

**Sandy Parish Church - St Swithun's Registered Charity No: 1130680
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year End 31st December 2017**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 4pm APRIL 29th 2018

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

www.sandyparishchurch.org

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Rector: Revd. P. Huw Davies
Full Name: Parochial Church Council Sandy Parish Church – St Swithun's
Church Address: 34 High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire. SG19 1AQ
Correspondence Address: The Rectory, 34 High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1AQ
Bank Address: Barclays Bank, 45 High Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0JF
Account name: Sandy PCC
Independent Financial Examiner: Howard Skinner 8 Powers Close, Sandy SG19 11JS

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL DURING 2017

Rector (Chair): Revd. Huw Davies
Churchwardens: Val Haygarth, Jean Peckham and Sandra Watson
Honorary PCC Secretary: Stephen Snow
Honorary PCC Treasurer: Paul Godley up to April 2017 Liz Karunanantham May 2017
Deanery Representatives: Julia Bickerdike,
PCC Members up to APCM 2016: Colin Osborne, Annie Cousins, Mike Green, Carole Martin, Michele Canfield, Andrew Barber, Jackie Barber, Ros Jones, Eileen Mansion, Nicolas Yuille, Wendy Mockford.
PCC members from APCM 2017: Colin Osborne, Annie Cousins, Carole Martin, Michele Canfield, Andrew Barber, Eileen Mansion, Nicolas Yuille, Ruth Lock, Elizabeth Gammell
Curate: Revd. Daniel Foot
Diocesan Reader: Jane Godley

STATISTICS:

Electoral Roll: April 2018 - 133

2015	Baptisms 11	Weddings 11	Funerals 23
2016	Baptisms 25	Weddings 7	Funerals 32
2017	Baptisms 18	Weddings 10	Funerals 35

During December 2017 people attending services and activities including Sundays, Schools, Scouts, Town Carol Service, Tree Festival 1290 adults and 1360 children. Christmas Eve/Day 533 adults 146 children

Average Sunday Attendance 2017 on a Sunday was 82 adults and 21 children

May 2017 Bishop of St Albans conducted Confirmation for 12 candidates adults & children.

Easter Day 2018 - 166 adults 53 children

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The primary object of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, social and evangelistic.

Together we aim to ***Reach, Teach, Mend and Send***.

To this end the PCC at Sandy Parish Church are working on a Mission Action Plan (MAP) sharing the Diocesan aims of: **“Going Deeper into God, Transforming Communities, Making New Disciples”**.

Specific activities undertaken in 2017 to achieve these aims included:

- Development of a website – www.sandyparishchurch.org, Twitter feed and Facebook page.
- Bibles have been put in the pews and given to guests. 2016 Remembrance Day 250 reproduction WW1 Gospels were given to guests. In 2017 600 copies of Luke’s gospel were given to guests.
- 2015 The Leprosy Hospital in Purulia, West Bengal, India was refurbished by fundraising £20,000.
- 2016 The Bankura Rehabilitation Centre was given £19,000 and Curate Daniel Foot went to visit.
- 2017 £21,000 was raised to build Out-patients Department and staff accommodation.
- The worship in the church has been enhanced by the introduction of new music led by the faithful choir and the contemporary worship team and tech support.
- 2017 Whole church congregation agreed a plan to enhance the Sunday worship with the introduction of a new 3rd service launched in January 2018. Congregations have increased.
- Summer picnics in the Rectory garden for families and Open Church Sunday went well and the Christmas Tree Festival grew to involve over 30 Community groups.
- 3,000 came to church during December including almost 1000 children.
- Local schools have visited the church and a number of members are school Governors.
- ALPHA was run 3 times in 2017 and new 20-30yr old Home-group has begun.
- Civic services have grown endorsed by the Mayor, the Scouts and Guides, Probus and choirs.
- A small group went to the New Wine Family Summer camp in 2017 and more plan to go in 2018.
- Young families have increased and some 30+ children come regularly (20 in 2017 and 6 in 2014).
- The church has become increasingly popular as a venue for local concerts of many types and the Open Church weekend and visits to the top of the church Tower have been very popular.
- The church members have been very active in many areas of community support including The Need Project, School Governors, The Drop-In Café, Music on Mondays in Nursing Homes, Open the Book in local schools and many other social groups such as Bowls, local football and Scouts and Guides, Probus and local Town Council, chaplaincy of the Sandy Air Cadets.
- After ten years of wonderful service and raising almost £20,000 for charities the Drop-In Café has reduced its opening hours.

MISSION ACTION PLAN - A Working Document for Mission and Ministry

Reach – Teach – Mend - Send

Jesus' Greatest Commandment as recorded in Matthew 22 calls us to **love God** with all our heart and to **love our neighbour** as ourselves. Jesus' Great Commission to us as recorded in Matthew 28 is "to go into all the world and make disciples teaching them all that I have taught you".

a) Going deeper into God

- The development of the accessibility and variety of Sunday worship. The children's work is encouraging with the growing number of adult team taking part in teaching Junior Church.
- The formation of midweek small-groups for prayer and support.
- The new 11am Fresh Expression of worship has opened the door to many new people.

b) Transforming communities

- An Office and administration continues to develop as does publicity, website and communication.
- To encourage the many ministries of the people of the church supporting the NEED project, Open the Book and the Drop In, pastoral social care and their influence at home and work.
- Following the success of the 'Boundaries' and 'Parenting' courses we hope that we might be able to expand these to the community and include marriage and debt counselling courses.
- Closer links are being forged with the schools and community with hopes for more links in 2018.
- The church building is being used more by the community for concerts and schools visits and 2018 will see the PCC consider how the building might be enhanced and developed to aid the worship and mission of the church for the next generation.

