



St. Mary & St. Margaret's and St. Cuthbert's

**ST MARY & ST MARGARET'S – PARISH CHURCH
ST CUTHBERT'S – DAUGHTER CHURCH**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENT
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

For the year ended 31st December 2017

Incumbent

Revd Canon Simon Stokes
The Vicarage
2 Wroxham Road
Sprowston
Norwich
NR7 8TZ

Lay Vice-Chairman

Mrs Sheila Tuffield
25 Allens Avenue
Sprowston
Norwich

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
Aylsham Road
Norwich

Independent Examiner

SUSAN KEMP FCA
Independent Examiner
100 Welsford Road
Norwich, NR4 6QH

THE PARISH OF SPROWSTON WITH BEESTON ST ANDREW

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

BACKGROUND

The Parochial Church Council of Sprowston with Beeston St Andrew has the responsibility of co-operating with the staff team, in the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility for maintaining the Parish Church dedicated to St Mary and St Margaret, Church Lane, Sprowston, the daughter church dedicated to St Cuthbert, with associated annexe and Church Centre, Wroxham Road, Sprowston and the churchyard extension at the Parish Church.

MISSION STATEMENT

We aim as a church;

- To worship God
- To love and care for each other
- To share faith in Christ
- To make a difference to life in Sprowston, the world and the planet

CHARITABLE STATUS

The Parochial Church Council for the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sprowston with Beeston St Andrew (Sprowston PCC) was registered with the Charity Commission on 28th September 2012.

Registered charity number: 1149140

**SPROWSTON with BEESTON ST ANDREW PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL
2017/18**

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Elected members serve for three years.

CLERGY

The Revd Canon Simon Stokes	The Vicarage, 2 Wroxham Road, Sprowston	426492
The Revd Dean Akrell	Newlands, 15 Blue Boar Lane, Sprowston	482360
The Revd Melanie Hider	10 Brian Avenue, Norwich	622373
The Revd Philip Harvey (Curate)	62 Avocet Rise, Sprowston	948222
Student Minister (Ordinand) Andrew Bunter		07425154454

READERS

Mr Andy Hudson	12 Blithemeadow Drive, Sprowston	400866
Mrs Stephanie Grand	4 Blakes Court, Norwich	488985

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Susan Ellingham		416144
Mrs Sheila Tuffield	25 Allens Avenue, Sprowston	419896

Deanery Synod Members (Retire 2019)

Mr Robert Huntly	7 Clabon First Close, Norwich	400902
Mrs Sheila Tuffield	25 Allens Avenue, Sprowston	419896
Mary Carpenter		

Elected Council Members

(Retire 2018)

Mrs Denise Jermy
Mrs Lyndsey Leeder
Mr Edward Stanley

(Retire 2019)

Mrs Tracy Maundrell
Sheila Martin
Christine Martin
Mr Bryan Carpenter

(Retire 2020)

Mrs June Stanforth
Mrs Amanda Hunt (Treasurer)
Ms Louise Oliver
Miss Mary Stokes

Vicar's Report 2017

March 2018

In preparing to write this report I read last years and was tempted just to copy it as it says all I want to say again - primarily **thank you** to each of you for your help and support and to celebrate all that has happened during the year.

In Matthew's Gospel chapter 6v33 we read,
"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

As I reflect on these words of Jesus, as he was encouraging his hearers not to worry, my thoughts turn to the importance of prayer and how I would like to encourage the Church to commit to a greater focus on prayer this coming year.

I found these words from Psalm 5 verse 3 helpful,

"In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

The psalmist who penned Psalm 5:3 models the attitude we should have when we pray—that of eager expectation. We should believe God will answer our prayers and diligently watch for his hand at work. The psalmist also shows us that when we pray early in the day, we have the rest of the day to anticipate God's answer.

I wonder whether, as we strive to know what God's will for Sprowston is, we could encourage members of the congregation to join the team in prayer. We regularly meet at St. Cuthbert's each weekday at 8.30 in the morning and 5.15 in the evening.

As I encourage you join us I also want to thank you all for all you have done this year. We have achieved a great deal and miraculously have again broken even financially. At the risk of repeating myself I must again warn that the year ahead will be tough, particularly as we seem to have water ingress in the buildings so work will need to be done this year.

I must admit that it is easy to become focused on the wrong things or even the things that go wrong so I am encouraging us all to seek first the kingdom which I believe is through us all spending more time in prayer and bible study.

This year we have welcomed Rev'd Philip to the team as Curate. We look forward to his Priesting on 1 July. This time last year we were about to launch the 'Filling Station' ministry and, a year on, we can report this has been successful, even if it has not quite reached the group of people we had hoped. As you know, we are about to launch an interesting project at the car boot in Sprowston.

Each of you is a marvel and a wonder and I rejoice in God calling Christine and I to serve alongside you. As we embark on a year of more prayer I do want to stress not only how important this is, but to encourage all of you that you all make a difference and the prayers from each of us is honoured by God. Thank you to the PCC, our wonderful wardens Sheila and Sue, to those who clean and those who make coffee and those who lead preach intercede, read and provide the music. The list goes on so it is simpler and safer to thank you **all**.

Each one of us is important to the kingdom of heaven here in Sprowston – let's make Christ known in our community.

With love and prayers

Canon Simon Stokes

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2017

The PCC met six times during the year for evening meetings and the Standing Committee met in between these meetings. The various sub committees – Site, Children Youth & Family, Social, Fundraising and Communications – met regularly during the year reporting to the PCC as well as being asked to do certain things by the PCC.

The clergy staff team of Canon Simon, Revd Dean, Revd Melanie and student minister Andy Bunter was further boosted by the arrival of Revd Phillip, our Curate. Amongst other things the Filling Station group continues to meet at Sprowston Hall, there have been Exploring Christianity courses running in conjunction with Sprowston Churches Together and work with SYEP is progressing well, plus we will shortly have a regular presence at the Sprowston Car Boot Sale. Andy has now been accepted as a Pioneer Trainee Minister. Ashley Williams has begun Lay Reader training.

Improvement and updating of our website and parish magazine continue, with our Communications group always looking to expand and improve on the ways we promote the parish in general along with events and services.

The church finances ended in the black (just) despite a difficult year. This was due to much prayer and hard work by many and our thanks to you all, especially Amanda Hunt for her work as Treasurer. We have again had to set a deficit budget and with the urgent repairs required to both St Mary and St Margaret's roof and St Cuthbert's roof we need your prayers and any help you can offer in order to fulfil our commitments this year.

Fire Risk Assessments have taken place at each church and some alterations made following recommendations. The main heater in the Annexe has had to be replaced & asbestos removed at same time. A meeting/gathering area has been created quite simply at SM & SM and has received good feedback. There are various other plans to improve areas at each church, but obviously running repairs take priority. The new Fundraising Committee is working on obtaining large grants for repairs & future projects, but it can be quite a long process from initial application to receiving any monies.

There has been training held for those who welcome people on a Sunday, along with awareness of duties in the event of any emergency. Updates in safeguarding and data protection have been discussed and implications accepted. All PCC members will be DBS checked and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) will require rethinking in a number of areas including new forms for making contact with people, holding information and using photos and details.

