also helped for a short while and will be back to help from next week!

To all of the Thursday team for helping to put everything away, getting everything washed up and dried up and always staying with me helping until absolutely everything has been done.

Finally last, but not least thanks to Ayon for coming to set up the slide, tables and large equipment on a Wednesday morning and getting all the toys out of the cupboard, and returning on a Thursday to put them all away again!

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Gipsy Hill Brownies

2016 was another good year for the pack. We enjoyed a day at the seaside in July when Frankie made her Brownie Promise, although it was a little cooler than hoped. Christmas was celebrated with a Christingle Service and a performance of Aladdin for parents and friends.

Chantelle (Robin) got married in May, and Kezia joined us as a new Unit Helper.

We are all looking forward to our day out in London including a visit to the Houses of Parliament, thanks to the kindness of Helen Hayes MP.

We are saying goodbye to a bunch of our older Brownies at the end of term, but five new Brownies made their promise last week so the pack is still quite full, although there are currently vacancies for 7-9 year old girls.

#### Mothers' Union Gipsy Hill Branch

The Mothers' Union branch at Christ Church was at work in 2016 in subtle ways through its members. Members participated in the life of the church as Sunday School teachers and supporters of the youth programme. Others were active in the Baptism Support programme, visiting parents in anticipation of their child's baptism and sharing ideas about raising children in the faith. As a group, the Mothers' Union contributed to the celebration of Mothering Sunday by making tags with a bible verse to put on the posies given to all ladies in church on the Sunday and with the provision of floral decorations in the church.

Together with the Mothers' Union members of All Saints', West Dulwich and friends, we shared an evening meal and viewed a programme about Alzheimer's. The presenter was a Christian doctor who, as a sufferer herself, gave sharp insights into the condition. The session was, surprisingly, upbeat; we left understanding much more about how to approach and work with sufferers.

In August, we had a picnic in Regent's Park and saw "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Outdoor Theatre.

In more personal ways, members and friends met at the start of the school year to pray by candlelight for their children and for each other, drawing on themes such as 'Seeking Wisdom and Discernment' and 'Developing a Hunger for the Things of God'. Over the years, we have seen answers to our prayers and have been much encouraged by this.

Over the year, we are asked to participate in Government consultations that affect family life. An autumn consultation concerned charges levied on claimants of child maintenance. At issue was the need to have a provision to make clear to the victims of gender violence that they have exemption from such charges.

Our last event in the year is our annual wreath making – a very enjoyable fixture in our calendar.

#### Community use of church buildings

The newly refurbished Goodliffe Hall is now even busier than ever. Team Dance continues to be our most frequent regular user, running dance classes in Tap, Ballet, Modern and Jazz for children (they have over 100 children on their books!) and one or two classes for adults in the evening. 'Slimmers' World' has continued with a new coordinator after Sophia, who opened the Goodliffe Hall branch of SW in 2015, was promoted to a regional coordinating role.

The Brownies continue to meet on Monday evenings and on Tuesday evenings the Crystal Palace Community Choir meets in the upstairs hall, following straight on from the new Zumba class in the lower hall.

Playpen takes place on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and the National Childbirth Trust continue to run occasional classes for expectant parents throughout the year.

We also have language lessons in French, Spanish and German running in the hall on a Saturday morning. Christ Victory Church uses the hall for their church services on a Sunday afternoon and during the week for bible study and to offer prayer counselling.

Aside from these regular bookings we also have local residents, police and safer neighbourhood team meetings held in the hall a few times a year and have hosted meetings for the deanery, the Diocesan Evangelical Union and for the leadership teams of Foodbank, XLP and Centre 70.

Following its renovation in 2015, we also now have a nursery running down in our Berridge Road Buildings. Alphabet Lanes nursery, with its original nursery full to capacity in West Norwood, approached us at the end of 2015 to use the hall as a day nursery and after much expectation opened its doors to its first children in Summer 2016. After anticipated teething troubles – it's hard sharing a building! - the nursery seems to have settled down well and is beginning to grow its numbers. We hope this will continue successfully both as an important community provision in this area and a reliable source of funding for our mission as a church.

#### Norwood and Brixton Foodbank

During 2016 Norwood and Brixton Foodbank celebrated five years of serving the local community. This is a statistic I had not imagined when we first opened, but, as changes continue to take place which directly affect those in poverty, the need for foodbanks continues. As we finish the year it looks as though our numbers of clients may well be up after remaining static for two years.

In our first five years we have fed in excess of 2,065 people in the Gipsy Hill area of which 743 were children, feeding over 33,000 people in total and giving away in excess of 230 tonnes food.

This Christmas week saw our busiest time to date. On 23 Dec we fed 600 people and gave away five tonnes food helped by over 80 volunteers. It was a truly staggering experience.

As we move into a new period we are looking at how we can further support those we see. Our collaborations with Centre 70 and Brixton Advice have enabled us to ensure they get all the advice they need around benefits and more. Our work with Duncan Lewis the legal team and Tomorrows People ensure we can provide referrals for support around job searches and a range of legal issues. For a short time during 2016 we had a support worker from Mosaic Clubhouse to provide signposting on mental health issues, something which was really helpful and if funding permitted we would look to restart.

We had two small grants which enabled us to run 'Eat Well, Spend Less' courses (part of our 'More Than Food' work) teaching local people to cook healthy meals on a budget. These have been very successful and we hope funding will permit us to deliver more of these courses during 2017.

So, what are our challenges and areas for prayer?

- 1 To look at our structures and ensure we work as efficiently as possible to enable us to deliver the best service we can and look to extend our work of 'More Than Food'.
- 2 To seek funding for our advice workers, we currently need over £3,000 a month to cover all sessions.
- 3 To seek funding to enable us to continue and expand our 'More Than Food' work.

- 4 To continue to provide a safe, warm space where people can find help and where the message of hope through Jesus can be shared with those open to hearing it.
- 5 To work collaboratively with others to enable us to provide additional support to those in crisis.

#### Churches together in Upper Norwood

Churches Together in Upper Norwood (CTUN) is a local fellowship of some 15 churches on both sides of the Lambeth / Croydon border.

Many of us are in some way 'ecumenical', we might be involved with XLP or with the Women's World Day of Prayer, and we are free to receive communion in non-Anglican churches if we wish to.

CTUN organises a few of its own events; regular features include "Ecumenical Prayers" on the first Wednesday of the month at 10.30 am and a very popular table-tennis club which happens every Thursday evening.

Additional highlights of the past year have included:

- Good Friday Act of Witness outside Sainsbury's to be repeated on April 14 in 2017
- Songs of Praise chosen by members of local congregations and accompanied by the full Salvation Army band
- An evening with Tom Elliott, Christian comedian, early in March 2017.

