

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017
FOR
THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF IPSLEY**

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF IPSLEY

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

The Parochial Church Council presents its report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with applicable law and the requirements of the Church Accounting regulations 2011.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1133862

Principal address

Ipsley Church Lane Redditch
B98 0AJ

Trustees:

Mr	B	Arrowsmith	Mrs	A	Humphrey
Mr	N	Bishop	Mr	P	McLaren
Mrs	M	Bishop	Mr	S	Mitchell
Miss	V	Cole	Mrs	A	Mortimer
Miss	A	Donovan	Mrs	J	Nathaniel
Mrs	J	Drabble	Mrs	L	Nicholas
Mrs	J	Evans	Mrs	K	Peace
Mrs	S	Forest	Mr	R	Sturdey
Mrs	J	Garfield	Mr	P	Williams
Mrs	W	Harding	Mr	P	Wilson
Mr	D	Hargreaves	Mrs	A	Worley
Mrs	J	Harvey	Rev	R	Harding
Mrs	M	Hughes	Rev	I	Evans
Mr	B	Humphrey	Rev	G	Nathaniel
Mrs	R	Humphrey			

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF IPSLEY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent examiner

David Rogers ACA

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

The day to day management of the charity is carried out by the members of the PCC, all of whom are also trustees.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Each DCC votes on its members annually at local level when they hold their individual Parish annual general meeting. New trustees are appointed by a majority vote and are given appropriate training to inform them of their duties and liabilities under Company and Charity Law.

Parochial Church Council

The Parish of St Peters Ipsley is made up of the churches of St Peters Ipsley, St Johns Greenlands and Christ Church Matchborough. In addition a congregation meets at Ipsley C of E Middle School. The parish covers approximately one third of Redditch and includes the areas of Greenlands, Ipsley, Matchborough, Winyates and Winyates Green.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The primary objective of the charity is the promotion in the ecclesiastical parish of the whole mission of the church.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission; the trustees consider that the charity meets the public benefit requirements of the Charities Act 2011 by carrying out its normal activities

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

It is the policy of this Parish to hold in reserves the equivalent of two months' general running costs and three months' salary costs. It is also our policy to hold an amount for essential building works as required, to comply with forthcoming Quinquennial inspections.

In applying these parameters, the individual situations of the three churches within the Parish have been taken into account and agreed at DCC level.

The policy will be reviewed annually as part of the Church year end accounts procedure, agreed by each DCC and consolidated into one Parish policy.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF IPSLEY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2017 set out on pages five to nine.

The overall Parish Accounting picture at end of 2017 shows an increase in funds from £171K at end 2016 to £227K.

Total Income:	2016	£276K	2017	£294K
Total Expenditure:	2016	£264K	2017	£238K
Total Closing Funds:	2016	£172K	2017	£227K

This favourable result arises due to the following main items:

- Specific Donations for Christ Church Community Missioner £12.5K
- Diocesan Funding for this same Project £8.6K
- Increased Lettings total £5K
- Fairer Parish Share across the Parish £35K

Offset by:

- Operating Cost Increases £3.5K
- Community Missioner commencing in last Quarter £6.6K

These main improvements are shown in Total Cash within Current Assets, which increased from £54.3K to £96.6K

St Peters also cleared £20K loan commitments - the end of the Car Park funding project.

Thanks go to the DCC Treasurers for their hard work in the year, keeping a tight rein on costs and maximising efforts on income streams.

Looking ahead, we will need to maintain efforts to encourage regular giving and giving towards specific initiatives, and of course keep tight control of expenditure. Parish Share continues at a more achievable level, and the Fairer Share scheme will be re-run in 2018, to come into effect the following year.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF IPSLEY

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

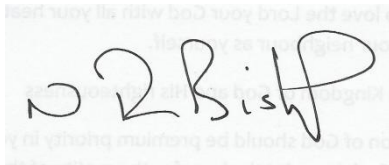
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N R Bishop', is written over a faint, repeating background watermark that says 'I love the Lord my God with all my heart'.

.....
N R Bishop Parish Treasurer

Date: 12 June 2018

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF IPSLEY**

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 you as 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 statements below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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



.....