The bore hole next to the church we support in India has been completed and is in use – the community there are very grateful.

The Messy Church events have been expanded to include a Messy Harvest which went very well last autumn. Although it would be nice to offer Messy Church monthly we are not ready to do that presently.

Possible parish boundary changes have been proposed by the Diocese which were discussed at length and a reply sent explaining that we are unhappy about the majority of the changes to Sprowston parish. We await further developments about this.

A Lindisfarne Pilgrimage has been organised and booked to take place at the end of this summer, which will involve visiting various places relating to St Cuthbert. We plan to share thoughts and pictures with the congregations afterwards.

Mary Carpenter (PCC Secretary)

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT 2017

February 2018

Simon McFarlane, our longstanding church warden, stood down at the annual meeting in April 2017 and we would like to begin by paying tribute to Simon, and to Jane, for their contribution to the life of our churches. We hope that they will enjoy their "retirement" in north Norfolk and we look forward to them joining us as and when possible in the future. Sue Ellingham was elected to serve alongside Sheila but could not officially start her role until licensed at the Cathedral in June. Sue is extremely grateful to Sheila, Canon Simon and the clergy and lay team, Julie Hagan-Palmer, all PCC members and the congregations for their continued support and guidance as she has begun learning about the myriad complexities of the warden role.

During 2017, we have begun to address many pressing issues identified in the quinquennial reports (St Cuthbert's 2016 and St Mary and St Margaret's 2015) on both churches. Whilst the general fabric of both buildings remains in a generally reasonable state of repair, substantial work will be required as a matter of urgency to maintain the buildings for their longer term future. We have prioritised as the starting point, major work required on both roofs, alongside the need for a new heating system at St Mary and St Margaret's. To address these repairs, we will need to raise very large sums of money, likely to be in excess of £100,000 before moving on to other identified needs. Consequently, we have set up a grants and fundraising committee and you will be hearing much more about this as 2018 progresses.

The day to day maintenance of both churches complexes remains the responsibility of the site committee who continue to deal with problems as they arise. During 2017, an asbestos survey and testing where necessary was completed on both churches. This is to be used whenever any work is considered at either site so that the presence and location of any asbestos is taken fully into account by contractors or church volunteers.

We are also required to present and report on the Terrier, Inventory and Log Book for both churches. These are kept in the church office and are available to be seen by any member of the congregation upon request. Our sacristans ensure that our silverware and ornaments remain in excellent condition. We would like to place on record our thanks to Pauline Richards at St Cuthbert's Church for her hard work in maintaining these items. At St Mary and St Margaret's, Liz Marsden retired as sacristan part way through 2017 and Tony Ashley-Griffiths has stepped up to replace her. Our thanks to both Liz and Tony, not only for caring for our silver and ornaments there but for working together to enable a seamless transition of responsibilities.

Bishop Graham undertook his 4 yearly visitation to the parish in 2017 which included being able to join us at a combined service followed by lunch. As well as speaking with members of the congregation, he held a formal meeting with wardens, readers and others with official duties, probing and astutely challenging us on our mission and vision for the parish in coming years. With the development of the Northern Distributor Road, changes are inevitable as housing and commercial developments continue to grow towards this new road. After these meetings, he spent time with Canon Simon and the rest of the clergy. We were very pleased to receive a positive assessment from him after his visit.

May 2018 will see the introduction of new data protection regulations, already commonly referred to as GDPR. These regulations apply to all organisations and have required us to undertake an audit of all personal data held within the church. Where necessary, we will need to be able to evidence that we have explicit consent for the data we hold and how we use it. Therefore, in line with guidance from the Church of England, the churchwardens and PCC have decided to ask everyone to sign a new data consent form. We hope that you will feel able to support us and Canon Simon by completing and returning any consent requests as quickly as possible.

Looking after both churches, attached land and buildings and all of the contents, as well as welcoming everyone who enters our churches, is not down to just the wardens, PCC and clergy teams. We would once again like to thank everyone who help to ensure that things run smoothly, from those who open and close the buildings, steward at services or act as vergers, arrange flowers or provide music, organise refreshments, who do cleaning or gardening, run events, contribute to the magazine, visit the sick, bereaved or those in need, to those who answer the calls for help, notice when someone isn't at their best, and just get on with things.

Finally, thank you for your support to us as we continue to serve you and the parish to the best of our ability.

Sheila Tuffield and Sue Ellingham
Churchwardens.

Treasurer's Report for the 2017 PCC Accounts

It has been a tough year but we managed to meet all the day to day outgoings with a small surplus. This included payment of the requested Parish Share in full. Some essential maintenance has been carried out on the buildings but we know more substantial work is required and the fundraising efforts will need to be stepped up.

Once again thank you to all who have contributed in any way towards the finances of the parish through regular giving, helping to fundraise, organise events, assisting at coffee mornings, fetes and fairs which all have their impact on the finances. We cannot do this without your support. Thank you to everybody for the hard work that goes on and please pray that we can continue to meet the ongoing financial challenge.

Amanda Hunt
PCC Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SPROWSTON WITH BEESTON ST ANDREW

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Receipts and Payments Account, the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to 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 charity 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 examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

6 April 2018


SUSAN KEMP FCA

Independent Examiner

100 Welsford Road, Norwich, NR4 6QH

Sprowston PCC

Registered Charity number 1149140

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Receipts							
Voluntary receipts:							
Collections at services	3	8,981	-	814	-	9,795	11,457
Planned giving	3	36,854	-	-	-	36,854	32,821
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3	7,367	-	976	-	8,343	13,980
Gift Aid recovered	3	11,087	-	108	-	11,195	10,967
		64,289	-	1,898	-	66,187	69,225
Activities for generating funds	3	4,710	-	1,566	-	6,276	5,022
Investment income	3	-	-	174	-	174	301
Church activities	3	38,293	-	28,735	-	67,028	67,934
Other income	3	6,258	-	7,019	-	13,277	6,562
Total receipts		113,550	-	39,392	-	152,942	149,044
Payments							
Church activities:							
Mission giving and donations	4	4,622	-	2,225	-	6,847	5,744
Parish share		54,000	-	-	-	54,000	52,750
Assigned fee paid to diocese		18,052	-	-	-	18,052	17,464
Clergy and staffing costs	4	13,628	-	-	-	13,628	12,634
Administration Costs	4	4,277	-	229	-	4,506	2,567
Church expenses:							
Church running expenses	4	9,970	-	628	-	10,598	10,311
Costs of trading	4	5,808	-	25,333	-	31,141	25,862
Major capital expenditure	4	2,087	-	7,026	-	9,113	17,882
Other expenditure	4	1,098	-	1,055	-	2,153	559
		113,542	-	36,496	-	150,038	145,773
Cost of generating funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments		113,542	-	36,496	-	150,038	145,773
Excess of receipts over payments		8	-	2,896	-	2,904	3,271
Transfers between funds							
		-	-	-	-	-	-
		8	-	2,896	-	2,904	3,271
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		17,692	-	57,724	-	75,416	72,145
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		17,700	-	60,620	-	78,320	75,416