#### **Overseas Mission**

#### **Mission Group**

Our relationships with organisations with an international focus are overseen by the Mission Group. The Mission Group works with each organisation on a rolling three year basis. This gives certainty for each charity about the provision of funds for a particular period and ensures we formally review the relationship (without pressure to continue) at the end of each period. We currently support three organisations; Tearfund, the Church Missionary Society (CMS) and Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW).

- Tearfund: our main focus is on the Cambodia Hope Organisation (CHO) based in North Western Cambodia, near the Thai border. CHO tackles human trafficking, working principally through local churches. CHO provides education about human trafficking in schools, skills training, vocational training and micro-loans to help poorer families support themselves. During the year, three of the Missions Team visited the headquarters of CHO in Poipet, NW Cambodia and saw first-hand the wide range of activities organised and supported by CHO and its leader, Chomno In. They were able to visit local villages and take part in the efforts to combat the severe drought which was affecting Cambodia at that time, as well as taking two lessons at 'Schools on a Mat' and participating in Sunday worship in a local village church and at the main CHO school. The team reported back to the church at a Sunday service in the autumn.
- The Church Mission Society (CMS): we continue to support the Clouston family: Eric and Rhena, with their two children Kitty and Sam, who are based in Bangalore, India.
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW): works for religious freedom throughout the world through advocacy and human rights, in the pursuit of justice.

We want our engagement with these organisations to be proactive. The group are responsible for providing regular updates about the work of the organisations to the

congregation throughout the year, providing matters for prayer and notifying the church of any urgent needs or developments in the project or organisation

Information is also posted on the missions' notice board and every four months the Wednesday prayer meeting focuses primarily on our mission organisations.

#### Lent toilet appeal

Last year I was inspired by the work of Tearfund and their toilet twinning scheme. Toilet twinning provides people with the most basic sanitary right; a clean, safe toilet. Tearfund train locals in building and maintaining them so education on sanitation is also transferred. Churches, businesses schools and individuals can give £60 and twin their shiny white toilet with another in the developing world.

During Lent last year I challenged the church to twin all nine toilets in the church. That required raising at least £540. We set up a decorated (cleaned) toilet which people could donate in, throughout the four weeks of Lent. In that time we completely smashed our target and raised enough money to twin 12 toilets. From suggestions from the congregation we twinned the toilets with ones in Cambodia, India, Guatemala and various other countries. Go round the church and see if you can find all the plaques dedicated to those new toilets we helped to build.

This appeal also had another lasting impact; .it inspired others to also twin toilets. The colourful toilet went on tour and was taken to Susan and Anthony Dalton's school were they continued the toilet twinning mission by raising money to twin their school toilets. If anyone else is interested in twining their school or home toilet, get involved! There's a map at the back of church, and we want to cover it with twinned toilets! :)

#### Trip to China for International China Concern

In August 2016 the Croucher family (Jonathan, Yvette, Bethany, Ben, Natty and Isaac), the Gates family (Simon, Helen, Charis, Anna and Sam) and Rachel Skeath went to China to volunteer at a children's centre run by International China Concern (ICC). Two young people from St Thomas and St Stephens church and one from St Simons in North London, together with a school party of 8 teenagers and their teacher from Sheffield were also part of the group. The team went via Hong Kong to acclimatise and whilst there ran a three day English holiday camp for two local Christian schools associated with Holy Trinity cathedral.

It was then on to China, 500km by high speed 'bullet' train to the children's centre in Hengyang, Hunan Province. The children's centre is home to 140 children and young adults with a range of disabilities who for many different reasons have been abandoned and left without anyone to look after them. The children's home is a remarkable place. The residents live in groups of six to eight, living as a family with two caregivers. The centre has recently moved into a new basic, but by comparison to the previous building, spacious and airy building. The new building has many excellent facilities including class rooms, therapy rooms, a lovely play area and a swimming pool. However, resources for staff are very limited and there are not enough staff to be able to safely take full advantage of all that is available, particularly the swimming pool and play area. Our volunteer role was simply to play with the children and young adults giving them as much one to one attention as we could muster! The trip created memories that will never be forgotten, particularly seeing happiness in all guises; from outbursts of laughter, to just a flicker of the eye or a nod of the head. All credit to the dedicated staff and volunteers that work there.

The team held several different fund-raising events to raise money to support the trip including a 24 hour football match, two pop-up restaurants, cycling and running events.

ICC is a Christian development organisation whose vision is to change lives by bringing love, hope and opportunity to China's abandoned and disabled. It was founded in 1993 and exists to help the disadvantaged live life to the full. Chinese nationals predominantly manage their

projects in China with support from dedicated international volunteers, both in China and abroad (<u>www.chinaconcern.org</u>).

#### Gloria Byakatonda

The parish has been paying the university fees and support for Gloria Byakatonda as she took a degree course in business administration at the Uganda Christian University. Gloria is the orphaned niece of Peninnah Nalwanga, a member at Berridge Road, and she has no family to support her. We are so grateful for the support and prayers of members at Christ Church and Berridge Road.

We were delighted when Gloria graduated in October with an upper second class honours degree. Given the high level of youth unemployment in Uganda we thought she would have to wait months for a job, but the Ugandan army were recruiting and she grasped the opportunity and applied.

Richard Winborn visited Uganda with Peninnah in October and attended the graduation ceremony. Gloria had already begun her army training, and army rules mean that once the training (which lasts for nine months) had started, the recruits are not allowed to leave the training even for a graduation ceremony, and they are not allowed visitors. We did however meet Lieutenant Colonel Robert Ngabirano, who had interviewed Gloria and was impressed with her. He said, "She has a heart to serve." He said that with a degree Gloria could become an officer in due time, and her degree in business administration would be very useful in a lot of areas of army work. He invited us to attend the commissioning of the recruits at the end of the nine months.

Here are a few words of appreciation taken from Gloria's e-mails before she joined the army: "I thank the church for the fees, I really appreciate it. May God bless the church. I love all the church members. Thank you for asking people interested in my progress to pray for me. God bless them."

#### Sleepout in church

In December 2016 Christ Church took part in the Church Urban Fund's Sleepout to raise funds for helping marginalised people in England transform their lives.

Thirty members of the congregation took part in the event with many more sponsoring their efforts. The evening started with a 'bangers and mash' supper followed by a very atmospheric camp fire in the vicarage garden, including singing led by Johnny Crawford on guitar. The actual sleepout took place upstairs in the Goodliffe Hall with people bedding down on airbeds with their sleeping bags or duvets - some people even got some sleep, well, at least the person snoring did! We raised a staggering amount – over £1,500 was sent to CUF in the new year to support their work.

#### **Social activities**

As in previous years, Christ Church has organised a range of social activities. The newly refurbished Goodliffe Hall has made these events much easier to arrange and provides a pleasanter setting for events.

The church quiz has become a firm favourite in people's calendar and this year the next generation of Mitchenalls got involved in the entertainment. Stuart managed to find a good mix of topics, with the usual sprinkling of little known facts and, while he counted up the scores, his grandson stepped on the podium to entertain us with some impromptu jokes, delivered with impeccable timing. The whole evening was rounded up with a traditional fish 'n' chips supper.