David Rogers - Examiner

29 June 2018

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF IPSLEY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2017 Total Funds	2016 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from generated funds					
Voluntary Income	2	206,420	36,117	242,537	231,707
Activities for generating funds	3	816	286	1,102	2,431
Investment income					
Income resources from charitable activities					
Lettings		39,340	200	39,540	34,544
Fees		6,215	0	6,215	6,192
Insurance claims		3,634	0	3,634	0
Miscellaneous		647	0	647	1,143
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		257,072	36,603	293,675	276,017
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating funds					
Cost of generating voluntary income					
Charitable activities					
Donations		1,570	286	1,856	3,746
Expenses		4,757	0	4,757	4,224
Parish Share		131,087	0	131,087	166,475
Church running costs		93,117	7,190	100,307	89,725
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		230,531	7,476	238,007	264,170
Transfers between Funds		1,000	(1,000)		
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		27,541	28,127	55,668	11,847
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		71,527	100,083	171,610	159,763
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		99,068	128,210	227,278	171,610

The notes form part of these financial statements

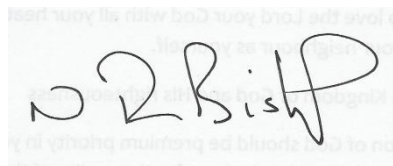
THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF IPSLEY

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2017 Total Funds £	2016 Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets (wdv)	5	125,373	125,653
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	21,450	24,119
Cash at Bank and in hand		96,584	54,378
		118,034	78,497
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(13,129)	(24,540)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		104,905	53,957
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		230,278	179,610
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after one year	8	(3,000)	(8,000)
NET ASSETS		227,278	171,610
FUNDS	9		
Unrestricted		99,068	71,527
Restricted		128,210	100,083
TOTAL FUNDS		227,278	171,610

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 23 April 2018 and were

signed on its behalf by:



.....
N R Bishop Parish Treasurer

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF IPSLEY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 Section 1A, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share unpaid at the year end is provided for in these accounts as an operational liability.

Other expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property	not provided
Plant and machinery	10 -20% on cost

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by section 10 of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2001 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF IPSLEY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	2017	2016
	£	£
Fundraising Events	592	947
Social Events	510	1,484
	<u>1,102</u>	<u>2,431</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

Deposit account interest	<u>78</u>	<u>101</u>
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4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2017

Trustees' expenses

Clergy expenses amounting to £4,757 (2016: £4,224) were paid in the year.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property £	Plant & Equipment £	Total £
COST OF ASSETS			
As at 1 January 2017	123,668	57,101	180,769
DEPRECIATION			
As at 1 January 2017		(55,116)	(55,116)
Charge for the year		(280)	(280)
		<u>(55,396)</u>	<u>(55,396)</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
As at 1 January 2017	123,668	1,985	125,653
As at 31 December 2017	<u>123,668</u>	<u>1,705</u>	<u>125,373</u>

Included in cost or valuation of land and buildings is freehold land of £123,668

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2017	2016
	£	£
Debtors	<u>21,450</u>	<u>24,119</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

		2017	2016
		£	£
Loans to Diocese	St Peters	0	12,000
	St Johns	3,000	5,000
Creditors & Accruals		<u>13,129</u>	<u>7,540</u>
		<u>16,129</u>	<u>24,540</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF IPSLEY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONEYEAR

		2017	2016
		£	£
Loans to Diocese	St Peters	0	8,000

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1 Jan 2017	Movement for Year	At 31 Dec 2017
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	71,527	27,541	99,068
Restricted Funds	100,083	28,127	128,210
TOTAL FUNDS	171,610	55,668	227,278

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Movement in Funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	257,072	(229,531)	27,541
Restricted Funds	36,603	(8,476)	28,127
TOTAL FUNDS	293,675	(238,007)	55,668

10. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

As at the balance sheet date, the Parish has completed repayment of Diocesan loan which was taken to fund the purchase of the car park in 2014.

St Johns has a small Diocesan loan balance of £3,000 outstanding, in respect of essential funding of replacement heating boiler

	2017	2016
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Gift Aided donations	153,086	166,986
Gift Aid tax recoverable	37,910	40,028
Non gift aid	20,066	14,299
Collections	8,012	6,375
Donations	1,717	2,315
Appeals	12,896	1,582
Flower Fund		122
Legacies	250	
Grants	8,600	
	242,537	231,707
Activities for generating funds		
Fundraising events	1,102	2,431
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	78	101
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Lettings	39,540	34,544
Fees	6,215	6,192
Insurance claims	3,634	
Miscellaneous	569	1,042
	51,138	44,310
Total incoming resources	293,675	276,017
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Social & fund raising		
Charitable activities		
Youth work	130	239
Parish Share	131,087	166,475
Clergy Expenses	4,757	4,224
Flower fund		
Donations overseas - christian	500	
Donations home - christian	1,070	1,183
Donations other charities	286	2,176
Donations individuals		387
Teaching, training & education	94	384
Church	38,167	42,843
Church centre	27,065	18,433
Churchyard	1,566	978
School		
Bookstall		117
Publicity & community activities		
Insurance	5,544	4,734
Administration	17,194	17,714
Mission/Evangelism	10,456	3,840
Bank charges		
Loan Interest	90	443
Total resources expended	238,007	264,170
Net income	55,668	11,847