Sprowston PCC

Registered Charity number 1149140

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Note	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2017	Total 2016
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds						
Petty Cash	1	-	-	-	1	1
Barclays Current Bank Accounts:						
Sprowston P C C Account	14,775	-	7,130	-	21,905	20,142
St Cuthbert's Church Centre Account	-	-	18,573	-	18,573	18,212
Sprowston Church Fees Accounts	2,924	-	-	-	2,924	2,318
					-	
Virgin Money Deposit Account	-	-	34,917	-	34,917	34,743
		-		-		
	17,700	-	60,620	-	78,320	75,416
Liabilities						
Wedding deposits					(2,450)	(1,850)

Signed on behalf of all the trustees:

Mrs Amanda Hunt

Treasurer

Date: 06 April 2017

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

2. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

Restricted	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal c/fwd
Barclays Current Bank Accounts:	£	£	£	£	£
Fabric Fund St Mary & Margaret	-	2,751	-	(1,453)	1,298
Ruth Willis Legacy	2,154	-	203	1,453	3,404
St Cuthberts Church	870	50	628	-	292
Hope In Action	574	135	181	-	528
Flower Fund	578	175	-	-	753
India	593	1,687	2,225	-	55
Pilgrimage 2018	-	1,700	900	-	800
St Cuthbert's Church Centre (sep A/c)	18,212	32,720	32,359	-	18,573
Virgin Money Deposit Account:					
Fabric Fund St Mary & Margaret	11,688	66		1,453	13,207
Ruth Willis Legacy	1,453	-		(1,453)	-
Lowry Cole	19,792	99			19,891
Metcalfs Grave Bequest	1,810	9			1,819
	57,724	39,392	36,496	-	60,620

Fabric Fund St Mary & Margaret - Funds specifically for use at St Mary and St Margaret Church

Ruth Willis Legacy - Restricted for use at the discretion of the Vicar and Churchwardens

St Cuthberts Church - Funds specifically for use at St Cuthberts Church

Hope In Action - Grant Money and money specifically raised for Hope in Action House in Sprowston

Flower Fund - Funds given for flowers and other church decorations

India - Funds for the support of a Church in India

Pilgrimage 2018 - Holy Island Pilgrimage planned for August 2018 (Participants deposits)

St Cuthbert's Church Centre (sep A/c) - St Cuthberts Church Hall and Annex Trading Account

Lowry Cole- Restricted for use at absolute discretion of the PCC

Metcalfs Grave Bequest - For the upkeep of the Metcalfs Grave (PCC may retain 40% of interest)

Sprowston PCC

Registered Charity number 1149140

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Notes (Continued)

3. Receipts

	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
<u>COLLECTIONS AT SERVICES</u>						
Sunday Collections	5,064	-	-	-	5,064	5,608
Sunday Collections - Gift Aided	365	-	-	-	365	300
Weekday Collections	440	-	-	-	440	341
Weekday Collections - Gift Aided	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wedding and Funeral Collections	606	-	814	-	1,420	2,552
Wedding and Funeral Collections - Gift Aided	5	-	-	-	5	-
Baptism & Other Services	1,675	-	-	-	1,675	1,359
Baptism & Other Services - Gift Aided	826	-	-	-	826	1,297
	8,981	-	814	-	9,795	11,457
<u>PLANNED GIVING</u>						
Standing Order	18,334	-	-	-	18,334	13,497
Regular Giving Envelopes	18,520	-	-	-	18,520	19,324
	36,854	-	-	-	36,854	32,821
<u>ALL OTHER GIVING/VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS</u>						
Donations	3,937	-	976	-	4,913	6,669
Gift Days	2,510	-	-	-	2,510	-
Donations - Gift Aided	310	-	-	-	310	6,610
Wall Boxes	610	-	-	-	610	701
	7,367	-	976	-	8,343	13,980
<u>GIFT AID RECOVERED</u>						
Gift Aid Reclaim	11,087	-	108	-	11,195	10,967
	11,087	-	108	-	11,195	10,967
<u>ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS</u>						
Churches Together Bike Ride	-	-	29	-	29	-
Other Fundraising	1,680	-	1,537	-	3,217	2,411
Fetes & Fairs	3,030	-	-	-	3,030	2,611
	4,710	-	1,566	-	6,276	5,022
<u>INVESTMENT INCOME</u>						
Dividends and Interest	-	-	174	-	174	301
	-	-	174	-	174	301
<u>CHURCH ACTIVITIES</u>						
Fees - Statutory	28,356	-	-	-	28,356	32,385
Fees - Additional	3,838	-	-	-	3,838	1,279
Net receipt of wedding deposits	600	-	-	-	600	-
Magazine	5,499	-	-	-	5,499	7,286
St Cuthberts Centre & Annex	-	-	28,735	-	28,735	26,984
	38,293	-	28,735	-	67,028	67,934
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>						
Charities & Hardship Fund	4,508	-	-	-	4,508	3,656
Other	750	-	3,985	-	4,735	313
India	-	-	1,334	-	1,334	2,593
Sprowston Churches Together	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
2018 Pilgrimage	-	-	1,700	-	1,700	-
	6,258	-	7,019	-	13,277	6,562

Sprowston PCC

Registered Charity number 1149140

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Notes (Continued)

4. Payments

	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
<u>MISSION GIVING AND DONATIONS</u>						
Charities & Hardship Fund	4,622	-	-	-	4,622	3,744
India	-	-	2,225	-	2,225	2,000
	4,622	-	2,225	-	6,847	5,744
<u>CLERGY AND STAFFING COSTS</u>						
Administrator Parish/Benefice	1,348	-	-	-	1,348	1,366
Clergy Expenses	7,610	-	-	-	7,610	7,108
Organist	4,200	-	-	-	4,200	3,730
Clerk and vergers fees	470	-	-	-	470	430
	13,628	-	-	-	13,628	12,634
<u>ADMINISTRATION COSTS</u>						
Support Costs	562	-	181	-	743	745
Printing Stationery & computer	3,715	-	48	-	3,763	1,822
	4,277	-	229	-	4,506	2,567
<u>CHURCH RUNNING EXPENSES</u>						
Cleaning	1,040	-	-	-	1,040	975
Insurance	3,961	-	-	-	3,961	3,914
Service Costs	866	-	628	-	1,494	1,313
Maintenance	1,153	-	-	-	1,153	742
Centre Recharge Church share of costs	(85)	-	-	- (85)	(85)	1,572
Electricity & Oil	1,952	-	-	-	1,952	1,011
Independent examination cost	475	-	-	-	475	475
Maintenance/utility (Parish Room)	608	-	-	-	608	309
	9,970	-	628	-	10,598	10,311
<u>COSTS OF TRADING</u>						
Magazine	5,808	-	-	-	5,808	6,597
Hall Running Costs	-	-	25,333	-	25,333	19,265
	5,808	-	25,333	-	31,141	25,862
<u>MAJOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>						
Church - Major repairs and Redecorations	2,087	-	-	-	2,087	17,882
Hall/Other Buildings - Major Repairs and Redec	-	-	7,026	-	7,026	-
	2,087	-	7,026	-	9,113	17,882
<u>OTHER EXPENDITURE</u>						
Other	98	-	155	-	253	559
Sprowston Churches Together	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
2018 Pilgrimage	-	-	900	-	900	-
	1,098	-	1,055	-	2,153	559

Stewardship and Gift Aid Report

During 2017, 46 donors gave via the Stewardship envelope scheme (the same number as in 2016), and 23 by Standing Order (up from 21 in 2016). This includes 4 who used both methods (as in 2016). Stewardship Renewal Sunday in September 2017 resulted in 41 responses (45 in 2016).