c) Making new disciples

- A commitment to reach those under forty whose culture, life-experience and expressions of worship are so different to our parent's generation and are largely missing from most churches.
- The new 11am contemporary worship service has seen an increase in the number of 20-30 year olds worshipping at St Swithuns in the first 3 months of 2018. They have started a small-group.
- A renewed openness to those on the journey of faith offering a variety of worship and social activities, welcome and accessibility at the key moments of christenings, marriages and funerals.
- The Alpha course has continued to be of real value to the people of the church as well as an open door for new people to join the church. We will continue to use it in the years ahead for those wishing to discover more about the Christian faith, who have questions about faith and especially those on the fringe and outside of the church.
- Renewing the audio-visual system to enhance the worship and teaching for a new generation and improving our digital communication website - www.sandyparishchurch.org

Sunday:

8.15am	A reflective service of Holy Communion without music.
9:30am	Holy Communion with sung liturgy supported by a robed choir and with children's activities in the Church Rooms
11:00am	Contemporary worship with a worship team of musicians and children's activities with an All-age Service and Communion both once a month

Wednesday 9:45am Holy Communion

Thursday 7:30am Holy Communion

PUBLIC BENEFIT

We recognise that in following Jesus we are called to be a community that not only builds up and strengthens our members but can also be a blessing to the town in which we live. Church members are involved in many community groups and activities, local schools including being school governors.

The refurbished Church Rooms have been used by Social Services, National Childbirth Trust (NCT), 'Sing and Sign', Art Classes, St Swithuns Singers choir and the 'Rainbows' as well as the 'Drop-In Cafe' which serves many members of the local community with warm food and friendship.

We support the local 'Need Project' and The Leprosy Mission helping others across the world. We use the Church building to host Remembrance Day service, Scout and Guide parades, the Town Carol Service and Christmas Tree Festival which acts as a platform for other local Charities and organisations.

We try to make all worship services and activities accessible and open including baptism, funeral, and weddings, wedding preparation and marriage and bereavement support. 2017 saw our first 'Parent-talk' parenting course for primary years run by young mums.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. In respect of Safeguarding, the PCC adopt the Diocese of St Albans Safeguarding Policy and the Safeguarding Representative is Ruth Lock.

The PCC operated with four sub-committees in 2017

Standing Committee: Finance Committee: Stewardship Committee: Safeguarding Team:

The PCC are conscious that having cut our expenses to a minimum we are still in need of increasing our income to meet the expenditure and costs of Parish Share and support of a growing church.

We have elected to join the Diocesan - Parish Giving Scheme and are in the process of developing a strategy and publicity to bring our communications regarding finances up to date with our members.

We are very grateful to all who make possible the ministry outlined above by contributing weekly / monthly to the work of the ministry of the church through regular giving, Standing Orders and Direct Debits, Gift Aid and generous legacies. Contactless card payments will be introduced in 2018.

We are indebted to the voluntary effort and financial contributions of our members and sincere thanks are extended to the individuals and teams that help in the church community.

The Wardens and PCC, those who teach and care for the children, the Readers, Prayers, the cleaning, flower arrangers and welcome teams, sides-people, bell-ringers and others who perform many varied tasks in the services and around the church and parish.

Rev'd Huw Davies Rector Sandy parish Church – St Swithuns April 2018

The PCC met 10 times during 2017 conscious of its responsibilities, need for unity and vision.

January – Andrew Pym reported to the PCC on proposed sale of Parish Clerks Land. Budget for 2017 accepted. Sharp rise in Parish Share with appointment of Curate & increase in size of Electoral Roll.

February – Discussions about how to increase Income and Receipts so as to narrow expenditure deficit. World Leprosy Day 19th March. Dr Joydeeper Darlong to visit St Swithuns with Daniel arranging lunch.

March – Treasurer, Paul Godley, circulated Annual Accounts for the APCM. These accepted by PCC. Paul stepped down as Treasurer.

April – Co-incided with APCM. New members to PCC voted in. Further consideration of Receipts and Payments and how payments might be reduced below 2017 budget values.

May – Review of all methods of giving open to congregation members, contactless and SMS text. Discussion of discipleship and present efforts being made to make disciples in Sandy.

June – No meeting held. Members attended Archdeacon's institution of the Wardens.

July – Outbreak of woodworm detected in some of the pews and this has been treated. Reviewed invitation from St Albans Diocese to join Mission Shaped Ministry programme. Draft letter to all Electoral Roll Members regarding membership discussed. Church to remain locked during school holiday following vandalism experienced in the past.

(There was no meeting in August).

September – Leaflet on methods of giving reviewed by the committee.

The Rector formally recorded his appreciation to the Drop In Team after 12 years. 33,638 meals and more than £21,000 of funds for charity have been sourced in the Church Rooms. Proposed introduction of an additional service to accommodate differing needs of Traditional Communion and Contemporary Worship. How to distribute open letter to all Congregation Members soliciting their views.

October – Responses from Congregation to Open letter regarding the proposal of a Fresh Expression of worship was very encouraging with lots of feedback. Further discussion re logistics of additional service & finding sufficient number of volunteers to support each service. Haig Fund Collection boxes to be in Church in run up to Remembrance Sunday. Colin Osborne is appointed to Chair of International Leprosy Mission.

November – An especially good response to the Shoebox appeal this year with more than 200 shoeboxes received. St Swithuns likely to receive a Diocesan Grant to support additional service and other Fresh Expressions of worship. Review of any particular needs St Swithuns may have in accommodating the additional service and whether this might be financed by the grant.