This page is not part of the financial statements.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF IPSLEY

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2017

Charity no
(if any)

1133862

Set out on pages

n/a - pages not numbered. Reviewed financial statements up to note 10.
(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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. [The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [named body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

29 June 2018

Name:	David Rogers
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ACA
Address:	83 Pulman Close
	Redditch
	B97 6HR

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Archdeacons Visitation 2018

17th May 2017

Churchwardens Admission Service 2017

6th June 2017

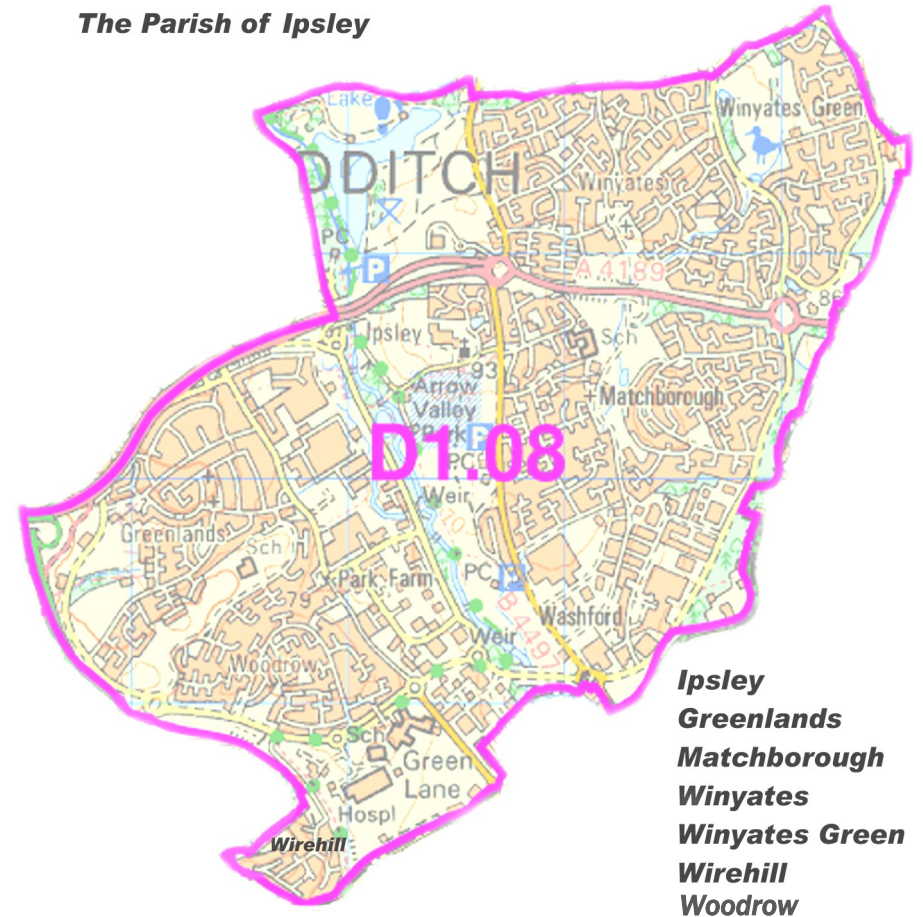
Advent Celebration Joint PCC DCCs LLMs

ALMs

6th December 2018 - St Peter's Church

Ipsley Team Ministry

The Parish of Ipsley



Reports for the Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 26th April 2018 at St. John's Church, Greenlands

Ipsley PCC Dates 2018/2019

PCC Meetings

June 28th
October 25th
January 24th (2019)
April 25th (APCM)

Standing Committee

May 24th
July 26th
September 27th
November 22nd
February 22nd (2019)
Mar 28th (2018)

Parish Joint Services

Ascension Day	30 th May 2018. - St Peter's
Celebration of Lay Ministry	27 th May 2018. - St John's, Greenlands
Parish Celebration	17 th November 2018. - Christ Church Matchborough
Ash Wednesday	6 th March 2019. - St Peter's

Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing in the Diocese of Gloucester and a replacement will be sought in the new year.

There was a lengthy debate on the Church of England's links with the Methodist Church. There is a new appetite for being in communion with each other. One of the main differences is the historical background as to how the church is led.

