



St John the Evangelist

Meads, Eastbourne

Accounts and Reports

2018

St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

AGENDAS

For meetings to be held in the Jubilee Hall on
Thursday, 25 April 2019, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting (See page 4)
2. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting (See page 4)
2. Matters arising therefrom
3. Electoral Roll Officer's Report
4. Trustees Annual Report (See page 9)
5. Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2018 and the report of the Independent Examiner (See page 16)
6. Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church (See page 28)
7. Report on the Deanery Synod proceedings (see page 31)
8. Elections and appointments
 - i) Parochial Church Council members
 - ii) Sidesmen and women
 - iii) Independent Examiner/Auditor
9. Reports from Church Organisations & Representatives (See page 32)
10. Vicar's comments:
11. Any other business

Closing Prayers

(The meetings will follow an informal gathering from 7.00 p.m. when refreshments will be provided.)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 17th April 2018

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Vicar the Revd. Giles Carpenter opened the meeting in prayer,

Mrs Margaret Kowszun (Churchwarden) was present together with 60 parishioners. Apologies were received from 6 parishioners.

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

It was proposed by Miss Sheila MacNicol and seconded by Mrs Debbie Canning that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2017 be taken as read and a true record. This was agreed unanimously. There were no matters arising.

2. Election of Churchwardens

Nominations had been received from Mr Tony Mottram and Ms Vanessa Peters who had been proposed and seconded as churchwardens for the coming year. There being no other nominations they were duly elected.

The Chairman then closed the Annual Parish Meeting.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Chair for this meeting was taken by Mr David Scott-Ralphs.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2017 had been displayed in the Church.

Mr David Oakenfold proposed, seconded by Mr Anthony Smith and agreed unanimously that these minutes be accepted as correct.

2. Matters Arising

There were 2 corrections.

Item 3- Ethene Lomas should be spelt as Effene Lomas.

Item 10- is Sarah Bull not Sue Bull.

3. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Mrs Julia Pinder read the report compiled by the Electoral Roll Officer. On the 4th April 2018 the electoral roll stood at 278 people of whom 178 (64%) are women, 100 (36%) are men, 177(64%) live within the Parish, 101 (36%) live outside the Parish. 27 people's names had been removed since the last APCM mainly through leaving St John's or moving out of the area, 7 of which were due to death. 12 people have been added. The electoral roll was accepted on a proposal by Mrs Margaret Kowszun, seconded by Ms Vanessa Peters and agreed unanimously.

4. Annual Report of the Trustees and

5. Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2017 and the Report of the Independent Examiner

The Treasurer commented that whilst the report contained a lot of pound signs and numbers there are also a lot of words, which are just as important as the numbers as they give a picture of what St John's is all about; what we as a Church do in the community both as a corporate body and also through the activities of church members as volunteers in other organisations such as Foodbank or Linking Lives to name but two.

As was mentioned last year the Charity Commission do not regard it as a given that a church is of public benefit. We have to demonstrate in our Trustees report starting on page 9 that what we do is both relevant to, and of benefit to, the community we serve. The Trustees report sets out our aims, what we plan to do to achieve them and how successful we've been. The Church Organisations' reports starting on page 30 reinforce our benefit to the public as well as acting as a prospectus to church members of the opportunities available to become more involved in all we do. The PCC also believe that the re-ordering plans will provide additional benefits to the wider

community, not just church members. Community benefit is central to the grant applications we are making to assist with the cost of this work.

Turning to the numbers, the Statement of Financial Activities on page 17 shows that our income in 2017 was £102k higher than 2016 and we had a net surplus of almost £45k, giving us total funds of over £300k. This unfortunately is not as good as it sounds as there were a number of what might be termed exceptional items. On the income side these included legacies totalling £58k together with donations to the Anniversary Appeal of £38k – this is the total as at 31 December last of the monies actually received, not the pledges made. Against this were expenses related to the re-ordering of over £30k. The reality is that we have a structural revenue deficit of some £20k, which whilst not a reason for panic is not a sustainable position and needs our attention in the shorter term, as we cannot rely on legacies and unexpected donations to bridge the shortfall. Security in our income is crucial to our future planning.

Our main source of income is and will continue to be our planned giving and we are deeply grateful to those many members of our church who support us financially through regular giving. For 2017 this showed an increase of some 5%, which is encouraging but, as we know from our personal finances, costs do not stand still and year on year income increases are vital. Hopefully, growth in our church membership will help over time, as will our regular prayer and reflection on our personal giving. Giving however is not just about money and St John's is very fortunate that so many of our congregation give freely and generously of their time and talents.