December – The Christmas Tree Festival was a resounding success with more than 1,200 visitors. Collections totalled more than £1,400.00. Gratitude to all Volunteers and the Choir who worked very hard. David Llewellyn appointed as our new Architect. Draft Budget for 2018 circulated and approved.

Safeguarding Statement

We confirm that the PCC has been reviewing the policies to ensure compliance with National and Diocesan Guidelines during 2017 and at its meetings of March 6th and April 3rd 2018 in addition to the National Guidelines and the Diocesan Policy it adopted its detailed policy for the specifics of Sandy parish Church.

Stephen Snow PCC Secretary Ruth Lock Safeguarding Officer

Treasurer's Report Year End Dec 2017 APCM

A sincere thank you from the PCC to all who contributed to the life and Ministry of the church through giving of your time and hard work, your prayers, gifts and ministries as well as your sacrificial financial giving.

Thank you for the part you play in enabling the ministry of the church outlined in the Annual Report. Some are making provision in their Will for a legacy that will enable the church to transcend the generations and we are grateful this year for gifts from Lady Valerie Pym and Bridget Pym.

We are also grateful to the contributions that new members are making to the life of the church by their presence, their prayers and generosity.

General

The accounts this year have been examined by our Independent Examiner Mr Howard Skinner.

The accounts are maintained on software by Data Developments.

They have been examined by the PCC and approved at the meeting of March 6th 2018.

They include accounts and investments at the Diocesan Board of Finance in the name of Sandy PCC

Three bank accounts: Two un-restricted Funds: Two restricted funds: One independent fund.

The accounts cover all the financial activities of the church including: Charitable activities, Mission and Ministry, Rectory Rooms, Maintenance of the church fabric and of the church worship

Receipts:

Total receipts for 2017 of £116,888 are higher than 2016 (£94,430) and 2015 (£87,859) This includes a £7,000 grant from the Diocese towards the introduction of Fresh Expressions of worship. Planned giving £40,783 (£38,195) Gift Aid £11,164 (£9,088) Loose giving £4,629 (£3,151) Fundraising and church activities £11,581 (£6,578)

Payments:

Total payments were £108,585. The largest single payment was the Parish Share of £49,842. The remaining £13,115 of the £62,957 total 2017 Parish Share was paid in January 2018 (2016-£58,746).

The Parish Share is paid to the Diocese to include Clergy salaries, housing and pensions, Diocesan advisors and ensure a living and active Christian presence in every single town and village in England. Historically Parish Share was much lower because clergy salaries were paid from national funds but today each Diocese must pay the clergy salaries and housing etc. and churches join together to share these costs, the bigger churches supporting the smaller and small churches joining together.

Fundraising and giving to Leprosy Missions and Charities £22,907 (£21,897)

Capital Growth:

Cash in hand and our capital savings have increased slightly over the year. At Sandy Parish Church our financial position is improving. Our regular giving to the work of the ministry here in Sandy is slowly growing and other streams of income are being explored e.g. using the building for concerts.

The costs of the ministry are being kept at a basic level but as more adults and children come to the church so the costs of organisation and resources rise. It takes time for new people to feel a commitment to the ministry and mission of the church but if every person coming would increase their giving by £1 or £2 a week, or sacrifice just one cup of coffee a week and donate the commercial price £3, or consider giving 1%, 2% or 5% of their salary / income, or leave a legacy in a will, it could make a big difference to the Ministry. It would be a very great thing if our income were to grow to a point where we could one day support a children's and families worker to help our young people navigate through what is a difficult time in their lives. Thank you all for your prayers and generosity.

Liz Karunanantham Treasurer

Church Wardens Report on the Fabric and Maintenance APRIL 2018

Goods, Ornaments, Fabric of the Church and Church Rooms

- The fabric of the Church is mainly in good order. Outstanding is a repair to a pillar on South Side. This will be attended to as soon as drier weather permits.
- The organ, piano, central heating, fire extinguishers and lightening conductor have all been serviced and are in working order. A new carpet has been laid on the chancel steps.
- The Churchyard is kept in a neat and tidy manner and our thanks go to Town Council staff for their work on our behalf. The Council have removed the trees along the north side boundary of the Churchyard which were in danger of causing damage to neighbouring properties.
- The grave of Fanny Graves has been cleaned in accordance with the covenant and is in good order.
- A new piece of oak has been spliced into seating of a choir stall which had woodworm damage. Thanks to Rod Patterson.

Church Rooms

- The Church Rooms are in good order throughout. The Fire Extinguishers, Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms have all been checked.
- The electrical equipment in both the Church and Church Rooms has been P.A.T. tested by a qualified electrician. A new outside light has been fitted.

Refreshments

- Teas and coffee within the morning services gives all a chance to meet and chat in fellowship. To those who serve a grateful thank you. With the start of the extra Service in 2018 more helpers have come forward and a new coffee machine seems to be popular. Many more are joining in to enjoy the meeting of the two congregations between services albeit limited in time.

Church Room Cleaning

- The Church Room cleaning has been overseen by Janet Warrs for many years but she has now stood down. We thank her for her tireless help. We always need more volunteers to help with this weekly task. Keeping the rooms clean and tidy is essential for both our own use and as a letting facility.

Can you help please?