The Church of England is Episcopal lead from the top down with Bishops who ordain clergy – apostolic succession which the Methodist Church does not accept. More work is required on how the Church of England and the Methodist Church can come together, more clarification is required and there will be an update in July, but there seems to be a genuine willingness on both sides. Bishop John's view is that he would like to see us re-joining and one particular point of interest was that he himself had a Methodist education.

A motion was carried calling on the Government to bring forward legislation to minimise food waste. An average household throws away over 50% of the food it buys

Archbishop Justin called for a re-imagining of ministry with everyone being open to doing things differently.

Going forward a training session has been provided for clergy with input from national stewardship people alongside Alison Maddocks our Diocesan Stewardship Officer.

Dave Hargreaves



Dear Parishioners,

As I sit down to write this annual report for the year (2017) just gone by, I am immensely grateful to God for the many ways in which He has enabled our churches to reach out in the love of Christ, to serve our communities. As the reports that follow will show there have been a number of challenges, but then there is also much cause for celebrating our ministry and shared common life together as churches in the Parish of Ipsley. There have been a few exciting developments, such as the appointment of Graeme Russell as the Community Missioner in the district of Matchborough.

2017 was a year of personal challenge for me. Increasing degeneration in my spine and the subsequent surgery meant that I was very limited in what I could do through the year. But, God has been good. And I have seen His provision every step of the way. Jenny and I are so blessed to have such caring congregations in the three churches, who have faithfully prayed, encouraged and supported us through this time. There were cards, and offers of help, many offers of lifts to the hospital and back, the numerous phone calls and messages. So thank you for showing to us what it means to be part of the family of God.

I also want to express my thanks to the Rev. Richard Harding who has been there to shoulder a massive amount of responsibility of the three churches. In no way did the Parish feel the negative effects of my absence. When I went on sick leave, I left the leading and handling of the parish to Revd Richard, who very ably managed the affairs of the parish.

He supported Judy Evans and Linda Nicholas the churchwardens at St Peter's and Barry Humphrey and Sharon Forrest, the churchwardens at St John's in their role and ministry.

Revd Richard has amply proved throughout his year, that he is not just Vicar for Christ Church, but is truly a Vicar in the Team for the whole of the parish. So "Thank you" Richard for doing a sterling job and holding the parish in good heart. As we continue to work together, our motivational gifts complement each other so that we minister effectively together as a team.

Both Revd Richard and Revd Ian, maintained the priestly, pastoral and sacramental ministry across the whole parish. Though the churches were closed on an occasion or two because of the snow, they were never closed and no service was ever cancelled because ministry could not be provided.

I want to say thank you to highlight the role of the vast team of volunteers that have assisted in the workings of the parish and the three churches. The team of Readers, (Licenced Lay Ministers) has willingly worked hard to support the ministry of the church.

Some of our readers have faced health issues which have limited their input into ministry, but their love and zeal for the Lord's work has not diminished. Chris Tilley has not been able to return to work following complication after much awaited surgery on her foot. She continues to be off, and we covet your prayers for her recovery. Maureen Hughes has suffered major health challenges over the course of the year, and she too is currently taking it slow.

Deanery Synod Report

The main feature of Deanery Synod in October was Stewardship and Alison Maddocks, the new diocesan stewardship officer gave a presentation. She took up her post as Stewardship Officer in January 2017.

Alison's role is to promote our 'Kingdom People' commitment to ensuring that we are 'Devoted to growing deeply as disciples, offering our time, talents and money to God', Alison's role is to work alongside churches to:

- Promote greater understanding of the principles of Christian Giving
- Inspire, equip and resource people in financial stewardship,
- Help with stewardship programmes, 'Fairer Shares' and the creation of Mission focussed budgets

The 6 'S' of Stewardship - how do we come to our Stewardship?

Survival—I do my bit when asked

Supermarket—I pay for what I enjoy or need

Support—The church is important and I will support it

Subscription— I am a member and I pay my dues

Submission—I am trying to be a good disciple with all that involves

Sacrifice—I am called to be Christ like and do my best accordingly

The Rural Dean introduced the Buildings for Mission survey which he had trialled with his parish, and which our DCC have since engaged.

Reverend Christine Holzapfel the Rector of the Bromsgrove Team is to be appointed as a residential Ministry Team Member at the

How can we introduce issues such as love and sin back into the world of political discourse?

After coffee, the Synod was joined by young people from Candy (the Children's and Youth Councils) for discussion on tables.