Another favourite event was the 'Come dine with me' evening, ably organised by Yvette and Trena. The event was well attended and gave us an opportunity to meet members of the congregation we didn't know well; as well as sampling some fantastic home cooking.

On the food theme, we also had another church BBQ with slightly better weather than the previous year. Again there were generous donations of salads and puddings and a wide choice of grilled meat and vegetarian options. Beyond the food, the opportunity to chat to people at leisure was what the event was really about. Chatting with new and old friends is something that we as a congregation excel at; after all, coffee after the service can take a long time and is an opportunity to catch up with people on their news or provide encouragement for those facing difficult situations.

#### Creative Artistry Group

On the last Monday of each month in the evening, 10-15 people can be found in the vicarage sharing craft ideas, making things, drinking coffee and chatting making for a most enjoyable evening.

In the spring and summer of 2016 we made items to sell on a craft stall held alongside the plant sale in May. The main activity at that time, though, was to make finger puppets and sensory mats to be taken to China by the group who in August visited a children's centre run by International China Concern. People made six-inch squares, each different, for the children who have significant disabilities to feel and see. The squares were sewn together to make two mats.

We then met again after Christmas to think of ideas for the upcoming Vintage Fair. Members keep their eyes open for new ideas found on the internet or seen at bazaars visited.

All are welcome to join this group, expert or non-expert in craft. Come and try it out!

## **Section 2: Resources**

#### Trustees

Trustees are the elected, co-opted and ex officio members of the PCC. Trustees who served during the period up until the approval of this Trustees' report are:

Post	Name	Elected	First Elected
Vicar	Rev'd Jonathan Croucher	Appointed 17 September 2012	
Curate	Rev'd Sam Whittington	Appointed 28 June 2015	
Warden	Cynthia Krywczyk	17/4/16	2016
Warden (and reader)	Pauline Simpson	17/4/16	2007
Deanery Synod	Colin Hart	27/4/14	Pre 2000
Deanery Synod	Hugh Bain	27/4/14	2014
Deanery Synod	Anthony Merifield	27/4/14	2014
Deanery Synod	Richard Winborn	26/4/15	2015
PCC member	Rachel Skeath	17/4/16	2010
PCC member	Esther Moorey	17/4/16	2016
PCC member	Ed Hanson	17/4/16	2016
PCC member	Robert Seal	17/4/16	2016
PCC member	Eruchi Chinda	17/4/16	2016
PCC member	Cath Mitchenall	17/4/16	2016
PCC member	Richard Roberts	26/4/15	2009
PCC member	Janet Boyce	26/4/15	2015
PCC member	Bettina v. Hornhardt	26/4/15	2011
PCC member	Francis Howcutt	26/4/15	2015
PCC member	Beverley Fray	27/4/14	2014
PCC member	Sarah Griffiths	27/4/14	2011

The vicar, wardens, readers and deanery synod representatives are ex officio. Readers are not elected.

#### Office holders

Christ Church is reliant on the time and expertise given by its members and the PCC to fulfil key and statutory roles. Office holders at the end of 2016 were:

Caretaker	Gerry Telman
Electoral Roll Officer	Sue Hart
Health and Safety	Jonathan Croucher
Organist	Matthew MacGregor
Parish Administrator	Helen Williams
PCC Secretary	Cath Mitchenall
Safeguarding Officers	Jonathan Croucher, Helen Williams and Heather Peters
Treasurer	Ed Hanson

#### Leaders and volunteers

Christ Church relies on its members to lead and support our activities. This includes setting the strategic direction as well as leading a range of ministry, outreach and community activities. Leaders at the end of 2016 were:

Berridge Road Leader	Dave Scroby
Brownies	Christine Woolley
Children and Young Families Co-ordinator	Heather Peters
Churches Together in Upper Norwood	Jamie Wood
Community Action Group Leader	Cath Mitchenall
Flowers Team Leader	Patsy Easter
Home Group Co-ordinators	Rhos and Richard Roberts
Home Group Leaders	Evening groups lead by Hugh & Juliet Bain, Anthony & Pam Merifield, Pete & Esther Moorey, Ali & Rob Seal, Richard & Rhos Roberts, Elizabeth Maytom, Jodie Lomax and daytime groups led by Yvette Croucher, Ali Seal and Eric Hamilton.
Mothers' Union	Jodie Lomax
Overseas Mission Group Leader	Rhos Roberts
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator	Jonathan Croucher
Pastoral prayer team	Rhos and Richard Roberts
Playpen Leader	Helen Williams
Web Team	Matthew MacGregor, Sam Whittington, Rob Seal, Francis Howcutt and Eruchi Chinda
Youth Group Team Leader	Sarah Griffiths and Yvette Croucher

A number of teams of volunteers support the smooth running of services and other church activities co-ordinated through a termly service rota produced by Pauline Simpson. They include: the ministry team, the prayer ministry team and the music teams at Christ Church

and Berridge Road. Regular services continue to be supported by a large pool of stewards, collection counters, coffee makers, sound system operators, flower arrangers, Sunday school helpers, church working parties etc.

#### Attendance

Service attendance varies from Sunday to Sunday. For example the worshipping community at Christ Church during an average month in 2016 was approximately 113 adults (over 16 year olds) and 35 children (aged 0 to 16). Average attendance at 'Raise the Praise' was 18 adults and 18 children and average attendance at 'Inspire' was 19. Easter attendance was 223 in total (for all Easter services) with 162 communicants. Attendance at the Christmas services was 431 at all services with 161 communicants (at the midnight service and Christmas morning).

There were 3weddings (2015: 0), 8 Baptisms (2015: 3) and one thanksgiving for the birth of a child. In 2016 there were 5 funerals at Christ Church (2015:0) and 4 at crematoria.

#### **Electoral Roll**

The Electoral Roll has been revised in accordance with Church Representation Rules. Five names have been added to the Roll, and three names removed. As at 9th April 2017, there are 156 members, 50 men and 106 women. One hundred and seven members live outside the Parish.

#### Additions

Jennifer Bell	Removals
Timothy Davis	Estella Campbell
Lisia Fiske	Joyce Gill
Errol Foreman	Jill Manuel
Audrey Smart	

#### **Buildings and fabric**

Under Church of England rules, the church wardens have personal responsibility for movable furniture and ornaments and joint responsibility with the incumbent for consecrated buildings (in our case that means Christ Church, but not Berridge Road or the Goodliffe Hall). However, funding for the maintenance of these items is provided by the PCC and so these items are now reported below.

#### Buildings

Following the significant works carried out in 2014 and 2015, we were able to revert largely to pro-active maintenance across our buildings in 2016. We carried out some redecoration of the office and vestry corridor at Christ Church and Berridge Road had some final redecoration and repairs carried out in final preparation for the nursery, including the installation of a replacement fire alarm system.