Churchwardens

Valerie Haygarth, Jean Peckham and Sandra Watson

The Alpha Course

Since the last APCM, Huw and Daniel have run three Alpha courses, one in Daniel's home and the other two in the Rectory. The Course continues to be a popular way for regular members of our congregations and new-comers to meet together for a couple of months, to enjoy getting to know each other, eat good food and discover more about the Christian faith and the life of the Church. The format is tried and tested, starting with a meal and a chance to chat and deepen friendships, a presentation on the week's topic given by Daniel, Huw or through an Alpha film episode, followed by an open time of discussion, a chance to relate what we've heard to our daily lives and to ask difficult questions. The weekly topics vary from 'Who is Jesus', 'How to read the Bible', and 'How does God guide us', to 'What about the Holy Spirit'. The presentations stimulate thought and conversation for those familiar with Church life as well as those new to the Church. The next course will be run in September, so if this whets your appetite, look out for notices in church or register through the Church website.

Nicolas Yuille

SALT Small-groups

SALT - **Sharing And Learning Together** is a house group born out of Alpha that continues to ask questions of how Jesus, the Bible and our Faith integrates and influences our daily lives.

We are a fully inclusive group and welcome everyone to become involved in our studies. The great news is that currently we have been joined by people who have come through the last three Alpha groups. We have people who have all levels of faith in their lives from those whose faith is brand new and to those reflecting on a life in faith.

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Our format is food, fellowship, bible study and discussion, meeting in various houses around Sandy. In the past year we have drawn on many resources to look at how God and Jesus can influence the lives that we lead today.

We have wandered through a number of Paul's Letters on the New Testament and his instructions to various churches and groups spread across the Mediterranean on how to live with faith.

We've taken the Sunday readings the days before they're read in church and analysed what they say to us as a group and individuals. It's great to compare at coffee after the Sunday service to see how our views may have created a different perspective and sometimes we know that we've given ideas to their Sermon! In the current season we are following John Ortberg and studying his videos that accompany his book, 'The life you've always wanted'.

Our group focuses on helping to answer those questions that we all have on faith, the Lord, the Holy Spirit and Jesus in the impact and relevance to our lives today. Sometimes our discussions can become quite deep, other times quite light and fun. As Luke 14:34 says: "Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavour, how do you make it salty again? Flavourless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!" Our objective is to create flavour in a way that is fun, accessible and friendly.

We are always open to receiving new people to our group, subject to the limitations of the size of the hosts house. Alternatively we'll be happy to assist in creating a second group.

Would you like to add a little more SALT to your life.

Mike Green

Junior Church

Over the last year, we have continued to have the privilege of welcoming more children and young people to the Church Rooms on Sunday mornings. Daniel has led a growing team of teachers and helpers, planning the programme and resources and supporting us in our efforts to show God's love for our children. We have explored the lives of some heroes of the Old Testament, such as Isaac, Jacob, Moses and Joshua, as well as learning about the life of Jesus, hearing their stories and enjoying activities, as well as singing and praying together. KWB, for young people of middle school age and above, enjoy discussions and creative activities appropriate to their age, washed down with hot chocolate. The Junior Church grew significantly in January as we provided sessions during the new 11am service as well as continuing to meet during the 9.30 service. We are very grateful to all who joined the team at that point and to those who offered additional sessions each month, enabling us to run sessions well-staffed by helpers with a heart for the children.

On Easter Sunday 2018 we welcomed families with 15 children and babies at 9:30am and 40 children and babies at 11am.

How wonderful to be part of a church that is so welcoming and concerned for a future generation. Thank you to all of you for your prayers, patience, financial support and hard work.

The Junior Church Team

K.W.B. Youth

This has been a really exciting year of growth.

We have a fantastic group of young people aged 10 – 15yrs who come to KWB.

There is a session every Sunday now which is great with between 5 and 15 young people coming. This has meant we have a whole new team of leaders. Thank you to all who have taken on a role in leading KWB sessions. I think we all agree there is great blessing in working with this age group, they see the world in such refreshing vision.

Our sessions take a similar form each week with time for prayer, Bible readings, discussion and craft or activity relating to the Bible story. We had our Christian Aid Soup Sale on the Sunday starting Christian Aid week in May. The Yuille family hosted a pizza and movie night one evening which was greatly enjoyed.

A massive thank you to Tina Papworth who is stepping down from the team after many years of dedicated service to the young people...we will all miss her generosity and kindness as well as her good humour and insights. Thank you Tina you have been a wonderful blessing.

Deirdre Porter-Hanson

St Swithuns Flower Group

Our flower group now consists of 15 people split into five groups each doing two months of the year with everyone helping to decorate the whole church at Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

We are pleased to arrange flowers for weddings and special occasions such as anniversaries, birthdays and family celebrations, please contact me if you would like to discuss this.

We welcome new members to our group and are willing to give friendly help and encouragement to beginners who want to learn the beautiful art of flower arranging.

Trixie Cooper

The Leprosy Mission.

The Sandy Branch of The Leprosy Mission – with the great support of so many people inside and outside the church – enjoyed another successful year of fundraising with a new record sum of £22,272 being raised in 2017. This sum came from a variety of sources – collecting boxes, gift envelopes, donations, talks, weekly fundraising stall, outings, coffee morning, concerts, quizzes, sponsored swim and run, catalogue sales, Chinese dinner, gifts for life, etc.

For the third year running, monies raised went to a specific project which, in 2017, was funding for the new Outpatients' Department at Purulia Hospital in West Bengal. Of the above, £20,668 was pledged to fund consulting rooms, washing/toilet facilities and improved staff accommodation at the hospital. Dr Joydeepa Darlong, the Deputy Superintendent at Purulia, visited Sandy in March and spoke about the work of the hospital. World Leprosy Day was celebrated during Dr Joydeepa's visit and a lunch served in church.