- Your neighbour isn't just the person next door, it's everybody
- What stops us reaching out to people? Often it is fear and churches can create a space through coffee mornings etc where people can come and talk to others
- Keeping church doors open makes a real difference in being available to the community

At the November meeting, Mission Development Officer, Doug Chaplin referred to the church's involvement with Worcestershire Welcomes and the Halesowen Welcome Group. He introduced the Revd Mike Todd who spoke about the Children's Society's work with refugees. See Mike's presentation.

Mike started by offering a big thank you for all that churches in Worcestershire and Dudley do to support the Children's Society. Each year, Children's Society collection boxes raise £1.7m and Christingle services raise £1.3m.

Mike explained that work with refugees and child migrants can be quite controversial and challenging. People don't always want to support refugees. However, the Children's Society has been working with refugees since WW2 when they were involved in the Kindertransport scheme. The organisation now supports refugees through front line campaigning, advocating and project work. The Children's Society has a vision of churches as places of safety for everyone where a welcome is offered without compromise or judgement. There are six things that people can do; pray, listen to the voices of refugee children, change the narrative by talking to friends and neighbours, give, volunteer and provide foster care.

Chris McLaren, finally had her second hip replacement operation and spent the latter part of the year recovering from the surgery. And here I want to pay tribute to Andrea Mortimer who was the lone Parish Warden when Chris was off sick. I was ably supported by the churchwardens at St Peter's and St John's in the work of these churches. I could not do it without them. So thank you, Judy and Linda, Sharon and Barry for all your support.

Both Chris McLaren and Andrea Mortimer were very supportive in their roles as parish wardens. They have prayed faithfully for the clergy the readers and the parish, constantly carrying them in their thoughts and prayers before the throne of grace.

In 2018, we are looking at the future of current projects and asking where God is leading us with them, and also what God is requiring of us to see them grow and be fruitful. We are also looking at starting some innovative new outreach ministries, such as "Come and See" services at Christ Church, an evangelistic service for those who are unchurched. At St Peter's we are looking to start a Monthly Healing Service, where we can invite people to come and receive prayer for healing with the laying on of hand. In order to start this we need to prepare a prayer ministry team able to minister alongside the clergy in this key ministry. That is why we plan to run Prayer Ministry Training sessions later this year.

There has been increasing cooperation in ministry across the three churches. Maureen Hughes has joined us in baptism preparation sessions, and the Revd Ian has helped at both the Baptism preparation and the Wedding Preparation sessions held through the year.

As you will see from the finance report, God has blessed the three churches through this year. Partly because of a reassessment of our parish share, but largely because of God's faithfulness we had the resources to carry out the work and mission of the Church in Ipsley. Each of our churches goes into the New Year in the black.

As God has begun to do new things and strengthened the old through this year, so too we have experienced increasing opposition from both outside the church and in many instances from inside the church. This opposition has meant that we have had to spend a lot of our time and spiritual and emotional energy dealing with difficult circumstances rather than doing the work God has called us to do.

At the end of the year, as I was spending time in prayer and seeking God's face, I heard very clearly the words of Revelation 3:2 "Awake and strengthen what remains and is at the point of death." This to me is a sobering call. The church is always just one generation away from dying. While I believe we have a call to minister to young people and to prepare the younger leadership, I also believe we need to be doing work with parents and grandparents, preparing them to teach their offspring the word of God, and bring them up in the faith of the church.

Therefore, in 2018, I have decided that I will call the churches to a bible based and sincere discipleship. We will preach the word of God and no other.

Diocesan Synod

Synod is the method of governance in the Church of England. The Diocesan Synod is a body formed of the Bishops of the Diocese along with elected representatives of clergy and lay people from across the Diocese.

The functions of the Diocesan Synod are to:

- Consider matters concerning the Church of England and to make provision for such matters in relation to our Diocese.
- Express an opinion on matters of religious or public interest.
- To advise the Bishop and to consider and express an opinion on any matters referred to it by the Church of England's General Synod

In the Diocese there are 14,000 church members, 280 church buildings and 100 church schools.

The Diocese has partnership links of Peru, Morogoro in Tanzania and the Protestant Church of Central Germany.

At the March meeting Dr Malcolm Brown, Director of Mission & Public Affairs at the Archbishops' Council, addressed the synod on the challenges and opportunities for the Church in the changing context of welfare provision in our country.

He went on to say that it is important that people are not penalised just for being unlucky. Not everyone who ends up in a mess is a fool or has made a string of bad choices. However, welfare shouldn't encourage people to be careless. In this way politicians are often faced with the impossible.