At Christ Church the PCC approved improvements to our sound system and the installation of TV screens and these had all been installed by January 2017.

#### Fabric

The moveable furniture and ornaments were checked by the wardens and all are present. The Archdeacon Simon Gates visited on 11 February to review key paperwork to ensure all required processes are in place.

#### Income and expenditure

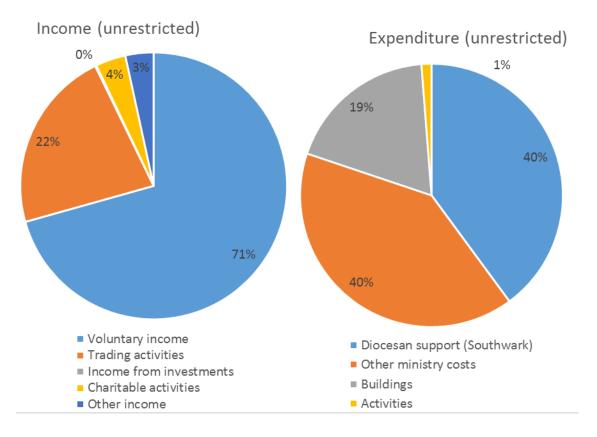
We have much to be thankful for to do with the Church's finances in 2016.

We are thankful to God for meeting so many of our needs and to the members of the congregation who have generously given their love, time and talents as well as money.

#### Unrestricted Funds

The income of £233,161 (an increase of 38,057 (20%)) exceeded expenditure of £213,055 (an increase of £32,181 (18%)), giving a surplus for the year of £20,106. The charts below show the breakdown of income and expenditure.





- The majority of this increase is due to higher Hall Lettings Income (£21,581 increase) and an insurance premiums refund (£7,975)
- The voluntary income (regular giving from the congregation) increased by 1% to £164,732. The Increase is due to higher Gift Aid income (which includes tax recovered from Weekend Away payments).
- Activities from generating funds (mainly hall hire) increased by 95% to £51,572. There has been a £21,581 increase in Lettings Income due to 'Alphabet Lanes' (£12,000), increase in 'Team Dance' income (approx. £5,000) and other general increase in usage.
- Income from charitable activities was £8,507, an increase of £3,038 from the previous year due to higher Playpen income and an increase in service fees.

- Other income of £7,975 relates to a refund of insurance premiums. We were notified in January 2017 by Ecclesiastical Insurance that we have been wrongly assessed over the last seven years and were therefore due a refund for this amount.
- Increase in Southwark Diocese support (£5,000).
- Other Ministry costs have increased from £57,626 to £85,773 in the previous year. The increase is due to
  - Ministry Assistant salary (ca £7,000). Note that this has been presented in the accounts as being funded from our Contingency Fund (i.e. savings) as agreed with the PCC.
  - Increase in Curate property rental costs (ca £9,000).
  - New AV system (ca £8,000)
- Buildings: Total cost of £39,664, compared to £41,222 in the previous year. This includes £7,170 for installing a toilet in the Vicarage annex and associated works.

#### **Restricted Funds**

The restricted income of £35,454 exceeded restricted expenditure of £25,877. The surplus relates to Grant Income and Legacies which remained unspent at the year-end. Details of the income and expenditure are provided below:

- Voluntary Income of £11,711: Includes legacy received of £5,000 and £6,711 relating to China Mission Trip, Toilet Appeal, and other specified donations.
- Income from Investments of £4,756: Relates to dividends received from the Goodliffe Endowment Fund, which funds our youth work.
- Charitable Activities of £18,987: Weekend Away payments and donations of £11,087 and Grants received of £7,900 (£2,900 for Open Door and £5,000 for Counselling Support)
- Other Ministry costs of £13,520: Spend of Open Door grant of £2,900, youth intern costs of £2,420, and special collections expenditure of £8,200 (include China Mission Trip, other specified donations etc.).
- Activities of £12,357: Weekend Away costs of £11,822 (largely covered by payments and donations) and youth expenditure of £535.

## Annex 1 - Governance and administration

#### Name

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Gipsy Hill are the trustees who administer Christ Church, Gipsy Hill. Other names of the charity are Christ Church, Christ Church Parochial Church Council and Christ Church PCC.

#### Address

Christ Church is situated on the corner of Highland Road at its junction with Gipsy Hill. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Christ Church, 1 Highland Road, London SE19 1DP.

#### Legal Status

Christ Church PCC is a registered charity under number 1133804.

#### **Governing Documents**

Christ Church PCC has two approved governing documents: The Parochial Church Council's (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

#### Appointment of Trustees

The Church Representation Rules specify the composition of Christ Church PCC who are the trustees of the charity. Christ Church PCC is made up of ministerial appointments, lay church wardens elected by the parishioners annually during April, and lay members of the PCC and Deanery Synod elected for a three year renewable term also elected during April at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, together with co-opted lay members with defined responsibilities. The chair of trustees is the incumbent for the time being and during any vacancy an elected member of the PCC. All eligible Church attendees over 16 are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to Christ Church PCC. When recruiting a new trustee, requests for nomination are published in Christ Church. When considering co-option Christ Church PCC has regard to the requirements of any specialist skills needed.

#### Aims

The primary aim of Christ Church PCC is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

#### Objectives

Christ Church PCC has the responsibility of supporting and co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the ecclesiastical parish and for continuing that work during the absence of an incumbent. The PCC has maintenance responsibilities not only for the Church building but also for the Goodliffe Hall adjacent to the Church and the Berridge Road Community Church and Gardens.

#### Supervision

Various aspects of parish life are supervised by the hierarchy of the Church of England including particularly the South Lambeth Area Dean (David Stephenson), the Archdeacon of Lambeth (Simon Gates), the Bishop of Kingston (Richard Cheetham) and the diocesan Bishop of Southwark (Christopher Chessun). Significant changes to the Christ Church

building have to be authorised by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Southwark through the faculty jurisdiction, in addition to any planning or other permissions required by law.

As a charity, the Trustees must have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The activities described in Section 1 of the Annual Report demonstrate our commitment to participating fully in the life of our local community, welcoming all comers to our worship and activities, and seeking to serve those in our community in many different ways.

#### Internal governance

At our first meeting in May, we spent time considering our main role and responsibilities as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The main priority of a PCC is to enable the church to play its part in God's mission to his world. We do this by co-operating and working with the vicar to ensure that the priorities in our mission action plan are reviewed and met, ensuring that our finances meet our needs, that our premises are maintained and improved as necessary and that we have the staff that we need to support the clergy's work.

During the year we have met six times and in addition to overseeing our finances, premises and staffing, the main issues that we have discussed in relation to our responsibilities are the continuing review of the Mission Action Plan, our service to the community through "Open Door", the newly established Environment and Social Justice Group, the improvement of our audio/visual equipment, the prayer life of the church, our plans to celebrate the church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the "Shared Conversations" about human sexuality. This has led to further discussion about how we must continue to be a welcoming church that provides pastoral support to all who worship here.