We again benefited from the "Gift Aid Small Donations" scheme (GASD), which enables charities to claim the equivalent of a tax refund in respect of cash donations that are not made under "Gift Aid" arrangements. For the year beginning 6th April 2016 the maximum amount claimable under GASD rose from £1,250 to £2,000 for each church building (though the level of our donation income did not qualify us to receive the full amount).

We continue to be grateful to those who do donate under "Gift Aid" arrangements (42 in 2017, from 43 in 2016) under which a refund of the tax which they have already paid can be claimed by the Church. This continues to be worthwhile, as it means the Church benefits from amounts that would not fall within the GASD arrangements already mentioned. These include payments of more than £20 on one occasion, or amounts paid via cheque or Standing Order.

Thank you.

Robert Huntly

COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

Most of the practical work of the PCC is carried out by small teams. They have some devolved responsibility but where wider policy issues are involved or more than routine expenditure is involved, they bring proposals to a meeting of the PCC. The teams are able to co-opt any member of the church who wishes to be involved in a specific sphere of work.

Site Management Committees – St Cuthbert's and St Mary & St Margaret's

Members of these committees take on the responsibility of ensuring the day to day maintenance of the church buildings. This also involves monitoring health and safety and ensuring access for people with disabilities.

The team prepares proposals for larger scale maintenance and for developing our buildings as more effective tools for mission.

St Cuthbert's site committee incorporates responsibilities for the Church Centre and Annexe.

Children, Youth and Family Team

This team brings together those who are concerned for, or working with, children and young people in church. It aims to make the church more inclusive of younger people and families.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law and meets before PCC meetings to set the agenda. It has the power, when necessary, to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

This committee works with the Treasurer to monitor income and expenditure, budgeting, preparing the annual accounts and report for the Annual Parochial Church meeting and with the staff team to ensure regular teaching about Christian giving.

The Standing Committee consists of Reverend Canon Simon Stokes, Reverend Melanie Hider, churchwardens, treasurer, secretary and two other members of the PCC (Robert Huntly and Bryan Carpenter).

TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

NORWICH NORTH DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Synod met three times, gathering at a different church in the Deanery each time. All Deanery clergy can attend meetings and each parish has elected Deanery Synod representatives who attend. The Deanery Synod discusses issues from Diocesan and General Synods as well as choosing relevant subjects to look at. Representatives then report back to their PCCs and seek views on certain matters.

We had a presentation on Work with refugees and asylum seekers by Carrie Sante. We learned that Norwich is a dispersal city for asylum seekers with support in place to help people integrate, find somewhere to live and make proper application to stay. In 2016 there were 91 new asylum seekers who arrived in Norwich. Several different agencies are involved – City Saints, City Reach Health Services, New Routes, English Plus, Bridge Plus, and House to Home. It is important to remember that refugees and asylum seekers are not just poor people, they are often educated people who have had to move away from their homes and countries at very short notice. It is best to go through an organisation to get help for someone rather than to try and help someone on your own.

Social Media - A largely positive discussion that recognised that many younger people look to social media as a key means of communication. Although it was not exclusively the province of the younger members, the challenge was to “bridge this gap” and understand how the inspiring work of the church could be broadcast to a wider audience.

The parishes were encouraged to share examples of their experiences of using social media, eg websites, Facebook, Twitter, etc. This provoked a useful discussion over what worked well and how much time and effort might be involved and the best methods to use.

Same sex relationships and marriages - In a nut shell the current position is that we accept civil partnerships for clergy and laity but clergy partnerships Must be celibate. Clergy can bless a relationship between 2 people of the opposite sex, but can't bless a relationship between 2 people of the same sex. A number of people from the gay community no longer attend church because of the response they have had within the church. A lot of the way we think about sexual ethics comes from the middle ages and Thomas Aquinas. Rejection is hard whatever that rejection is/involves & we shouldn't reject love within the church. We are all blessed every Sunday so rules for blessing a relationship seem odd. It is important to be informed in our thinking and our praying.

A Deanery Pilgrimage Day with Bishop Jonathan was organised in September. A number of people from the Deanery accompanied the Bishop as he visited a variety of different sites, offering prayers and being a witness to the public.

A Deanery Handbook has been produced plus each meeting we have a “Who's Who” section when we hear a personal resume from a member of the clergy and a member of the lay representatives, which is helping us to know each other better.

Mary Carpenter

JOINT SITE COMMITTEE

Early in 2017 the Site committees for the two church sites re-combined, and now hold a joint meeting each month to deal with matters relating to the maintenance, repair and management of our premises. Additionally, during 2017, monitoring of the progress of the Parish Church Development plan has been incorporated under this committee.

Following the Fire Inspection of both sites, a joint meeting for stewards/welcomers was held to highlight fire and evacuation procedures and precautions at both churches.

In 2017 Jerry Duncombe, the Annexe cleaner and site gardener for many years, retired due to ill-health (and sadly has subsequently died).

St. Mary & St. Margaret's

items dealt with during 2017/18 included:

- An asbestos survey of the site identified 4 items, 3 of them requiring attention.
- Floor deterioration in the kitchen/toilet extension led to installation of ventilation grilles to alleviate dampness.
- Installation of a bench (donated in memory of John and Joan Lindsay) in the Churchyard, incorporating re-burial of the old font remnants beneath.
- Adaptation of part of the north aisle to form a hospitality area.

Matters currently under consideration (as at March 2018) include:

- Installation of a galley kitchen at the west end of the north aisle, to enable the present kitchen to become a meeting room.
- Improvement and addition to Churchyard pathways.
- Roof and guttering repairs, arising from the Quinquennial Inspection.
- Consideration of long term improvements to the heating system.

St. Cuthbert's Site

items dealt with during 2017/18 included:

- Adapting two fire exit doors leading from church into corridor, and fitting an additional emergency exit light, following the Fire Inspection.
- Updating of Conditions of Hire, following Quinquennial and Fire reports.
- Security of the gallery, following the theft of radio microphone equipment.
- Replacement of the Annexe gas heater (through insurance claim), following an asbestos survey which identified 7 items, 2 of them requiring attention.
- Remedial work to the Annexe electrical supply, following a power failure.
- Replacement of the Centre kitchen wall-boiler, courtesy of Sprowston Daycentre.
- Repair of the roof gulley between the St. Cuthbert's and Centre roofs.
- Redecoration of the former "Snug", thanks to Dennis Chettleborough.
- Redecoration of the Annexe, thanks to Andy Bunter (SYEP) and helpers.