At the heart of welfare policy, churches are uniquely placed to change the way we talk about things, to help balance personal responsibilities with the responsibilities of the State.

There is always the desire to seek out new possibilities and step beyond the familiar in following Jesus and once licensed there is always further training available and LLMs are encouraged to attend training events and the Reader Weekend at Holland House.

Catherine McLaren is currently exploring ordained ministry and her time as a reader will hold her in good stead. Catherine has this year gone on placement to other churches to experience different styles of worship.

We congratulated Peter McLaren earlier in the year when he graduated with a theological masters degree from Durham University.

Sadly some of our LLMs have faced health issues this year. Chris Tilley has not been able to return to ministry following complications after much awaited surgery on her foot. Chris McLaren also spent time recovering from surgery at the later part of last year. Maureen Hughes has been less active this year suffering major health challenges. Jesus went through all the towns and villages healing every sickness, today our Lord continues to pour out his healing balm when we pray for the sick so may we all pray for healing for our colleagues who are ill.

Looking forward, please continue to pray for the Licensed Lay Ministers in Ipsley parish as they face new and exciting challenges ahead.

Linda Nicholas LLM



We will nurture and encourage the churches to be filled with the Holy Spirit and bear witness to Christ in the power of the Spirit in the communities that surround our churches. I want our leaders to create a space in our services where the congregations can witness and exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in our teaching, worship and ministry.

As you will read the rest of the report may you see and hear what God is doing in our midst.

With thanksgiving,

Revd Canon Garth Nathaniel
Rector

Finance Report 2017

The overall Parish Accounting picture at end of 2017 shows an increase in funds from £171K at end 2016 to £227K.

Total Income:

2016 £276K	2017 £294K
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Total Expenditure:

2016 £264K	2017 £238K
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Total Closing Funds:

2016 £172K	2017 £227K
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This favourable result arises due to the following main items:

- Specific Donations for Christ Church Community Missioner ££12.5K
- Diocesan Funding for this same Project £8.6K
- Increased Lettings total £5K
- Fairer Parish Share across the Parish ££35K

Offset by:

- Operating Cost Increases £3.5K
- Community Missioner commencing in last Quarter £6.6K

These main improvements are shown in Total Cash within Current Assets, which increased from £54.3K to £96.6K. St Peters also cleared £20K loan commitments - the end of the Car Park funding project.

Thanks go to the DCC Treasurers for their hard work in the year, keeping a tight rein on costs and maximising efforts on income streams.

Licensed Lay Ministry

Licensed Lay Ministers (also known as Readers) are part of the nationally recognised and accredited public ministry of the Church of England. It is a voluntary, unpaid ministry with approximately 10,000 Licensed Lay Ministers nationally and around 160 in the Worcester diocese, 11 of whom are placed in Ipsley Parish.

You may wonder, what does a reader do? After speaking with the readers in our parish one can see that it is a varied and wide-reaching ministry.

At the heart of the role there is a ministry of the word, this is where the readers support the clergy in the ministry of teaching, preaching and leading worship which our Lay ministers contribute to on a regular basis but according to their gifts Licensed Lay Ministers are also engaged in a wide variety of other ministries. Ministries such as pastoral care work, chaplaincy work and we have here in Ipsley Parish ministers involved in both cathedral and hospital chaplaincy.

Community involvement is another important ministry in our parish. Rosie Humphrey has recently been elected as Chair of the Woodrow Community group, an umbrella organisation working with residents on Woodrow for the benefit of the local community. Marilyn Bishop is a trustee of the community project in Matchborough.

Beyond that, LLMs are involved in marriage preparation, baptism preparation, funeral ministry, healing ministry and still find the energy to do Open the Book, after school clubs, Messy Church, ladies prayer breakfast , lead House Groups and one even organises Sparklers, a group for under-fives and their parents or carers.

Open the Book



Praise the Lord that cross parish teams of six or seven storytellers continue to be welcomed in four local first schools: Matchborough First School Academy, St Thomas More First School, Tenacres First School and Woodrow First School, to present Bible stories. We have all built up good relationships with staff and children, who love to be asked to participate in various ways.

Middle school staff have recognised an increase in Bible Literacy as children exposed to Open the Book move up through the system.

We held another successful Jamboree in the summer when we celebrated together over lunch and thanked those who regularly pray for the ministry or make props, as well as encouraging some who wanted to investigate what is entailed.