#### Lambeth South Deanery Synod

One of the main purposes of the deanery is to enable parishes with different styles of churchmanship to work together and to understand one another better. The deanery is headed by the Area Dean, Revd David Stephenson from All Saints West Dulwich while Revd Kit Gunasekera from St. James Clapham has a role to co-ordinate the mission activities of deanery churches. As part of the churches working together, deanery clergy attend clergy chapter meetings, two Confirmation Services are organized each year and occasional training days take place. A regular Deanery Prayer Diary is circulated and church members are encouraged to look up the deanery website – www.lambethsouthdeanery.org where details of all deanery activities may be found.

Deanery meeting speakers included Helen Hayes, the MP for Dulwich and West Norwood and a member of our church who spoke about how her Christian faith informed her work as an MP, giving her the ability so see the grace of God at work in the positive things that go on in the constituency; giving the hope and confidence that something can be done; and giving the realisation that we are at our best when we reveal our brokenness to one another and share in one another's problems. She also spoke abut the worsening housing crisis in London due to the shortage of affordable housing; issues about mental health, particularly the effect of social media on the mental health of young people and the effect of loneliness on the elderly; the effect of Brexit on the diverse communities in the area and the rise of intolerance.

The synod also considered the federation of two church schools attached to Deanery parishes, St Luke's West Norwood and Christ Church Streatham. The the Executive Head of Primary Schools Federation Mrs. Nicky Zeronian-Dalley she explained the ethos of the Federation – Everyone is equal and unique, all God's children are equal in his sight, talent is encouraged and developed, a high standard of behaviour and appearance is encouraged, a high academic standard is aimed for, children learn to serve God and one another, and that adults should be role models for the children.

She explained that two years ago St. Luke's school was in bad shape, the Governing body was disbanded and a selected group set up to run the school. Despite some opposition from parents the Federation was set up and steps were taken to improve the situation. Poor pupil behaviour, low staff morale and high turnover of staff had to be addressed. Good teachers were recruited and professional development arranged and a management firm worked with the school to establish 7 values. Since than there has been rapid improvement at St. Luke's with strong support from Christ Church.

Other topics of conversation included the motion following the Anglican Primates Meeting that had been offered at the previous Synod meeting for consideration and discussion by parishes.

#### Organisation of activities within the parish

#### Ministry Team – led by Jonathan Croucher

Responsible for leading and preaching and oversight of discipleship in the church.

#### Pastoral Ministry – led by Jonathan Croucher

The pastoral prayer team – meeting every six weeks to pray for pastoral needs in the church and available to pray for particular or urgent needs as they arise – led by Richard and Rhos Roberts

The pastoral visiting team – meeting every month and organising visits or support for those in particular need – coordinated by Rhos Roberts

The prayer ministry team – praying with people during or after Sunday worship - coordinated by Pauline Simpson

#### Home Group Leaders – led by Richard and Rhos Roberts

Home group leaders meet termly to plan study series, share needs and plan for the future.

#### Children, Families and Youth Ministry

Our work in this area is coordinated by different people: children and young families (Heather Peters), Youth (Yvette Croucher and Sarah Griffiths), Play Pen (Helen Williams), Mothers Union (Jodie Lomax) and Pastoral Care (Richard Roberts). This group meets occasionally to oversee and plan our work in this area.

#### Community Action Group – led by Cath Mitchenall and Pauline SImpson

The Community Action Group is responsible for our strategy for engaging with our local community. It has oversight of our Open Door programme and is responsible for our relationship with our local mission partners.

#### **Overseas Mission Group – led by Rhos and Richard Roberts**

This group is responsible for the relationships with our overseas mission organisations, with appointed 'ambassadors' to develop the relationships throughout the church (CMS – David Griffiths and Pauline Simpson; TEARFund – Rachel Skeath and Richard & Rhos Roberts; Christian Solidarity Worldwide – Tanja Krumm and John & Lynne Quanrud).

## Berridge Road Church Committee – led by David Scroby and Jonathan Croucher

The leadership team at Berridge Road, David Scroby, Richard Winborn and Nenetia Nelson met regularly, usually every six weeks, with Jonathan Croucher to discuss and plan for the

life of the church. The committee was disbanded in October, the Archdeacon commissioned our Missional Community at Berridge Road

#### **Buildings Committee**

This group reviews and commissions building management and maintenance for the church buildings. It is chaired by Tim Boyce and comprises Cynthia Krywczyk (warden), Peter Black, who leads on issues relating to the Highland Road buildings, Richard Winborn, (for Berridge Road) and Gerry Telman (Caretaker).

#### Other Needs

Other groups are formed from time to time as the need arises.

#### Statutory Responsibilities

As trustees the PCC has statutory responsibilities for safeguarding and health and safety.

The PCC has adopted the diocese's safeguarding policy 'A Safer Church'. Jonathan Croucher, Helen Williams and Heather Peters are the Safeguarding Officers who ensure that those working with children and vulnerable adults have undergone Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. All regular users of Parish buildings are required to lodge copies of their safeguarding policies with the Parish.

#### Safeguarding Report 2016

The disclosure and barring system (DBS) requires those working with children to complete an online form and provide one of the safeguarding officers with a variety of proof of identity. We have recently moved to an online system, which we hope will be a quicker and more effective way of carrying our checks. All those helping with children's work at Christ Church are asked to complete a form, and we have carried out the appropriate checks for anyone working with children. In addition to this anyone who has attended the church for less than a year, will be asked for a reference if they request to work with children.

We currently have 62 people helping out with children's work at Christ Church Gipsy Hill in a variety of groups such as Sunday school, crèche, Playpen or special services aimed at children. Out of the 62 people we have helping with children's work, 44 have current certificates, 3 need renewing and 15 need to be completed – these are all currently in progress.

If you have any safeguarding concerns please do speak to one of your parish safeguarding officers, to a churchwarden or to the vicar. You will find a copy of our safeguarding policy 'A Safe Church' on the bookcase at the back of church.

## Annex 2 – Full Financial Report

#### Approval

The custodian trustee for the Goodliffe Hall Foundation is the South London Church Fund and Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance. The Trustees approved the Financial Statements at its meeting on 13 March 2017 and the attached statements have been independently examined by Simon Lewcock, FCCA. His assessment of the accounts is at <u>Annex 4</u>.

#### Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standards FRS 102.

This is the first year that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102. No restatements were required to the balance sheets as at 1 January 2015 or 31 December 2015. The only restatement required to the net income for the year ended 31 December 2015 is the inclusion of investment gains as component of reported net income.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members. Nor do they include expenditure funded by insurance claims where the contractor was paid directly by the insurance company.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value. As is normal for parishes in the Church of England, expenditure on buildings fabric, systems and fittings is not capitalised but written off as incurred.