The balance of £1,604 came from gifts for life, a number of smaller donations for other projects and the sponsorship of a student by Sandy Rotary Club at Bankura Vocational Training Centre. This Centre was the focus of our 2016 project.

In 2018 we are remaining in West Bengal and have pledged to fund the salary for a doctor and two nurses at Premananda Hospital in Kolkata.

Colin Osborne

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Bob Browning retired from his position as Box Co-ordinator for The Children's Society at the end of 2017.

Thanks are due to him for his loyal service to the Children's Society over a great many years.

Bob's last year as Box Co-ordinator – 2017 - saw the sum of £2,075.10 collected, mainly from the boxes, but also from donations including that from the Christingle service. Jennifer Watson took over as Box Co-ordinator in 2018, and is currently in process of emptying boxes for the April 2018 collection.

Jennifer Watson

The NEED Project

In connection with Sandy Baptist Church, Kings Church Stotfold and the other churches in Sandy we are involved in helping those in need within our local area. Currently this includes the provision of food parcels, clothing, equipment and furniture. The Need Project is an intermediary between statutory organisations e.g. Social workers, Health visitors and the point of need and is available by referral through statutory bodies (e.g. Social Services, GP units, Children's Centres etc.) or through the Need Project.

Contact: www.theneedproject.co.uk or Gordon on 07952 765302

Volunteers are needed to help with distribution.

Donations are received at St Swithuns church every Sunday and here is a list of suggestions:

Tea bags, Coffee, Drinking Chocolate, Sugar, Pasta, Long Grain Rice, Pasta Sauces or Bakes

Soups – packet or tinned, Tinned Veg – e.g. Tomatoes, sweetcorn, peas, carrots, Long-life milk.

Church Choir and Worship Team

The Church Choir sings regularly at the 9.30 am services on Sundays and at other services, weddings and funerals, if required. The Lessons and Carols by Candlelight are a highlight for which the choir learns and sings music in a wide variety of styles. With an enthusiastic membership of around fourteen singers, the choir faithfully leads the music for worship and practices every Friday evening to ensure they can sing to the very best of their ability and the glory of God.

The Worship Team lead the worship at 11am and have been developing their experience as they move from once a month 2014-2017 to every week in 2018.

Elizabeth Gammell

Music on Mondays - An Outreach to the Elderly

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped in the past nine years to take songs, hymns, prayers, Bible readings and poems to Quince Court, Allison House, Park House, Stonecroft and Biggleswade Day Care Centre. When we stopped after Christmas 2017 Audrey Reynolds, Julia Bickerdike and Susan Marks were still visiting with me. A small team may be continuing into 2018 do contact me if interested. I have printed sets of words for the themed topics. There are at least 20 sets for each topic printed in size 18 font, so most of the residents are able to read them. I don't want to recycle all that paper if anyone else would like to use them. Please contact me as soon as possible if you would like them.

Doreen Lawrence Tel:683815

The St Swithun's Singers 2017-2018

Formed 35 years ago, the St Swithuns Singers continue to flourish. Membership has increased in the year. Both the Summer and Christmas Concerts were well attended, joyful, entertaining occasions. The new AV system in church enhanced the events enabling pictures to supplement the music – and the choir to be seen by the whole audience through use of the video camera. The choir also sang at the Christmas Tree Festival and decorated a tree.

With members drawn both from within the St Swithuns congregation and beyond, the choir is a very friendly, community-based organisation. The weekly rehearsals are fun, laughter-filled, yet hard working sessions and new singers are made most welcome, so whether you are a soprano, alto, tenor or bass, there will be a part for you to sing.

Elizabeth Gammell

Bell-ringing Team

Thanks go to all the members of the Bell-ringing team for the pealing of the bells on special occasions. This year we have been glad to welcome a number of new younger ringers to join the team.

Deanery Report 2017 - 18

Deanery Synod met in July, October and March. There have been interesting speakers such as Mike Palin Leader of 267 youth work project and John Wallace Setting Gods People Free. The Rev Kevin Goss Vicar of St Paul's Bedford gave regular updates on the General Synod and Phil Brown reported on Diocesan Synod. Topics under discussion have been Safeguarding, courses for this arranged too, Food waste, special needs provision, giving support to church Wardens, to name a few.

The summer deanery evensong in June was at Dunton. The specialist 'Parenting Puzzle' course for mothers living in 'Butterfly House', the Women's refuge in Bedford, was the Deanery Project for 2017.

The Lent Deanery Evensongs 2018 took place in Sandy, Dunton, Biggleswade, Willington and Northill.

This year's Deanery Project is the Kasiisi Porridge Project in Western Uganda where 1000 Primary School Children whose families can't afford more than 1 meal a day are provided with a Maize Porridge breakfast. We are also endeavouring to raise enough to provide 4 Solar Powered Showers to Kasiisi School Farm.

The lent evensong Collections have supported this already and it is hoped all Deanery Parishes will put out an appeal when each church presents their collection at the Deanery Evensong on June 10th at Blunham.

Next year's Project will be a Home one. If you have any ideas for this please put your suggestion forward with a report that can be presented to the Deanery in September prior to the October meeting for the vote, it would be lovely to put a suggestion forward from this Parish.

The Riversmeet benefice of Blunham and Barford has a vacancy after Margaret Marshall's retirement.

Hold this year's Project in your prayers and do join us on June 10th at Blunham.

Julia Bickerdike Sandy Deanery Representative

Churches Together in Sandy & Beeston 2017 - 18

The churches in Sandy, Beeston & St Peters continue to show God's presence in our communities.