Matters currently under consideration (as at March 2018) include:

- Extending the fire alarm system to cover the whole site.
- Roof repairs as highlighted by the Quinquennial Report.
- Refurbishment of Centre kitchen.
- Improvements to the grounds.

NB: The committee works in conjunction with the Grant-finding team, as external funding will be necessary for much of the work under consideration.

ANNEXE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

This group continues to meet to progress plans for improvement of the Annexe, as detailed in last year's report. The items identified as "first priority" for attention are currently:

- The deteriorated eastern boundary fence, and grassed area.
- Improved (ramp) access to the former "Snug" outer door, in anticipation that this will become the new entrance to the Annexe (the old entrance lobby then becoming a cupboard space).
- Toilet area to be refurbished and adapted for disabled accessibility, in accordance with the requirements of current Building Regulations etc.

(NB: Funding for this project also is dependent sourcing appropriate grants etc.)

Robert Huntly

Funding Committee

The funding committee has been created in order to allow a body of people to specifically concentrate on the task of applying for money. With increasing needs around the Church buildings and with the increasing commitment to exploring new ways of doing ministry it is great to have a body committed to finding funding for these objectives.

The group so far have met to discuss their remit and to manage the expectations of the group around what they can and can't do. Upon reflections it is a welcome opportunity to, on behalf and in agreement with the PCC, submit applications for funding to cover our objectives.

The group has reviewed the quinquennial report for Sprowston Parish and from that document and a consultation with the Church architect have created a job description for the immediate works that need doing to St Cuthbert's and St Mary's and Margaret's Churches. Having received quotes we are now in the process of sifting through the possible places where we can apply for funding and creating the applications.

This group would like to thank the PCC for giving them the room to explore funding opportunities and are looking forward to creating our applications and exploring the possibility of obtaining funding for our Church.

Funding isn't going to replace people's contributions through giving and any funding received will go along side the faithful giving of people in our Church to concurrently support our Church life and missional aims.

We would ask for you prayers specifically for guidance on which applications to submit, for bravery in going for them and for God's grace and guidance through the awarding of grants, or not as God would will it.

Andy Bunter – Student Minister

The Friends of St Mary & St Margaret Church, Sprowston

The Friends of St Mary & St Margaret, a sub-committee of the PCC, was formed in 2015 to preserve, maintain and enhance the church and to raise funds to enable this to occur. The idea of setting up a "Friends" group was twofold. To gain additional help with the general maintenance of the church and to raise funds for the upkeep of the ancient building which is well used and appreciated by many in the community who do not normally contribute regularly.

Unfortunately, the response was small and we have gained no new members over the last year despite leaflets being available in the church. It would be much appreciated if someone with time and energy to promote this initiative felt able to take it under their wing. During the last year, the Friends were given complimentary tickets to two events. A cheese and wine evening at the opening of the flower festival was a good social event and the musical evening the next day was greatly enjoyed by many. Comments were made as to the great musicality of the performers.

We will continue to promote the scheme and hope for help with attracting more members.

Penny Rennie (Membership secretary)

PERFORMING ARTS

Following the performance of last year's passion play, "I am she said" - a look at the passion story through the eyes of Mary Magdalene. I turned to storytelling, and the sort of everyday stories we each carry with us. In September I hosted a performance / storytelling event at the Filling station; encouraging people to find their own stories, and reflecting on how God speaks through our own experiences. Hopefully, there'll be more of this in the future!

We celebrated the Parish Player's 25th anniversary with an epic production of "The Princess and the Pea"; in a change of pace for me, I gave up the Director's seat, handing it to returning player, Carol Rowell, who produced perhaps the most successful panto to date!

Over the Christmas period we saw shepherds at the Brickmakers Carol concert, and some pretty rough and ready Angels at the Christingle services; Revd Philip shone as outback Angel Bruce!

Following the Christmas period I was able to focus on this year's alternative Pasion Play. Another self-written production, this time adopting ideas and themes from C.S Lewis' Narnia stories, and placing them in a contemporary context. "Beyond the wardrobe" followed three "grown up" children negotiating the complex world of relationships, gender politics, love and sacrifice, through the timeless world of childhood dreams and nightmares. The Play explored the Passion story through the Character's relationship with the "lion" and borrowed some of the imagery from the book of Revelation in their encounters with a "Dragon" who seeks power and control. Ultimately the Lion turns into a Lamb and overcomes the darkness through sacrificial love; revealing to the "children" what adulthood really means. I wish to thank the cast and technical crew on what was an ambitious production; it was well received, not least by Bishop Graham and the Archdeacon who happened to drop by. If you missed it, the show was filmed and will be available soon.

Next up is a production to mark the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, if you wish to be involved, please get in touch.

Reverend Dean

Children, Youth and Family Committee

The work of the committee has ranged from Worship to Sunday School, workshops and holiday club and details are as follows:

Worship:

The All Age Worship services continue to be held on the first Sunday of each month at St. Cuthbert's with the aim of involving the children more in the worship. We are continuing to look at various stories from the Old Testament.

Once again, the Christmas Eve services at the Parish church were very well attended with over 650 people attending the two services.

Sunday School / Children's Group:

The group meets on all Sundays at St. Cuthbert's except for the All Age Worship service when the children remain in the service. Toni, Stephanie and Emily to lead the lessons although it would be good to get more help with this important ministry. When children return from lessons, there are colouring/work sheets, crayons and chalk-boards provided at the back of the church with small tables and chairs from the centre set up near the font for them. Other church seats are left at the back of south side for parents and toddlers with soft toys left out for them.

Workshops:

The Messy Easter Workshop and Easter holiday club were once again well attended.

The Messy Christmas Workshop went off well again. This year the central visual part was once again based in the vicarage stables where a nativity scene was established with 2 real sheep on the day of the workshop. The scene itself remained for the Christmas period.

This year we also held a Messy Harvest at the end of September.

Security checks:

All involved in youth activities have been DBS checked for the safety of the children and vulnerable adults.

Andy Hudson

The Social Committee Report

Our Social Committee strives to foster a cohesiveness across all the congregation of both churches, fostering a sense of togetherness and reaching out to the wider community, encourage collaboration by organising fun and interesting events where people can meet and socialise with each other.

Coffee Mornings on the first Saturday of the month including knit and natter with Suzanne. It provided a good place for people to pop in for a chat.

By popular request we began the year with a Beetle Drive and Quiz & Chips Evening.

The Treasure Hunt in May and the Teddy Bear Parachute Drop in September were both enjoyed by family & friends from the surrounding area.

Saturday 24th June the Church Fete took place in the vicarage garden, thanks to Christine and Simon Stokes, on a lovely sunny day.

Sunday 9th July we were privileged to have a cream tea and short service in the beautiful gardens of White House Farm.

Saturday 9th September Churches Trust Cycle Ride. A group walked visiting several interesting churches, some not normally open to the public.

Saturday 18th November the Ceilidh had fun and laughter with Michael Ottaway calling the moves. You don't have to have a dance to enjoy the event. It's fun just to watch the experienced, the beginners and those with two left feet.

Saturday 25th November: Christmas Fayre a great way to start the festive season, especially as it is held in the church complex where people can feel the spirit of Advent and Christmas. It is an occasion when so many people come together, to work for and to support the church.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday 1/2/3 December: Christmas Tree Festival at St Cuthbert's was an outreach event that showed the community some of the large range of activities that go on in our churches.