#### Funds

Restricted Funds are those given for a particular purpose and currently comprise the Goodliffe Endowment Youth Work Fund, the Goodliffe Hall project and various funds in respect of small specific donations that have not yet been spent.

Unrestricted Funds are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and so are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Endowment Funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained permanently and comprise the Goodliffe Endowment which was given to provide income to support youth work in the parish and so all the income derived therefrom is allocated to the Goodliffe Foundation Youth Work restricted fund.

#### Incoming and Endowments

#### Income

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Planned giving under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.
- Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised in respect of income recognised during the financial period.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantified and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

- Lettings and rental income is recognised when earned.
- Other types of income are recognised when earned.
- Dividends are accounted for when due and payable and interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

#### Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

#### Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for as it falls due. Any parish share unpaid on 31 December is provided in these financial statements as an operational (though not legal) liability is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

The activities of the church are supported by a number of volunteers. This includes ministry, administrative and other general support. No salary costs are incurred in relation to volunteers. Any out of pocket expenses incurred are reimbursed by the church.

#### Fixed Assets

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

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar or church wardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. For inalienable property there is insufficient cost information and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and the repair of movable church furnishings is written off. This includes the amounts spent in 2015 on the Goodliffe Hall redevelopment, which included repairs, refurbishment and property improvement.

#### Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

#### Liabilities

Costs incurred but not paid at the year-end are recognised as liabilities.

#### Going Concern

The PCC has assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The PCC has concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

#### Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In preparation the financial statements, the PCC has not been required to make any significant judgement or estimates

INCOMING RESOURCES	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2016 TOTAL FUNDS £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2015 TOTAL FUNDS £
Incoming resources from generatin	a funds								
Voluntary income	2(a)	164,732	11,711	-	176,443	162,730	17,359	-	180,089
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	51,572	-	-	51,572	26,391	2,322	-	28,713
Income from investments	2(c)	375	4,756	-	5,131	514	5,616	-	6,130
Charitable activities	2(d)	8,507	18,987	-	27,494	5,469	61,400	-	66,869
Other incoming resources	2(e)	7,975	-	-	7,975	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		233,161	35,454	-	268,615	195,104	86,697	-	281,801
RESOURCES EXPENDED Diocesan support (Southwark) Other ministry costs Buildings <i>Activities</i> Vicarage Goodliffe project TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	3(a) 3(b) 3(c) 3(d) 3(e) 3(f)	85,000 85,773 39,664 2,618 - - 213,055	13,520 12,357 - - <b>25,877</b>	- - - - - -	85,000 99,239 39,664 14,975 - - 238,932	80,525 57,626 41,222 1,501 - - - <b>180,874</b>	21,176 3,440 - 141,740 <b>166,356</b>	- - - - -	80,525 78,802 41,222 4,941 - 141,740 <b>347,230</b>
NET INCOME TRANSFERS		20,106	9,277	-	29,683 -	14,230 (6,522)	(79,659) 6,522	-	(65,429)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS		-	-	16,312	16,312		-	1,973	1,973
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	8	20,106	9,277	16,312	45,995	7,708	(73,137)	1,973	(63,456)
BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUAF		106,571	12,754	146,954	266,279	98,863	85,891	144,981	329,735
CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEM	BER	126,677	22,031	163,266	312,274	106,571	12,754	146,954	266,279

## Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2016

#### Balance sheet as at 31 December 2016

					2016				2015
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS
		Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	FUNDS £	Funds £	Funds	Funds	FUNDS £
FIXED ASSETS		2	2	~	2	~	~	2	2
Investments	5	-	-	163,266	163,266	-	-	146,954	146,954
CURRENT ASSETS					·				
Debtors	6	20,859	-	-	20,859	9,991	150	-	10,141
Short term deposits		64,048	-	-	64,048	63,748	-	-	63,748
Cash at Bank and in Hand		45,776	22,031	-	68,107	36,665	12,604	-	49,269
		130,683	22,031	-	153,014	110,404	12,754	-	123,158
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	7	4,006	-	-	4,006	3,833	-	-	3,833
NET CURRENT ASSETS Balances between Funds									
NET ASSETS		126,677	22,031	163,266	312,274	106,571	- 12,754	146,954	266,279
NET ASSETS		120,077	22,001	105,200	512,214	100,071	12,734	140,004	200,215
Funds as of 31	Decem	ber 2015							
FUNDS Unrestricted Funds	8								
Unrestricted Funds									
General		94,677			94,677	74,571			74,571
Buildings		12,000			12,000	12,000			12,000
Working Capital & Contingency		20,000			20,000	20,000			20,000
Restricted Funds									
Goodliffe Endowment Youth Work			10,534		10,534		8,733		8,733
Other			11,797		11,797		4,021		4,021
Endowment Funds									
Goodliffe Foundation				163,266	163,266			146,954	146,954
		126,677	22,031	163,266	312,274	106,571	12,754	146,954	266,279

## Analysis of unrestricted funds

				2016				2015
	General	Buildings	Other	Total	General	Buildings	Other	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS								
Voluntary income (donations)								
Regular income from donors	133,422	-	-	133,422	133,583	-	-	133,583
Irregular income from donors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Collections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	31,310			31,310	29,147	-	-	29,147
	164,732	-	-	164,732	162,730	-	-	162,730
Activities for generating funds								
Lettings and rental income	47,972	-	-	47,972	26,391	-	-	26,391
Events	3,600	-	-	3,600	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	51,572	-	-	51,572	26,391	-	-	26,391
Income from investments	· · · ·							
Interest	375	-	-	375	514	-	-	514
Dividends	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difficilitie	375	-	-	3750	514	-	_	514
Incoming resources from charitable								
activities								
Playgroup subscriptions	5,479	-	-	5,479	4,247	-	-	4,247
Open Door	385	-	-	385	184	-	-	184
Fees	2,643	-	-	2,643	1,038	-	-	1,038
Grant income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8,507	-	-	8,507	5,469	-	-	5,469
Other incoming resources								
Insurance claims	7,975	-	-	7,975	-	-	-	
	233,161	-	-	233,161	195,104	-	-	195,104