Open the Book reaches hundreds of children in our four lower schools. It is well received by the children and staff. Story tellers are recognised out of school and more parents are asking for Open the Book in their Children's schools. The ecumenical teams continue to be enthusiastic in role play & dressing up to bring Bible stories alive in a dramatic way.

Operation Christmas Child has people knitting & filling shoeboxes throughout the year, 127 sent last year..

Traditional carol singing by members of the churches outside the Co-op raised £177.24, passers-by did stop to join in the singing and Alban was able to send cheques for £100 to both Embrace & Crisis.

Carol singing on stage at the Sandy Town Christmas Fayre drew a large participating congregation. Lots of star biscuits were again enjoyed at the CTiS&B stall.

Prayer for Christian Unity was held in seven different churches & homes.

Women's World Day of Prayer took place at Sandy Methodist Church. The service was held in the round which went really well and included liturgical dance and innovative singing.

The Need Project continues to be well supported by our churches and community and the number of recipients has grown. Last November 2017, 170 Christmas food parcels were distributed and a monthly average of 29 food parcels distributed in Sandy alone.

Lent lunches, co-ordinated by Alban raised £236, which was sent to Christian Aid.

The Easter Story Trail held in the Baptist Church was seen by 360 children from eight local schools. The children & accompanying staff find the portrayal of the Easter Story both absorbing and surprising. The thirteen actors taking part in the portrayal of the events of Holy week continue to find it a spiritually rewarding experience and thanks to the 8 helpers refreshments were served and key rings distributed.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness in 2017 was organised by Nicola Watson was more dramatic than usual and included a centurion keeping order and there were plenty of volunteers to carry the cross.

The 2017 Christian Aid envelope distribution and collection raised £3,125.94.

The 'Funday', led by Michael Sijuwade on the Village Hall field was a really happy & worthwhile event despite several downpours. So many people came together to demonstrate the love of Christ and faith in action. Good conversations took place, people laughed together, 140 burgers & 140 hot dogs were eaten. At our 2017 July meeting we said farewell to Beth as she prepared to move on in service to God. We will miss her leadership, prayerfulness & her willingness to tackle the practical tasks

Jane Godley Chair of Churches Together

SANDY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Annual Meetings will take place in St Swithun's Church
On Sunday 29th April 2018 4pm.

AGENDAS

The Annual Vestry Meeting to elect 3 Churchwardens will take place at 4pm

1. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th April 2016.
2. To elect the Churchwardens for the coming year.
3. To transact such business as is incidental to the meeting.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place at 4:15pm

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To approve the minutes of the APCM meeting held on Sunday 23rd April 2017
3. To receive a report from the Vestry Meeting to elect Churchwardens 29th April 2018
5. To receive The Annual Report from the Trustees
 - (a) Report from the Rector
 - (b) Report from the Electoral Roll Officer
 - (c) Report from the Churchwardens
 - (d) Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
 - (e) Examined Accounts of the Church Council for the year ending December 2014.

Other Reports.

6. To elect members to the Parochial Church Council.
7. To appoint sides-persons.
8. To appoint an Independent Examiner for 2019
9. Questions, comment and Testimonies.
10. Any Other Business. Please notify the Chairman in advance.
11. Close in Prayer
12. Tea and Cake

Sandy Parish Church Accounts Treasurer's Report Year End Dec 2017
APCM April 29th 2018 Liz Karenanantham

A sincere thank you from the PCC to all who contributed to the life and Ministry of the church through giving of your time and hard work, your prayers, gifts and ministries as well as your sacrificial financial giving.

Thank you all for the part you play in enabling the ministry of the church as outlined in the Annual Report.

Some are making provision in their will to leave a legacy that will enable the churches ministry to transcend the generations and we are grateful this year for gifts from Lady Valerie Pym and Bridget Pym.

We are also grateful to the contributions that new members are making to the life of the church by their presence, their prayers and generosity.

General

The accounts this year have been examined by our Independent Examiner Mr Howard Skinner.

The accounts are maintained on software by Data Developments.

They have been examined by the PCC and approved at the meeting of March 6th 2018.

They include the bank accounts and investments at the Diocesan Board of Finance in the name of Sandy PCC

Three bank accounts: Current Account Business Saver

Two un-restricted Funds: Church Maintenance Girtford Fund

Two restricted funds: Fanny Graves Bequest Curates Fund

One independent fund held in the name of Sandy PCC: Stephen Taylor Memorial Fund for youth work

The accounts cover all the financial activities of the church including:

Charitable activities	Mission and Ministry	Rectory Rooms
Maintenance of the church fabric	Maintenance of the church worship	

Receipts:

Total receipts for 2017 of £116,888 are higher than 2016 (£94,430) and 2015 (£87,859)

This includes a £7,000 grant from the Diocese towards the introduction of Fresh Expressions of worship.

Planned giving £40,783 (£38,195) Gift Aid £11,164 (£9,088) Loose giving £4,629 (£3,151)

Fundraising and church activities £11,581 (£6,578)

Payments:

Total payments were £108,585.

The largest single payment was the Parish Share of £49,842 (The remaining £13,115 of the £62,957 total 2017 Parish Share was paid in January 2018). (2016-£58,746 2015-£53,194)

The Parish Share is paid to the Diocese to include Clergy salaries, housing and pensions, Diocesan advisors and ensure a living and active Christian presence in every single town and village in this part of England.

Fundraising and giving to Leprosy Missions and Charities £22,907 (£21,897)

Capital Growth:

Cash in hand and our capital savings have increased slightly over the year.

Historically Parish Share was much lower because clergy salaries were paid from national funds. Today each Diocese must pay the clergy salaries and housing etc. and the churches join together to share out these costs amongst themselves, the bigger churches supporting the smaller and small churches joining together.