My thanks to all who give time, at least two hours a week, to pray, plan and prepare for each presentation, who stick to the scripts provided by Open the Book (very important as this gives confidence to Head teachers that we are not proselytising) and respect Safeguarding considerations. Training is often available; some workshops, and others to encourage and inspire. There was a memorable day which included storytelling input from Bob Hartman, and more recently another Care and Share event organised jointly by Open the Book and the Diocese of Worcester.

If you feel called to join a really enjoyable, exciting and rewarding activity then have a word with me.

Marilyn Bishop

Looking ahead, we will need to maintain efforts to encourage regular giving and giving towards specific initiatives, and of course keep tight control of expenditure. Parish Share continues at a more achievable level, and the Fairer Share scheme will be re-run in 2018, to come into effect the following year.

Neil Bishop

Parish Treasurer

St John's Report.

A mix of new and established activity took place in 2017. The reduction in money needed to pay our Fairer Share released funds for much needed work to the fabric of the Church Hall. Whilst work was being carried out in the hall, regular users were transferred to the Church. This allowed us to test run opening up the Church for use by the community; we now hope going forward to encourage use of both buildings.

The invitation to be part of a Community Group on Woodrow was taken up by members of the Church and our Licensed Lay Minister Rosie Humphrey was voted in as chair.

Looking back we have plenty to be thankful for:

- A member of St John's, Mike Palfreyman underwent ALM Worship Leader training and was authorised at Worcester Cathedral.
- The continuation of our midweek service of Holy Communion and Prayer was maintained, with an increase in the number of people attending.
- The number of Sunday's clergy take the morning service has increased; providing more opportunities for the congregation and clergy to connect.
- Long established provision of services to the community through parent and toddlers and community teas continues; also short mat bowls reaching new people with the love of God.
- A course to help the congregation identify our spiritual gifts was run twice a week. To help us learn and grow together, follow on Support Groups have also been set up.
- Volunteers continue to provide church children with Bible teaching, encouragement of fellowship and opportunities to pray together.

The annual Harvest Supper took place on Saturday 30th September, it was a time of fellowship and fun. Several people provided entertainment and Lynne Davis and her team organised the refreshments.

Rhoda Lingard organised Open Church events, which were well attended by both church members and visitors.

The social event team organised regular events which included a pudding evening, a visit to Clarke's farm, a treasure hunt, walks and teas.

Our Easter and Christmas services were well attended and it was good to see so many visitors, particularly so at Christmas.

Ignite, our children's group for the 7 – 13's meets every Friday during term time and numbers are steadfast, it is led by Judy Evans and Rachel Hathaway. Scramblers for pre-school children led by Felicity Melley meets every Monday morning during term time and Little Miracles, a playgroup for twins, triplets and more continues to meet weekly and is led by Sarah Barcham.

A Prayer Ministry team involving some of our church members meets regularly with pupils at Ipsley Middle CE RSA Academy, they have their own Prayer Room and many pupils visit them to talk and pray.

The Ipsley Parish bell ringing team is continuing to flourish. The team regularly ring at services and weddings. They meet most Fridays at St. Peter's for bell ringing practice.

We thank God for his blessings and encouragement over the past year we look forward to being part of God's vision for the future.

Judy Evans and Linda Nicholas

St Peter's Church Wardens

St Peter's, Ipsley Report

2017 at St Peters has been a generally stable year. Our services have continued as normal throughout the year though we did have to close one Sunday back in December due to heavy snow. The lead was stolen from the roof last summer, an emergency faculty was applied for and the roof has now been fully repaired using Terne coated stainless steel instead of lead.

Our Rector Garth under went major surgery in October and was away from Church recuperating for 4 months. We are extremely thankful to Revd Richard Harding and Revd Ian Evans who took on Garth's priestly duties at St. Peter's and St. John's, we would also like to thank the Licenced Lay Minister's and service leaders who took on extra leading and speaking duties. We have had continuity in activities such as St Peter's Pantry and the now twice monthly coffee mornings. There has been continued support for parish events such as Messy Church and Open the Book. The Pilgrim Course was run for the first half of the year and was enjoyed and well attended. People from St. Peter's are still very much involved with the Redditch Foodbank, especially Elizabeth Mitchell and Richard Sturdey who are both trustees, many members of the church are also volunteers.

Highlights of 2017

We have fully repaid the loan for the car park, God is good! We have repaid it ahead of schedule so now we can turn our attention to not only to church maintenance but to more mission opportunities.

The Summer Fun Day was held at St. Peter's on Saturday 24th June, it was well attended by the local community and church members.

Activities included a bouncy castle, children's games, guided tours of the bell tower, a display of clerical vestments, barbeque, refreshments and a very popular treasure hunt in the Church.

A Parish Pentecost service held at St John's was well attended.