It was hard work but all worthwhile. During the time we engaged with many people which hadn't been in the church before. On the Friday we had a Cheese and Wine event, on the Saturday we had a Christmas Concert.

A big thank you to all of the members of the Social Committee who have continued to work extremely hard over the past year to organise a wide variety of social events. We are always ready to welcome new committee members. Please contact a member of the Social Committee to discuss any ideas you may have especially if you are willing to organise them yourself.

Sheila Tuffield & Liz Chettleburgh



Enabling churches to house the homeless

Working with Hope into Action

Hope into Action (HIA) was founded by a group of Christians in 2010 who believe in the local church and want to see Christians and Church at the forefront of social reform and provides homes for the homeless for two years until they can find alternative provision. Homelessness comes about for a variety of reasons, relationship break up, mental health problems, loss of job and it could happen to anyone. It has no government funding but approaches investors to buy the houses and then makes them suitable for at least 2 residents, each having their own bedroom and lounge and sharing the other facilities. They are supported by the staff at H. I. A. to enable them to cope with their difficulties and hopefully turn their lives around. HIA then work with a team of volunteers from a local church who support and befriend the residents.

In Sprowston we have been working with HIA since 2014 and our house "Salthouse", The "Friendship and Support" team offer a listening ear, help with transport to various appointments and other general good neighbour support.

If you would like to join the Support Team or would like more information please do contact me. The time commitment is up to you.

Penny Rennie (Friendship and support team co-ordinator 01603 424652)

SYEP YOUTH DROP-IN CAFE

(Sprowston Youth Engagement Project)



This has been another great year in terms of engagement and development for SYEP. The project has engaged with over 100 young people through the various different opportunities we provide for young people.

Community Green House Project –

Our joint intergenerational gardening project has been running successfully for a year and we have engaged with 13 young people. Although numbers have not been high, the quality of the work that has been delivered with this group has been brilliant. The project would not have been as successful in terms of outcomes for our young people if we had worked with large groups. This is why the project works really well for young people who struggle with confidence, self-esteem, mental health issues and learning difficulties. It's a nice, friendly and relaxed environment, where young can be themselves and learn how to grow plants. It's been amazing to see the positive relationships formed between the young people and our older volunteers, who have worked in a collaborative way to ensure the green houses can continue to run.

Sprowston Teen Café –

Sessions have been well attended over the past year with 70 young people attend the project. We have a core group of around 50 young people who attend on a regular basis and sessions are accessed by between 35 and 45 young people weekly. We have run a number activities which includes - indoor and outdoor sports, cake making sessions, music sessions, pizza nights, sumo suits and lots more. Sessions have also been delivered by outside organisations, including the Matthew Project, Know your Pride, The Sprowston Dementia community, the Fire and rescue centre and Lola Stafford. A high number of our young people are now year 11 students so we are currently in the process of advertising to attract a new younger young people.

Old Catton Teen Café –

Again sessions have been well attended and we have engaged with 45 young people over the year. The projects has been run from two venues which works well. Again we have run a number of activities similar or the same as above. During the summer there has been more of a focus on outside sports activities, including football and rounders. Sessions are accessed by between 20 and 25 young people and we have a core group of around 35 young people.

YSA Young Volunteer Programme/ Young Committee –

This year we merged our young committee and young volunteer programme. 14 young people have taken part in these activities. Our volunteers programme involves young people designing and delivering two events over the funding year. The first event our young people joined forces with the Sprowston Dementia Community and held a 1950's tea dance for people living with dementia and their families, which was attend by over a 100 people. The young people visited another 1950's tea dance in Sheringham for research purposes, attended planning meetings, designed posters and completed the risk assessments, so was an opportunity to learn new skills as well as doing something positive for their community. They also completed Dementia Friends training and are now

Dementia Friends. They're now in the process of planning and holding a teddy bears picnic for children and families who have been struggling in some kind of way. They have involved the Spixworth and Sprowston Sure Start Centre and the Norwich Food bank and is looking to be a great day.

Over the summer the young people accessing our projects have taken part in a number of positive activities which includes - paintballing, quasar, tubing and three visits to Bitten Meadow with Ascend Adventure where young people took part in a number of outdoor activities. 8 young people, Judy Leggett, PC Nick Roberts, volunteers and workers took part in a 26 mile sponsored walk to raise money for SYEP.

SYEP FC –

This year we set up a football team at the request of some of the boys who attend our youth groups and is managed by Andy Bunter. These boys are some of our more challenging young people in terms of behaviour. By giving them something positive to focus on, in turn has had a positive impact on their behaviour. They play in the Christian League and have played some amazing games of football, winning matches with scores of 11- 1, 12 -1 and are close to winning the league.

Open Youth Awards

Both SYEP FC and our volunteers have been nominated and shortlisted for Team of the Year at the Open Youth Awards. The award ceremony was cancelled due to the bad weather and has been rescheduled for the 25th of April.

Feedback from a young person -

'At the beginning of this year I had a break down and I had to drop out of college and stopped seeing friends and went in on myself. For a few months I was agoraphobic and only went outside when I only really needed to but for many of the time I would just stay in my house but more than likely I would just stay in my room. I heard of syep through my old youth worker Clare and she brought me along to the gardening club, at first I was terrified, I didn't know what to expect and was shaking; when i arrived there that was the first and last time I have ever felt like that. I looked and still look forward to getting there because it has given me a space to grow independent again without feeling pressured. It is always a calm fun time going there, never have I once felt judged or felt any negativity while being there. It's given me a life again where I don't need to constantly depend on other people, it's given me the opportunity to feel a part of something again. I enjoy the fact I have something to focus on, the enjoyment of giving back to community and the enjoyment of just going there every Monday when I always know I'm wanted and missed if I'm not there. It's made me feel stable and alive again and i can't help but thank syep for that'.. Rachel



Defenders



Our after school club in collaboration with ENYP went from strength to strength this year with the arrival of some new children who have been enthusiastic in their participation in the games, crafts, storytelling and talks. We have a small, but dedicated group of volunteers, although sadly, Kath, a stalwart from the beginning, decided it was time to move on. We meet on a Wednesday afternoon between 3.30pm and 5pm on alternative weeks, so if you'd like to volunteer you'll be warmly welcomed.

Also this year, we saw the departure of our ENYP worker, Lucy Stone, who is moving on to peruse other projects. Lucy has done some great work, and will be missed by the children and adults alike. Whilst we wait to hear news about Lucy's replacement Revd Melanie will be stepping into the breach, A big thank you to everyone involved.

Dean.

Berties Babes

Our church toddler group for pre-school age children (accompanied by their parents or carers) meets on Thursday mornings in term-time from 9.30-11am.

Last July we had had a lovely trip to Pettitts (we subsidised this for parents and children). We had our usual Christmas party (with a visit from Father Christmas), and all the children received a present.

We have crafts every week, lots of outdoor play thanks to our safe area (for which we could do with astroturf – then we could be outside far more often!), and toddler-friendly church services once a month (toddler-length too – about 10 minutes maximum).