At Sandy Parish Church our financial position is improving. Our regular giving to the work of the ministry here in Sandy is slowly growing and other streams of income are being explored such as using the building for concerts.

The costs of the ministry are being kept at a basic level but as more adults and children come to the church so the costs of organisation and resources rise. It takes time for new people to feel a commitment to the ministry and mission of the church but if every person coming would increase their giving by £1 or £2 a week, or sacrifice just one cup of coffee a week and donate the commercial price £3, or consider giving 1%, 2% or 5% of their salary / income, or leave a legacy in a will, it could make a big difference to the Ministry.

It would be a very great thing if our income were to grow to a point where we could one day support a children's and families worker to help our young people navigate through what is a difficult time in their lives.

Thank you all for your prayers and generosity.

Liz Karanantham Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF SANDY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Page 6

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sandy Parochial Church Council ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out on pages 1 to 5 attached.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of Sandy Parochial Church Council and the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

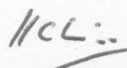
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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

Signed:


Howard Skinner FCA
8 Powers Close, Sandy, Beds. SG19 1JS

Date:

3/04/2018

SANDY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NET ASSETS STATEMENT
31 DECEMBER 2017

Page 1

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	2016 £
Bank accounts						
Barclays Bank PLC	18,755	4,636	(117)		23,274	7,934
Cash in hand	594				594	
Investments at current valuation						
St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance:						
<i>Church Repairs Savings Fund</i>		34,315			34,315	30,391
<i>Graves Bequest</i>				2,058	2,058	1,878
<i>Sale of Girtford Mission Church Fund</i>	28,394				28,394	35,491
<i>Curates Fund</i>			36,742		36,742	33,060
<i>Steven Taylor Memorial Fund</i>			8,577		8,577	7,965
Investments totals	<u>28,394</u>	<u>34,315</u>	<u>45,319</u>	<u>2,058</u>	<u>110,086</u>	<u>108,785</u>
Total Assets	<u>47,743</u>	<u>38,951</u>	<u>45,202</u>	<u>2,058</u>	<u>133,954</u>	<u>116,719</u>
Less: Liabilities						
Amount owing in respect of 2017 Parish Share	13,115				13,115	
	<u>34,628</u>	<u>38,951</u>	<u>45,202</u>	<u>2,058</u>	<u>120,839</u>	<u>116,719</u>
Reserves						
Balances brought forward	35,724	38,093	41,025	1,878	116,719	171,565
Net receipts/(payments) for year	5,871	934	1,379	110	8,295	(69,218)
Amount owing in respect of 2017 Parish Share	(13,115)				(13,115)	
Gains on investment assets	2,148	3,924	2,798	70	8,940	14,372
Transfers	4,000	(4,000)				
	<u>34,628</u>	<u>38,951</u> *	<u>45,202</u>	<u>2,058</u>	<u>120,839</u>	<u>116,719</u>
* Made up as follows:						
Church repairs savings fund		34,315				
Church hall activities fund		1,453				
Mission and ministry fund		2,437				
Ella French bequest		746				
		<u>38,951</u>				

The above Net Assets Statement and the Receipts and Payments Accounts on pages 2 to 5 were approved by Sandy Parochial Church Council on 6 March 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

P H Davies

Rev'd. Huw Davies
Rector

V Haygarth

Mrs. Valerie Haygarth
Churchwarden

SANDY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Page 2

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	2016 £
Receipts						
Planned giving	40,783				40,783	38,195
Collections and other giving	4,851				4,851	3,419
Other voluntary receipts	9,955		21,555		31,510	27,687
Gift Aid recovered	11,164				11,164	9,088
Other receipts						402
Activities for generating funds	7,150	4,431			11,581	6,578
Investment income	885		1,497	110	2,492	139
Receipts from church activities	14,498				14,498	8,921
Total receipts	89,286	4,431	23,052	110	116,880	94,430
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	2,420				2,420	2,462
Missionary and charitable giving	1,234		21,673		22,907	21,897
Parish Share	49,842				49,842	58,746
Clergy and staffing costs	9,361	789			10,150	9,237
Church running expenses	19,072	74			19,146	58,750
Hall running costs		2,634			2,634	3,544
Hall repairs and maintenance						2,426
Governance costs	1,486				1,486	6,587
Total payments	83,415	3,497	21,673		108,585	163,648
Net receipts/ (payments) for year	5,871	934	1,379	110	8,295	(69,218)

Note

The above payments do not include the final instalment of £13,115 in respect of the 2017 Parish Share which was paid in January 2018.

The total Parish Share for 2017 was £62,957. Had this instalment been paid in 2017, there would have been an excess of payments over receipts for the year of £4,820.