EXPENDITURE	General £	Buildings £	Other £	2016 Total £	General £	Building £	Other £	2015 Total £
Diocesan support (Southwark)								
Diocesan quota and fees	85,000	-	-	85,000	80,525	-	-	80,525
_	85,000	-	-	85,000	80,525	-	-	80,525
Other ministry costs	5,787	-	-	5,787				
Charitable Grants for work in the UK	10,034	-	-	10,034	4,758	-	-	4,758
Charitable Grants for work overseas	3,841	-	-	3,841	9,984	-	-	9,984
Open door	19,215	-	-	19,215	514	-	-	514
Staff costs	19,816	-	6,832	26,047	17,489	-	-	17,489
Property rental cost	764	-	-	764	10,500	-	-	10,500
Expenses reimbursed	10,828	-	-	10,828	1,777	-	-	1,777
Worship, Music & Audio	1,243	-	-	1,243	3,528	-	-	3,528
Telephone	1,695	-	-	1,695	1,369	-	-	1,369
Printing, stationery & supplies	100	-	-	100	1,243	-	-	1,243
Bank charges	3,433	-	-	3,433	3	-	-	3
Office Equipment / Photocopier	157	-	-	157	4,225	-	-	4,225
Communications	1,561	-	-	1,561	217	-	-	217
Catering & entertainment	467	-	-	467	1,519	-	-	1,519
Professional Fees	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	500
Other					-	-	-	-
_	78,941	-	6,832	85,773	57,626	-	-	57,626
Buildings								
Insurance	4,202	-	-	4,202	3,619	-	-	3,619
Utilities	11,649	-	-	11,649	10,675	-	-	10,675
Cleaning	5,746	-	-	5,746	4,423	-	-	4,423
Service contracts	1,553	-	-	1,553	1,238	-	-	1,238
Furniture	1,046	-	-	1,046	8,112	-	-	8,112
Maintenance of consecrated buildings	5,462	-	-	5,462	4,605	-	-	4,605
Other maintenance	-	-	-	-	714	-	-	714
Total recurring	29,658			29,658	33,386			33,386
Improvements to consecrated buildings	-	2,836	-	2,836	-	7,836	-	7,836
Other Improvements	7,170	-	-	7,170		-	-	-
	36,828	2,836	-	39,664	33,386	7,836	-	41,222

EXPENDITURE continued	General £	Buildings £	Other £	2016 Total £	General £	Building £	Other £	2015 Total £
Activities								
Weekend away	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Playgroup	2,618	-	-	2,618	1,501	-	-	1,501
Work with young people	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
	2,618	-	-	2,618	1,501	-	-	1,501
Vicarage								
Renovation costs	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	203,387	2,836	6,832	213,055	173,038	7,836	-	180,874
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	29,774	(2,836)	(6,832)	20,106	22,066	(7,836)	-	14,230
TRANSFERS	(9,668)	2,836	6,832	-	(14,358)	7,836	-	(6,522)
BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY	74,571	12,000	20,000	106,571	66,863	12,000	20,000	98,863
CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER	94,677	12,000	20,000	126,677	74,571	12,000	20,000	106,571

2. INCOME and ENDOWMENTS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2016 TOTAL FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2015 TOTAL FUNDS
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Voluntary income								
Regular income from donors	133,422	-	-	133,422	133,583	-	-	133,583
Irregular income from donors	-	-	-		-	5,587	-	5,587
Special Collections	-	6,711	-	6,711	-	9,854	-	9,854
Legacies	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	31,310	-	-	31,310	29,147	1,918	-	31,065
_	164,732	11,711	-	176,433	162,730	17,359	-	180,089
2(b) Activities for generating funds								
Lettings and rental income	47,972	-	-	47,972	26,391	-	-	26,391
Events	3,600	-	-	3,600	-	2,322	-	2,322
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	51,572	-	-	51,572	26,391	2,322	-	28,713
2(c) Income from investments								
Interest	375	-	-	375	514	-	-	514
Dividends	-	4,756	-	4,756	-	5,616	-	5,616
-	357	4,756	-	5,131	514	5,616	-	6,130
2(d) Incoming resources from charitable activities								
Playgroup subscriptions	5,479	-	-	5,479	4,247	-	-	4,247
Open door	385	-	-	385	184	-	-	184
Residential feels	-	11,087	-	11,087	-	-	-	-
Fees	2,643	-	-	2,643	1,038	-	-	1,038
Grant income	-	7,900	-	7,900	-	61,400	-	61,400
-	8,507	18,987	-	27,494	5,469	61,400	-	66,869
2(e) Other incoming resources								
Insurance claims	7,975	-	-	7,975				
-	7,975	-	-	7,975	-	-	-	-
=	233,161	35,454	-	268,615	195,104	86,697	-	281,801

				2016				2015
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL
3. EXPENDITURE	Funds	Funds	Funds	FUNDS	Funds	Funds	Funds	FUNDS
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Diocesan support (Southwark)								
Diocesan quota and fees	85,000	-	-	85,000	80,525	-	-	80,525
	85,000	-	-	85,000	80,525	-	-	80,525
3(b) Other ministry costs								
Charitable Grants for work in the UK	5,787	-	-	5,787	4,758	9,310	-	14,068
Charitable Grants for work overseas	10,034	-	-	10,034	9,984	-	-	9,984
Open door	3,841	2,900	-	6,741	514	3,000	-	3,514
Staff costs	26,047	2,420	-	28,467	17,489	6,947	-	24,436
Property rental costs	19,816	-	-	19,816	10,500	-	-	10,500
Expenses reimbursed	764	-	-	764	1,777	-	-	1,777
Worship, Music & Audio	10,828	-	-	10,828	3,528	-	-	3,528
Telephone	1,243	-	-	1,243	1,369	-	-	1,369
Printing, stationery & supplies	1,695	-	-	1,695	1,243	-	-	1,243
Bank charges and interest	100	-	-	100	3	-	-	3
Office Equipment / Photocopier	3,433	-	-	3,433	4,225	-	-	4,225
Communications	157	-	-	157	217	-	-	217
Catering & entertainment	1,561	-	-	1,561	1,519	-	-	1,519
Independent Examiner Fees	467	-	-	467	500	-	-	500
Special collections	-	8,200	-	8,200	-	1,919	-	1,919
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	85,773	13,520	-	99,239	57,626	21,176	-	78,802

3. EXPENDITURE continued	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2016 TOTAL FUNDS £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2015 TOTAL FUNDS £
3(c) Buildings								
Insurance	4,202	-	-	4,202	3,619	-	-	3,619
Utilities	11,649	-	-	11,649	10,675	-	-	10,675
Cleaning	5,746	-	-	5,746	4,423	-	-	4,423
Service contracts	1,553	-	-	1,553	1,238	-	-	1,238
Furniture	1,046	-	-	1,046	8,112	-	-	8,112
Maintenance of consecrated buildings	5,462	-	-	5,462	4,605	-	-	4,605
Other maintenance	-	-	-	-	714	-	-	714
Total recurring	29,658	-	-	29,658	33,386	-	-	33,386
Improvements to consecrated buildings	2,836	-	-	2,836	7,836	-	-	7,836
Other Improvements				,	-	-	-	-
·	32,494	-	-	32,494	41,222	-	-	41,222
3(e) Activities								
Weekend away	-	11,822	-	11,822	-	-	-	-
Playgroup	2,618	-	-	2,618	1,501	-	-	1,501
Work with young people	-	535	-	535	, -	3,440	-	3,440
	2,618	12,357		14,975	1,501	3,440	-	4,941
3(f) Vicarage	-	-	-	-	·,			,
Renovation costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
					-	-	-	-
3(g) Goodliffe Project	-	-	-	-				
Renovation costs	-	-	-	-	-	141,740	-	141,740
Professional Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
					-	141,740	-	141,740
	213,055	25,877		238,932	180,874	166,356	-	347,230

	2016						
4. STAFF COSTS	General	Youth Work	TOTAL	General	Youth Work	TOTAL	
	£	£	£	£		£	
Wages and salaries	26,047	2,420	28,467	16,985	3,145	20,130	
Training and other staff costs	-	-	-	504	3,802	4,306	
-	26,047	2,420	28,467	17,489	6,947	24,436	

The above costs are for three staff members who were employed during the year (2015: three). None of the trustees received any remuneration from the church.