Another income positive is the Parish Hall, which under Jo Naunton's management goes from strength to strength and, as I have found to my cost over the last couple of years, if you want a weekday evening booking forget it, it's fully booked. Hall income increased by £3k and there was a healthy surplus of over £5k after spending £4k on improvements.

Turning to expenditure, Parish Share was over £4k higher at £76,668, which included 3% as an additional support to those churches in our deanery who operate in more challenging areas and in consequence struggle to meet their full Parish costs. A £4k increase in staff costs is largely accounted for by the first full year costs for both the part time Early Years worker and the pension costs for the Children & Families Minister. Upkeep of Services mainly comprises the music provision across all types of service and the increase reflects the inclusion of costs for traditional services from September 2016 and also some equipment hire costs pending the upgrading of our audio visual capabilities.

The Trustees report shows that our charitable giving was £15,619 through our accounts, together with £5,844 from special collections – a total of £21,463 against voluntary income of £190k. Our stated aim is to give 10% of our voluntary income.

The Treasurer thanked John Driver for his continued work as gift aid secretary and who has supported many previous Treasurers, Jo Naunton for her help, particularly with salaries and the Parish Hall, and Yvonne Rogers and Michael Moore, the 'Monday Club' counting team

There were no questions. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his continued hard work throughout the year.

It was proposed by Ms Vanessa Peters, seconded by David Oakenfold that the Trustees Annual Report was taken as read and that the Annual Financial Report be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

6. **Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church**

The Chairman referred to the report on p28 and Margaret Kowszun Churchwarden said she would like to thank Dick Thwaites and Tony Mottram for all their hard work this year. There were no questions. Mrs Sally Scott-Ralphs proposed, seconded by Miss Sheila O'Hanlon that the report be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

7. **Report of the Deanery Synod Proceedings**

David Scott-Ralphs referred to the report on p29.

He confirmed that there had been 3 meetings of the Deanery Synod during the

Year which had been very useful with interesting speakers including The Right Reverend Bishop Richard Jackson, who gave a presentation at the final meeting of the year.

The report was accepted on a proposal by Mrs Joan Wildman, seconded by Mrs Maggie Gibson and agreed unanimously.

Questions were asked as to whether there was any sign of strategic direction regarding Deanery Synod planning and spending. David Scott-Ralphs replied that it remains a work in progress, he also said that he had found the Deanery Synod was useful in bringing Eastbourne churches together and some interesting presentations and discussions had ensued.

8. Elections and Appointments

i) Deanery Synod Representatives

There were no new elections this year.

Parochial Church Council

One new nomination had been received and seconded. There being no other new nominations Mr Neil Cumming was elected unanimously.

The following five members were re-elected on a proposal by Ms Vanessa Peters, seconded by Mrs Patricia Kelley:-

Mrs Phyllis Hall
Mr Frank Kelley
Miss Sheila MacNicol
Mr Roy Orchard
Mr Byron Stevens.

Mr Frank Kimberley who was retiring was thanked for his services during the year.

ii) Sidesmen and women

All sidesmen and women had been contacted and a list of people wishing to serve for the coming year was read out by the PCC Secretary. The list was accepted by the meeting on a proposal by Ms Vanessa Peters, seconded by Mrs Sheila Smith. The Chairman thanked all those who had served last year.

iii) Independent Examiner/Auditor

The Treasurer said he proposed Mr Michael Neilan who was prepared to continue for the coming year. This was seconded by Mrs Margaret Kowszun. All were in agreement.

9. Reports from Church Organisations and Representatives

The Chairman referred to p30 and he hoped that everyone would read the reports on the many activities that had taken place in the past year and thanked all those who helped with the various groups.

Sarah Hassell thanked those involved with 'Open the Book' and said that Deborah Turner the Temporary Head at St John's School wanted to give a very special thank you to the Open the Book team which engaged the whole School.

Dennis Thompson thanked everyone for their support of the Foodbank, he said the Foodbank had received a wealth of support from St John's Church which they were very grateful for. He advised that whilst their main objective is food distribution, they do provide other services including benefit advice, form filling and, as Toni Lawrence also advised, knitted baby clothes.

Catherine Butcher asked that as the Foodbank is a Christian charity whether the Christian message was given to those that use it. Dennis replied that they do mention this when it is appropriate.

10. Vicar's Comments

The Vicar stated that part of the Mission at St John's is to proclaim the good news of the kingdom, teach and baptise new members, provide a loving service, challenge violence and pursue peace, and strive to safeguard the integrity of the Nation.