- We continue our links with children and parents through Parish Messy Church in Woodrow and after school clubs.
- We held a well attended Harvest lunch.
- Members of St John's and St Peter's joined together for an enjoyable Lent course.

Our hope for all at St Johns and across the Parish is for us to love and serve one another and to welcome new people, to the Glory of Christ.

St John's Church Wardens

Barry and Sharon

Parish of Ipsley APCM Christ Church

Report for 2017

In September last year God gave me a vision of a black dog with something in its mouth that it was shaking really hard – He also provided me with the interpretation that the black dog was the devil and the thing in his mouth was the Matchborough community and he was saying that the devil has got a hold on this estate so ‘what are you as God’s church going to do about it?’ I shared this with this church and encouraged us to pray and seek God’s face and also to make the church welcoming to everyone on this estate. This was discussed at DCC and it was agreed that we should remove some of the bars from in front of the church centre and also tidy up the frontage. Since we have been praying for God to move, we have come under a sustained spiritual attack and unfortunately we have had people undermining the ministry that we offer.

We continued to have problems with some youth from the community with anti-social behaviour and vandalism - the police were involved on many occasions, even to the point of using our downstairs meeting room at church for their base so that they could be on-hand. We have continued to work with the Council and the Police on ways to tackle this.

Community Missioner

The exciting news for 2017 was the Diocese funding a Community Missioner for three years from the Lowest Income Communities Fund/Diocesan Social Responsibility Fund and subsequently Graeme Russell was appointed and commenced in post in October, moving from Wales with his wife Jackie. During the first three months Graeme spent time with groups meeting at Christ Church to build on current relationships and networked with other organisations and charities. His continued aim is to build up new and existing relationships and put into place projects/initiatives to help tackle some of the issues faced by the local community.



The Messy Church report will be available at the APCM

Youth

Cool Zone for 7-11's met on Friday evenings in term time, averaging 12-15 children per session. It is a joy to see them growing in confidence, emotionally, socially and spiritually - some are now speaking out in prayer.

- The Youth Ministry for 12-15's has grown and each Friday evening around 25 young people attend. Throughout the year we delivered a wide range of activities, events, trips and programmes to impact the lives of the young people of all ages.
- The Wave youth service occurs the last Friday of every month and is led by the young people. The purpose of the Wave is to create a safe space for the young people to experience God through authentic but relevant worship, talks and activities.
- Youth Alpha - 15 young people we have built relationships with came to explore the Christian faith further. It was exciting to see the older youth again step out into helping run these sessions, including some preaching for the first time.
- A group of Young People went to Soul Survivor and they had an amazing time spending time as a Church family and experiencing the Holy Spirit in a transformational way.
- A second residential weekend Submerge was held at Peckwood over the Remembrance weekend and a special service of remembrance was shared together in the woods. As part of the vision for Submerge to help grow young leaders the older youth helped in many ways such as planning, cooking, worship and one of our young leaders even co-led the weekend. The weekend with 6 young people giving their lives to God, which is testimony not only to the youth ministry but also to the work the Church has done, as many of these young people had moved up from Cool Zone.

Revd Richard Harding

Prayer and Fellowship

- Weekly prayer takes place from 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday evening when up to 5 members regularly prayed in the small prayer room in church but towards the end of the year numbers attending more than doubled and, as a result, prayer relocated to the larger downstairs room in the Church Centre.
- Support Groups, meeting in people's homes, continued on Wednesday evenings for prayer and Bible study.
- Some of the men from the church came together about every 6 weeks at Studley Garden Centre cafe for breakfast and fellowship and the ladies met every 4-6 weeks in church to enjoy a continental breakfast, share around a Bible passage and pray.
- Regular fellowship lunches have been held after the Sunday morning services and these have proved to be very popular and a great way to have fellowship together.

Community

- We continued with monthly litter picking on Saturday mornings around the Matchborough Water Gardens and the surrounding area.
- Our Fun Fest in July was very successful – our yearly free fun day for the Matchborough community - talent contest, bouncy castle, face painting, craft activities and a free barbecue.
- The Remembrance Day parade started at Winyates centre with a short act of remembrance and a wreath laid on behalf of the residents. We then walked to Christ Church where a service of remembrance was held.
- A group of us sang carols before Christmas in some of the closes in Matchborough when quite a few residents joined us.

Christ Church Community Project

The work through the Christ Church Community Project has mainly focused on the Lunch Club which has continued to grow to a point where we now have a waiting list. We also delivered Matchborough Voice to all the closes in Matchborough twice during the year.