5.

Included in the wages and salaries cost above is £23,169 (gross) paid to close family members of two Trustees of the charity. (2015: £16,300 paid to a close family member of one Trustee).

> 2015 £

144,981

146,954

1,973

5. INVESTMENTS		2016		
		£		
Goodliffe Endowment: Funds held by the South London Church Fund and Southwark Diocesan Board of	Brought forward	146,954		
Finance as Custodian Trustee for the benefit of the Parish, comprising indirect investments in stocks,	Additions	16,312		
shares and investments with a market value of	Carried forward	163,266		

				2016				2015
	Unrestricte		Endowmen		Unrestricte		Endowmen	
	d	Restricted	t	TOTAL	d	Restricted	t	TOTAL
6. DEBTORS	Funds	Funds	Funds	FUNDS	Funds	Funds	Funds	FUNDS
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income Tax recoverable	3,532	-	-	3,532	4,041	150	-	4,191
Rentals debtors	7,204	-	-	7,204	2,392	-	-	2,392
Other debtors	7,975			7,975	-	-	-	-
Prepayments	2,148	-	-	2,148	3,558	-	-	3,558
	20,859	-	-	20,859	9,991	150	-	10,141
7. LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLIN	G DUE WITHIN ON	E YEAR						
PAYE	851	-	-	851	635	-	-	635
Accruals	3,155	-	-	3,155	3,198	-	-	3,198
	4,006	-	-	4,006	3,833	-	-	3,833

	2014				2015				2016
8. FUNDS		Income	Transfers	Utilised		Income	Transfers	Utilised	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds									
General	66,863	195,104	(14,358)	(173,038)	74,571	236,930	(9,668)	(200,148)	101,685
Buildings	12,000	-	7,836	(7,836)	12,000	-	2,836	(2,836)	12,000
Working Capital and Contingency	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	-	6,832	(6,832)	20,000
	98,863	195,104	(6,522)	(180,874)	106,571	236,930	-	(209,816)	133,685
Restricted Funds									
Goodliffe Endowment Youth Work	13,504	10,616	-	(15,387)	8,733	4,756	-	(3,255)	10,234
Goodliffe Hall Project	70,753	64,465	6,522	(141,740)	-	-	-	-	-
Other	1,634	11,616	-	(9,229)	4,021	30,698	-	(22,922)	11,797
	85,891	86,697	6,522	(166,356)	12,754	35,454	-	(26,177)	22,031
Endowments	144,981	1,973	_	-	146,954	16,312	-	_	163,266
Goodliffe Foundation	144,001	1,010			1-10,004	10,012			100,200
Grand Total	329,735	283,774	-	(347,230)	266,279	284,927	-	(238,932)	312,274

#### 9. Related Party Transaction

The church rents a property to provide accommodation for the curate. The property is rented from an individual who, until September 2015, was a member of the PCC. The PCC is satisfied that the rental cost is at a market rate. The total rental cost in the year was £18,000. There were no amounts outstanding at 31 December 2016 or 31 December 2015. The church also funded related property expenditure of £1,816. Related costs in 2015 amounted to £ 10,500.

Total identifiable donations made by PCC members to the church were £54,095 (2015: £ 52,250)

Certain Trustees incur small out of pocket expenses in relation to church activities, which are reimbursed in full.

## Annex 3 – Financial Policies

#### Financial controls

The financial controls are intended to ensure that the parish's funds are protected by requiring an appropriate segregation of duties.

All cash received during each Sunday service is counted and recorded by two individuals and then banked by a separate third person before being entered into the accounting records by the parish administrator.

The posting of all payments into the accounting system is made by the parish administrator, who is not authorised to sign cheques. This is a key control in that the person responsible for the accounting records is separate from those persons authorised to sign cheques. Before posting any payments into the accounting records, the administrator requires appropriate support (typically an invoice and explanation).

All payments are by cheque, direct debit or standing order and require two authorised signatures. Signatories are currently the vicar, churchwardens and the treasurer.

The following controls are operating before expenditure can be incurred. The administrator generally and individual leadership team members in their own particular areas of responsibility may authorise items up to £250. Orders over £250 but below £1,000 require the prior approval of the treasurer (or in his absence one of the churchwardens). Orders over £1,000 require the prior approval of a majority of the standing committee, as evidenced by email. The standing committee can approve expenditure of up to £ 2,000 plus VAT.

#### Financial reserves

It is a requirement of trustees of a registered charity that they adopt a policy on the maintenance of reserves. This is normally expressed in terms of an amount sufficient to fund normal activities in the event that income ceases or the organisation has to be wound up. The intention is to provide sufficient time for the trustees to take appropriate action to remedy the situation. The following policy was adopted by the PCC at its meeting on 19 April 2015 and applies to the 2014 accounts:

The balance shall be at any time the greater of:

The best current estimate of one year's accommodation costs for a curate (when a curate is in place or anticipated to arrive within the next 12 months); and

The combined total of the budget contingency; and the difference between the best current estimates of pledged giving and recurring expenditure for the succeeding quarter.

#### Investment policy

The only investments owned relate to the Goodliffe Foundation and are held on behalf of the PCC by the South London Church Fund and Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance as Custodian Trustee. Their role is as "bare trustee" meaning that the administration of the funds including decisions to buy and sell rests with the PCC.

Some years ago, all the funds were invested in the Church of England Central Board of Finance Investment Fund whose stated investment objective is:

"to generate capital appreciation, high and rising income and a long term total return in excess of its benchmark, whilst adopting an appropriate ethical investment policy. It invests mainly in equities in the United Kingdom and overseas but may also invest in fixed interest securities and commercial property. In this way, it aims to be suitable for up to 100% of a church trust's long-term capital."

## Annex 4 – Independent examiner's assessment

#### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

#### To the Parochial Church Council of Christ Church, Gipsy Hill

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2016 is in respect of an examination carried out under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations) and the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed. The church's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the 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 PCC 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 examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and which comply with the

requirements of the 2011 Act, as also contained in the Regulations, have not been met; or (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

S.A. Lewcock FCCA Windsor Lodge Millfield Road Hounslow Middlesex TW4 5PN

24 February 2017