We have a limit of 50 children to ensure we are safe, so have a waiting list of names. The "rule" is that if you don't attend for 3 weeks running you drop off the list, but we are flexible and have held spaces open e.g. for a child who became seriously ill, and for a parent who had a C-section then couldn't come for several weeks.

As ever, many thanks to our wonderful helpers – Pat Rump is on the door every week and is a great welcomer, and Pauline Richards,, Mary Osbourne, John Sikdar, Sheila Tuffield and Liz Chettleburgh take on coffee duties. Penny Rennie has also stepped in to help when we needed her – many thanks! As always we could do with an extra helper or 2 – Pat doesn't drive now so if anyone is able to pick her up or take her home that would be wonderful, and an extra pair of hands during the session to clean toys or hold a baby will always be welcomed.

Berties Babes is a lovely way to provide a service to a section of our community, and to get to know local people – please do pray for our outreach.

Claire Akrill

Children's Holiday Club

Our Easter Activity Holiday Club was held over two mornings in March 2017, leading up to the Good Friday 'Messy Easter' event.

Rather than look at the Easter story itself (which is covered by 'Messy Easter') we delved deep into a couple of other bible stories. On the Wednesday we immersed ourselves in 'The calming of the storm', by building a boat from recycled materials in which Mary told the story. This was followed by a team challenge to build a smaller boat from craft materials robust enough to survive the choppy waters of the paddling pool! On the Thursday we focused on the Healing of the Paralysed man with another interactive story, this time told by Lucy. Poorly gingerbread men were healed with bandages cut from icing. Each morning also involved getting to know the children and generally having fun in God's house. Thank you to everyone who gave their time for this outreach.

Christine Stokes

GROUP REPORTS

Cross Section Year Summary 2017

January 2017 brought another special milestone in the history of Cross-section. This was the announcement by our lovely long standing chairwoman Valerie that she would be stepping down from that role at the end of the year after 20 years at the helm of our friendly group. Happily Val will remain with us as a member, and our new chair from 2018 will be Roz Taylor. More about that event in next years report, and back to 2017 for now!

JANUARY also saw us gathering as is our custom to welcome in the New Year, gathering together to share a delicious meal, prepared by various committee members. This is always a lively, chatty evening as are our other two culinary meetings in the months of JUNE and JULY, when we eat in (BBQ), and eat out (this year at The Racecourse Inn). These social evenings provide us with the time to chat and catch up with each other, whilst of course enjoying sharing a meal together into the bargain! On this theme we had a fun evening in APRIL, with quizzes compiled by Helen, and chocolate treat prizes for winning and losing teams.

2017 saw a great variety of speakers visiting us at Cross- Section and were as follows.

- FEBRUARY- Lyn Hatch, from The Royal British Legion, who spoke about the many and varied forms of fund-raising for the R.B.L. as well as the popular and well known Poppy Appeal.
- MARCH - Jenny and Elisha Burrell, an amazingly inspirational mum and daughter who together journey to Africa to fund-raise for many different projects in poor areas and villages.
- SEPTEMBER - Emily Norton from Norton's Dairy in Frettenham. Emily spoke of the running of this local business, and brought delicious and unusual cheeses and yoghurts for us to sample and buy if we wished.
- OCTOBER- Claire Richards from UNICEF. We were extremely privileged to have Claire join us as she told us it was the very last time she would be presenting an evening about her work for UNICEF. Now a grandma of two lively grandchildren, she explained about her work with the charity over a long period of time, but also fascinatingly touched on her life many years ago when she spent 14 years as a nun, before eventually marrying and becoming a mum, adopting twins.
- NOVEMBER- Mary Carpenter came along and demonstrated how to make a Christmas centre piece for the table. Mary had kindly brought along all we would need to have a go ourselves, and added to the greenery members had also foraged themselves, we set about the task with gusto. We produced some surprisingly good efforts, and were now armed with the skill to make another for any celebration during the year.

An extremely interesting evening was enjoyed in MAY when we visited The Great Hospital, and had a wonderful guided tour of this historic building and complex. We learned of the history from its very beginnings up to the present day. We were also able to look inside the church, and also St. Helens House, the beautiful Georgian house within the grounds. Donations were made to each of our speakers throughout the year for their various charities.

So, 2017 passed seemingly in the blink of an eye, and as I write we have already embarked on another varied programme for 2018.

Cross-section meets every third Tuesday of the month at St. Cuthbert's Church Centre at 7.30 p.m. New members are always welcome to join our friendly informal group at any point throughout the year.

Colleen Goodson

Sprowston MU branch report 2017

Our branch enjoyed another busy year of monthly meetings, worship and activities. Our meetings on the last Wednesday afternoon of each month started with worship, lead by one of our clergy and ended with tea and chat. In between we were enthralled, educated and entertained by a variety of visitors who generously shared their time, talents and experiences with us. Michael Graves, Sister Ashley Williams, Revd. James Stewart and Marguerite Phillips, our MU Diocesan President, all took us through their personal faith journeys, Paula Callum gave us an insight into her hobby of archery, Lynne Boston entertained us with prose and verse and we joined in with the Trefoil Guild's 'Trillers'. Many thanks to Linda Dunstan who put together another great programme for us.

Members supported the life of our churches in many ways, including making the posies for Mothering Sunday. Thank you to our congregations who supported our 'Make a Mother's Day' collection – your contributions enabled us to send £200 to help MU work with women across the world. Our other fundraising activities included our branch lunch in June, Afternoon Tea event in August and members' personal collecting boxes, enabling us to donate to our church and MU funds, including our Diocesan refugee resettlement project.

'Praying Lent', a booklet published by our own Diocese, provided the background for thoughtful worship and discussion at our MU Lent group. Members attended our Norwich area Advent Service in Thorpe St. Andrew and we were joined by members and friends from our local churches for our Carol Service in December – both of these were followed by lovely teas!

Our tree in St. Cuthbert's for the Christmas Tree Festival was decorated in Mothers' Union colours and highlighted just how many countries in the world are reached by the work of Mothers' Union. In case you didn't get the chance to count the names of the countries on the labels, there were 83!

None of our activities would happen without the commitment of our members, but every team needs a leader and we thank Sheila Tuffield for all the time and effort she gives us throughout the year. If you would like to know more of what we get up to, keep an eye on our notice board in the corridor at St. Cuthbert's. MU Norwich Diocese has a Facebook page which is becoming renowned for its daily prayer and our national Mothers' Union tweets regularly. We will never know what our founder, Mary Sumner, would have made of the ways we can use to spread our message today, but I can't help but think she would approve. From the small beginning of a meeting for mothers in her own home, she grew in confidence as her movement grew and took every opportunity given to her to spread her message of the value of Christian family life. Times change and the nature of the work that Mothers' Union does changes with it, but the values which underpin it remain the same.

Barbara Lashley



SPROWSTON DAY CENTRE LUNCHEON CLUB
St Cuthberts Church Centre
Wroxham Road
Sprowston
Norwich
NR7 8TZ
01603 419862

A year in the busy life of Sprowston Day Centre Luncheon Club

We have all enjoyed another hectic year at the Luncheon Club, with many excellent outings, events, guest speakers and entertainment that have been enjoyed by our members, volunteers and staff.