The Vicar wanted to reflect on and celebrate the highlights of the last year and showed a video of some of the events that took place during the year. He informed us that there had been 12 new members added to the Electoral roll, 5 new confirmations, the Alpha courses had been a success, with a new Alpha Team formed, Gilly was now working in the office 2 days per week as a volunteer, and Nick Pendry has now been licensed as our latest Reader.

The Vicar thanked Sue Lockhart for the wonderful photographs she had taken to help compile the video.

The Vicar wished to thank everyone for all their hard work, sacrificing their time and utilizing their talents. He particularly wanted to thank Revd Jill Preece for her support, Jorj and Margaret Kowszun for co-ordinating Connexions, his wife Rachel, Tony Mottram for the huge amount of work he has done in around the Church, Frank Kelley for his hard work as Treasurer, and he offered thanks for the work that all the Worship Leaders bring to the church.

The Vicar also thanked those that were moving on in to a new chapter of their lives.

He thanked Byron Stevens and the trustees for their support of Linking Lives in getting us to where we are and wished Byron well with his new job.

Pam Lade has retired as Verger and the Vicar thanked her for all her hard work and presented her with a gift. He also thanked Clive and Kate Dilloway and Sheila MacNicol for assisting.

Margaret Kowszun was stepping down as Churchwarden, and the Vicar presented her with a gift. He said that God calls us in to partnerships with others and that he had enjoyed working with Margaret and thanked her for all her hard work and support over the years. Margaret said that it had been a privilege and a joy to perform the role.

John and Helen Roe were retiring from Coffee Pot in the summer and the Vicar thanked them for all their hard work and advised that Coffee Pot plus would be returning in September with Margaret Kowszun taking over.

The Vicar was thrilled to welcome Vanessa Peters to the team as Churchwarden and wished her luck in her new role. The Vicar was also thrilled that Ben and his family will be joining us in the summer. He said it is very exciting to be a training Parish and Ben's ordination will take place on 30th June at Chichester Cathedral. Tris and Hannah Peattie have now moved on and Kim Leach has been appointed as the new Children and Families worker and comes to us with superb references.

The Vicar quoted from Corinthians - we are of many parts but are one body, everyone is important and significant and we all have a part to play in what's happening at St John's. He said he loves being the Vicar at St John's and was hugely grateful for all the help and support he has had. The Vicar said that we are looking at an exciting future both here in the church and in the School, and as we adapt our worship space it will enable us to experiment with diverse ways of worshiping, inclusive of all.

David Scott-Ralphs proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar.

11 **Any Other Business**

The retired clergy were thanked for all their support.

The meeting closed by saying The Grace.

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St John the Evangelist

St John's Church, St John's Road, Eastbourne BN20 7ND

Registered Charity no. 1131574

For the year ended 31 December 2018

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Website: www.stjm.org.uk

Incumbent: The Revd Giles Carpenter

Independent

examiner: Mr Michael Neilan

Price & Company, Chartered Accountants

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd., Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent

St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

Trustees Annual Report for 2018

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Giles Carpenter, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known;
- Providing practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay;
- Providing financial support to those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives.

The PCC also has responsibility for the financial affairs of the parish and for the repair and maintenance of the Church fabric and the Parish Hall.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

For 2018 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church;
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community;
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers;
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish;
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish;
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament;
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations;
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- Providing assistance to the poor and needy of the parish;
- Giving away approximately 10% of voluntary income to missionary organisations and other charitable causes;
- Reaching out to the unchurched through provision of an annual fete, supporting the annual 'Meads Magic' Christmas street event and through a week- long festival to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War.
- Implementing our plans to re-order the church building to better facilitate a wider variety of services and enable its use for community activities.
- Furthering our planned improvements to the Church Tower to enable the chapel to be open on a daily basis both as a place for quiet prayer and also to allow access to the Memorial to those from our Parish who gave their lives in the Great War. Our plans now also include a heritage exhibition 'Eastbourne through the Wars' which is to be established on the first floor.