**SANDY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
DETAILED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

Page 3

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	2016 £
Receipts						
<i>Planned giving</i>						
Stewardship Gift Aid bank receipts	19,511				19,511	20,511
Stewardship non-Gift Aid bank receipts	1,812				1,812	2,226
Stewardship Gift Aid envelopes	4,794				4,794	4,956
Stewardship non Gift Aid envelopes	1,113				1,113	1,100
Gift Aid Envelopes	5,872				5,872	6,338
Parish Giving Scheme	7,681				7,681	3,065
<i>Planned giving totals</i>	40,783				40,783	38,195
<i>Collections and other giving</i>						
Loose plate collections	4,629				4,629	3,151
One-off Gift Aid gifts	222				222	268
<i>Collections and other giving totals</i>	4,851				4,851	3,419
<i>Other voluntary receipts</i>						
Giving through church boxes	378				378	241
Donations, appeals etc.	1,301				1,301	6,777
Deanery project	72				72	
Donations for charity			1,321		1,321	
Bible Reading Fellowship	204				204	289
Fresh Expressions	7,000				7,000	
Christian Aid			200		200	
The Leprosy Mission			17,960		17,960	15,850
The Children's Society			2,075		2,075	2,071
Legacies	1,000				1,000	2,459
<i>Other voluntary receipts totals</i>	9,955		21,555		31,510	27,687
<i>Gift Aid recovered</i>						
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	9,244				9,244	8,322
Tax recoverable on Parish Giving Scheme	1,920				1,920	766
<i>Gift Aid recovered totals</i>	11,164				11,164	9,088
<i>Other receipts</i>						
Royal British Legion						402
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>						
Other funds generated						517
Fund raising activities	4,112				4,112	876
St Swithuns Singers concerts	100				100	
Fund raising Gift Aided	240				240	75
Tree festival	1,353				1,353	987
Bookstall sales to promote objectives	43				43	288
Bookstall sales - fund raising	87				87	215
Church hall lettings - fund raising		4,431			4,431	2,826
Magazine income - advertising	320				320	140
Parish magazine sales	896				896	654
<i>Activities for generating funds totals</i>	7,150	4,431			11,581	6,578
<i>Investment Income</i>						
Bank interest and dividends	760		1,496	110	2,367	14
Rent from lands or buildings	125				125	125
<i>Investment Income totals</i>	885		1,496	110	2,492	139
<i>Receipts from church activities</i>						
Fees for weddings and funerals	14,498				14,498	8,486
Church hall lettings						435
<i>Receipts from church activities totals</i>	14,498				14,498	8,921
Total receipts	89,286	4,431	23,052	110	116,879	94,430

SANDY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
DETAILED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Page 4

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	2016 £
Payments						
Cost of generating funds						
Fees paid to fund raisers	695				695	
Costs of stewardship campaign						156
Costs of fetes and other events	178				178	400
Costs of tree festival	293				293	115
Magazine expenses	1,172				1,172	974
Bookstall costs	83				83	817
Cost of generating funds totals	2,420				2,420	2,462
Missionary and charitable giving						
Giving to missionary societies			156		156	
Christian Aid			558		558	
The Leprosy Mission			18,272		18,272	15,850
The Children's Society			2,374		2,374	2,071
Giving - relief and development agencies						252
Home mission	200				200	625
Deanery project	72				72	109
Bible Reading Fellowship	213				213	211
Need Project						124
Secular charities	749		313		1,062	2,655
Missionary and charitable giving totals	1,234		21,673		22,907	21,897
Parish Share						
Ministry parish share (see note on page 2)	49,842				49,842	58,746
Clergy and staffing costs						
Assistant staff costs	388				388	10
Rector - mileage and travel	1,213				1,213	487
Rector - postage	20				20	15
Rector - hospitality						40
Rector - books						72
Rector - telephone	394				394	190
Rector - other	211				211	
Curate - mileage and travel	311	44			355	185
Curate - telephone	128				128	113
Curate - stationery	30				30	4
Curate - other	199	664			863	147
Curate - water rates	164				164	366
Organist fees	6,145				6,145	6,750
Staff training - rector	125				125	
Youth and childrens ministry	34				34	436
Childrens worker - stationery		81			81	15
Childrens worker - other						211
Visiting speakers / locums						196
Clergy and staffing costs totals	9,361	789			10,150	9,237

Continued

SANDY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
DETAILED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Page 5

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	2016 £
Payments (continued)						
<i>Church running expenses</i>						
Subscriptions	201				201	194
Church copyright	377				377	126
PRS for church music licence						65
PPL church licence						65
Songselect advance melody						90
Other licences	252				252	20
Parish training and mission	871				871	725
Mission expenses						1,828
Alpha	220				220	635
Youth intern/volunteer costs						14
Youth and children miscellaneous		7			7	21
Baptisms						29
Weddings	772				772	126
Funerals	3,902				3,902	
Pastoral ministry	10				10	
Local mission		60			60	357
Church running - insurance	2,959				2,959	2,720
Church office - telephone	738				738	300
Organ/piano tuning	139				139	365
Music						244
Church AV system						37,324
Church building maintenance	634				634	2,779
Cleaning	1,298				1,298	753
General miscellaneous	969				969	243
General catering	247				247	
General staff costs						500
Church maintenance contracts						209
Upkeep of services	649				649	458
Upkeep of churchyard	362				362	1,136
General office expenses	232				232	61
Office equipment						80
Stationery	723	4			727	1,048
Postage						119
Publicity	417				417	258
IT equipment	147	3			150	1,341
IT services	139				139	988
Church running - electric	376				376	459
Church running - gas	2,439				2,439	3,069
<i>Church running expenses totals</i>	19,072	75			19,146	58,750
<i>Hall running costs</i>						
Hall running - electricity		1,106			1,106	1,374
Hall running - gas		77			77	100
Hall running - insurance		728			728	932
Hall rent		400			400	600
Hall running - maintenance		323			323	132
Hall running - cleaning						87
Hall maintenance contracts					3	320
<i>Hall running costs totals</i>		2,634			2,637	3,544
<i>Hall repairs and maintenance</i>						2,300
Hall major repairs - structure						126
Hall major repairs - installation						
<i>Hall repairs and maintenance totals</i>						2,426
<i>Governance costs</i>						
Diocesan fees	1,486				1,486	6,587
Total payments	83,415	3,497	21,673		108,588	163,648