January to December 2017

We have all enjoyed another hectic year at the Luncheon Club, with many excellent outings, events, guest speakers and entertainments that have been enjoyed by our members, volunteers and staff.

January.....A very varied programme of events marked the start of a New Year. We had many different varieties of music including, Rex Miller, Roy Butler, Anne Robb, (Pianist) and sing-a-long with Philip. We invited the Hawking Experience to show the members their birds of prey. This went down so well.

February.....Line dancing was enjoyed by all as the members love to dance. Paper crafts and card making was put on by Christine and a talk on fuel poverty was given. Some lovely music was enjoyed by all, and featured various performers.

March.....This month was all about exercise and improving ones health. Reminiscence, film shows and many different singers. Ben Lake sang for us, he is currently starring upon London stages. Jane came into the centre and manicured the ladies nails.

April.....Easter fell this month and we enjoyed many appropriate craft projects, papercraft and bonnet making. There was much music enjoyed and a fascinating filmshow.

May.....Members benefited from a Clothes Sale organised by Karen and Margaret, Alastair entertained and Georgia painted nails of our lady members. We enjoyed a talk from Clare from the Library service and there was a visit for lunch to the Old Rectory Hotel at Crostwick.

June.....We had a fascinating talk from Heather Rimmer from Norfolk Swift Response, a full programme of musical entertainment. With spring turning to summer, we have started on the always popular outings! The first of these was to The Pier Hotel Gorleston. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all the members who went.

July.....Jenny organised a great reminiscence session, and music was enjoyed by Simon Curtis, Philip, Roy Butler, Anne Robb, Hank and Opera from Ben Lake. Pam Redwood ran an exercise session, and we had many quizzes, raffles and bingo.

August.....There was entertainment from Squee-gees, Music for Health from Linda, line dancing with Christine, sing-a-long with Freddie, a talk from Alex on Hearing Dogs, and two groups visited The Old Rectory at Crostwick for Lunch

September.....Many different types of entertainment were available to be enjoyed this month. There were two speakers, Andy from Anglia Chiropractice and Simon Marshall from the NNAB. We celebrated Harvest Festival at the end of the month, the centre was beautifully decorated for the occasion and it was much enjoyed.

October.....A new innovation this month, Mumblers, this was a visit to the centre of Mothers with their young babies. This proved to be fantastic hit with our members, and there happy smiles will be long remembered. Another group visited The Old Rectory Crostwick for an excellent Lunch.

November.....Much effort was expended this month on Calender making with Janet and Sandra.

Some really great musical entertainment was on offer at every session, a film show with David Bolton and a very interesting talk from Eleanor Carter of Norfolk County Council.

December.....The musical entertainment continued this month with a visit from Sprowston Junior and Infant Schools and Cecil Gowing Infant School Choirs. They sang some beautiful Christmas Carols. The main event for December of course were our traditional Christmas Lunches which this year were not held at the centre. Fridays and Tuesdays members went to The Blue Boar Restaurant on the Wroxham Road and Wednesday's group travelled to The Old Rectory at Crostwick.

So, altogether a very successful and enjoyable year, and we would like to take this opportunity to recognise the contribution of the staff, volunteers and of course in no small way, the members. The club has been very fortunate to benefit from several new volunteers and are delighted to welcome both them and many new members, however we would like to be able to meet many more in 2018, so if you know of anyone who you think may benefit from our services, please contact us and we would be delighted to invite them to visit us for coffee and a chat. (Family members/carers welcome) We would also like at this time, to show our appreciation of the Trustees and the Church without whose help and dedication, the centre would not be able to function.

It is our 40th Anniversary this year and we are busy planning the celebrations for this milestone. We are currently fundraising to enable us to continue for another 40 years.

M.E. Wynn MBE
Chair Lady.

TUESDAY BREAK

We meet weekly in the vestry of the Parish Church between 10 – 12 noon. It is an opportunity to enjoy tea, coffee and a chat.

There is a celebration at Christmas with special food and hot cross buns are served during Holy Week. Generally 15-20 people come and we welcome anybody else who would like to drop in.

June Stanforth

SPROWSTON PARISH PLAYERS



Chris Aldrich (Secretary to Sprowston Players)

At the end of January 2017 the Sprowston Parish Players gave four performances of Robin Hood, scripted by a member, Sally-Anne Clarke, and directed by Revd Dean Akrill. We entertained audiences of all ages. We always try to keep our prices low, so they are affordable. This we can do as members not only use their time and talents but largely find and fund the costumes, props and scenery. Thus, we raised monies for our society and church funds, and Hope Into Action.

Two performances of our summer concert 'Sing a song, and so on' raised monies for our churches and then went on tour to Old Catton Church, where funds were raised for Christian Aid.

Our Christmas Concert became part of the Christmas Tree Festival, also in the aid of church funds. It remains a favourite for the members taking part, and some like the challenge of finding new items to add to the familiar seasonal songs and carols.

Thanks to the committee and members for their continuing support and commitment. We continue to recruit new members. It is a pleasure to see fresh, local talent being brought into our society. Acting and non-acting, they are always made welcome.

Safeguarding

Over the past year I have been in conversation with various people regarding DBS checks and safeguarding declarations, ensuring these are carried out and recorded. We have hosted a training course last June, and there will be another one on Saturday 9th June this year at St Cuthbert's. This year sees a change in that all members of the PCC have to have a DBS check so I think I may be a bit busy after the APCM!

As ever, I won't mention if I have dealt with any issues. But I really do implore people who have any concerns to come and chat to me, or give me a ring on 0776 144 0924 / 482360.

Safeguarding is everyone's job – I just wear the hat....

Thank you,
Claire Akrill



Claire Akrill – Safeguarding Officer

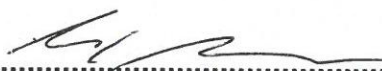
Sprowston Parochial Church Council


The Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Policy Statement for Sprowston Parish

Members of this church commit themselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults in their care.

- It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to report any abuse. Discovered or suspected.
- We recognise that our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, whether paid or volunteer.
- The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults and to providing supervision. It is our aim to encourage these workers to undertake any relevant and necessary training.
- The church is committed to the guidelines and procedures published by the Diocese of Norwich dated 2014 (Safe Haven, the Protection of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults), a reference copy of which is kept in the church office.
- Our intention is to ensure that each worker with children, young people and vulnerable adults knows the recommendations of the Church's policy and undertakes to observe them. Each worker is expected to be familiar with the church's agreed procedures. Copies of these will be distributed to those who require them for their work either paid or voluntary capacity.
- As part of our commitment to children, young people and vulnerable adults, the church has appointed Claire Akrill to be the Named Person (contact number 01603 482360). This role will be regularly explained to children. She is responsible for ensuring all church workers have the necessary Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS, formerly CRB) clearance and complete a self-declaration form tri-annually.

Statement agreed by Sprowston Parochial Church Council on 26th April 2017.....

Signed.......... (Incumbent)

Signed.......... (PCC Lay Chair)