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

The church family welcomes visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

There are 279 persons on the church electoral roll. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 243 adults and 21 children, but this number increased at festivals with 373 attending on Easter Eve and Easter Day and 471 attending on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

St John's meets to worship both on Sundays and during the week. Members meet regularly to pray for the life of the parish and mission of the church, on Monday and Wednesday mornings and at the monthly 'Prayer Plus' gathering. The St John's congregation represents a broad range of traditions and there is an ongoing process to ensure that the services we offer not only meet the needs of the existing congregation but enable us to reach out to the unchurched. A key element of our Mission Action Plan is ***Bridging the Gap*** – reaching the age groups who are missing from St Johns. We run three Sunday Children's Groups – Rising Stars (0-5) and The Big God Space (5-11) alongside the 9.30a.m. Service and Streetwise (12+) on Sunday evenings. There is also a Thursday morning Parent and Toddler group. A recent innovation is 'Who let the Dad's out' a Saturday morning event for fathers and their children. In addition to the work of the Children & Families Leader at St John's Church of England Primary School two groups of volunteers from St John's Church participate in the school assemblies every two weeks and 'act out' bible stories as part of the Bible Society's 'Open the Book' initiative.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Our safeguarding arrangements are accessible from the opening page of the Parish website.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

We have seen more members of the church family involved in leading and participating in aspects of worship which gives encouragement both to them and the whole congregation. We continue to seek to extend the opportunities for the exercise of ministry and gifts within the life of our community. We were delighted to see three members of our congregation undertake training for Authorised Lay Ministry and they were subsequently commissioned by the Bishop of Chichester at a Service in Chichester Cathedral.

A key element in the area of nurturing faith and discipleship is home groups which meet regularly on a fortnightly basis. There are 12 groups and 159 people belong including some from other churches/traditions. We have been encouraged to see an increased demand for Alpha courses with two courses held during the year with more planned for 2019.

We see the above aspects of church life as part of the Diocesan strategy for reimagining ministry, explained by Bishop Richard at the launch in 2015. This, together with the following, also contributes towards another of our key Mission Action Plan elements – ***Building Belonging*** – making sure that neither newcomers nor long-standing members of the church go un-noticed or unwelcomed; and helping people find their niche in the church family.

We shared food and fellowship together at various times and in various places including Men's Breakfasts at the Holywell Tea Chalet, Lunch Club and Coffee-Pot Plus at the Parish Hall, Cameo and Scrabble in the Jubilee Hall and Connexions teas at the Vicarage, the latter specifically for those new to the church and/or faith.

Provision of church buildings for people to enjoy

We celebrated 4 baptisms and 14 funerals/thanksgiving services during the year. Our church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.

Our plans to re-order the church building (see below) to create, inter- alia, more opportunities for it to be used for events other than services received Faculty permission and much of the work was completed in time for a week-long Festival in early November to commemorate the end of the Great War. Our plans to carry out improvements which will enable the Tower chapel to be re-opened on a daily basis and provide community access to the 1914-1918 War Memorial will be implemented during the first half of 2019. This work will now include the creation of a permanent heritage exhibition in the first floor of the Tower 'Eastbourne through the Wars' which will be available to schools and the public and be included in Eastbourne Borough Council's Heritage Trails.

Four well attended free Organ and Choral concerts were held during the year as well as two Jazz concerts, one of which was part of our Fete weekend. The flexibility of our re-ordered church space was highlighted during our Remembrance Festival when it became a drama theatre, an intimate performance space, a concert hall, a lecture theatre, a cinema and a tea party venue. Over 2000 people attended the various events.

The Parish Hall, with its more central location in Meads Street, is an important component in our outreach to the local community – our third Mission Action element, ***Hospitality to the Fringe*** - building stronger relationships with our local community and people on the fringe of the church.

The Parish Hall has been listed by Eastbourne Borough Council as 'an asset of Community value'. As well as generating income through hiring, the Hall is used for community activities led by church members namely, Lunch Club and Coffee-Pot Plus. It is also used by the church to provide refreshments at community street events such as the annual 'Meads Magic' at Christmas.

The Scouts group started in Meads last year comprising three groups (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) continue to meet weekly over 2 evenings in the Church's Jubilee Hall.

Building for the Future

As indicated above we have made good progress in implementing the plans which we had developed over the last 2/3 years and the first 3 elements as listed below are largely complete. The stonework repairs and the other Tower works are expected to be completed during the first 6 months of 2019

1. Re-ordering of the Chancel area including replacing the Baldachin and Dossal curtain with the copper cross which fell from the roof in 2015, renewing wiring and upgrading lighting.
2. Removal of remaining pews and replacing with chairs.
3. Installing TV screens and upgrading audio, including acoustic improvements.
4. Essential stone works to the Church Tower and improvements to the ground floor chapel and War Memorial.

These improvements have addressed some health and safety issues, particularly with regard to fire exits. The replacement of the pews has improved access and choice for those with disabilities and allied to a new ramped access to the Chancel enables them to play a fuller part in services. The flexibility of the chairs allows for different configurations to meet the needs of traditional and contemporary services and also creates a large open space for both church and community use. The audio visual upgrades facilitate the more modern approach required for some services and allow greater use of the church by St John's C of E School who hitherto have had to use another church for some of their events. The Tower improvements will facilitate daily access during daylight hours to a quiet space for prayer and contemplation and also the First World War Memorial to the Meads residents who gave their lives. The proposed heritage exhibition will we hope become a resource for local schools and an attraction of interest to the wider community.

These are significant changes which it is felt will enable the church to fulfil its mission and we have been blessed with the support received from our congregation both financial and otherwise which together with significant grant aid has enabled us to undertake these works. The Remembrance Festival, mentioned above, as well as attracting 2000 visitors involved 100+ volunteers, four local schools, our scout and cub groups, two residential care homes and local artists and musicians – very much a community event.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

Pastoral care is headed by Revd Jill Preece and undertakes hospital visits and home communion. We also have teams who, on a monthly basis, visit 4 care homes locally. Communion services are held on occasions for those too frail to attend the church. Our newly trained Authorised Lay Ministers will be a key resource in providing/supporting home visits.

We continue to support both financially and with volunteers the Linking Lives Eastbourne charity which was formed in 2016 with the assistance of other local churches to provide a befriending service to the lonely. It is hoped this will extend throughout Eastbourne and is open to all regardless of faith. This charity has its own trustees and is independent of any church.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

The church family at St John's continues to be a high contributor among the local churches donating to the Eastbourne Foodbank. We were encouraged to see our children's groups play a lead role in presenting the Harvest gifts and the produce was shared between Eastbourne Foodbank and the Matthew 25 Mission. We have been able to support, through the provision of parts of our church building, Eastbourne Borough Council's Severe Weather Emergency Protocols (SWEP) and this has enabled a number of rough sleepers to find shelter when the weather has been most threatening to life.

Other charitable giving

The income from the Duplex Bequest amounting to £820 is included in the sums given by the PCC. A total of £15850 was given to 19 charities as detailed in note 4 to the accounts. In addition a total of £5515 was raised in special collections for 8 charities including British Legion (£688), Children's Society (£455), Christian Aid (£254), Matthew 25 (£1120), Winter Night Shelter (£1551) and Tearfund (£1000).

The parish magazine is published twice each year and is distributed free to all households in the parish. This helps to maintain links between the church family and those who have not yet felt the need to take part in what we do.

Financial Review

Incoming and outgoing resources

The total receipts on unrestricted funds were £414496 and are detailed in the Financial Report. Planned giving through envelopes and banker's orders decreased by 4.5% whilst overall voluntary income, excluding legacies & appeals, decreased by 5.5%. The PCC was grateful for the congregation's support for the Anniversary Appeal which totalled £203,117 including gift aid tax recovered and grants (£90959) from All Churches Trust, Awards for All, Caffyns Family Charity, Chalk Cliff Trust, Garfield Weston, Heritage Lottery Fund and Ian Askern Trust. The negative balance on the Anniversary Fund will be adjusted from further grants agreed in principle but not yet available for release.

With expenditure of £210,000 on the Building for the Future projects overall unrestricted funds reduced by almost £22,000. Discounting exceptionals there remains an underlying deficit of some £25000 which we shall seek to address as a priority as we move forward.

Sharing the ministry costs of the Diocese of Chichester

The largest expenditure of the PCC was the sum of £73308 paid to the diocese for our share of all churches' Parish Ministry Costs and church insurance incurred by the diocese. This amount covers the housing, stipend and pension costs of the clergy and also a standard sum for diocesan central costs, clergy training and a contribution to national church funds.

Currently, the church is meeting 100% of the costs allocated to this church. It is important to note that approximately 80% of the total paid relates directly to the clergy costs of this parish, the remainder being the shared costs of the Christian family throughout the whole Church of England, including assistance towards the upkeep of churches less able to manage than ourselves. Our contribution also includes £3652 to assist our fellow local churches.

Staff costs

The Children & Families Minister & Early year's worker/administrative assistant left towards the end of 2017. A new Children & Families Leader was appointed in June. The Parish Administrator left in October and will be replaced in early 2019. These staffing shortfalls have resulted in a 25% reduction in costs.

Trustee payments and expenses

The PCC supported the clergy (Vicar & Curate) by paying Council Tax of £6519, water and environmental charges amounting to £1639 for the Vicarage & Curate's house plus other annual costs towards travel, hospitality, telephone, broadband and accommodation amounting to £1635.

Four trustees received refund of expenses totalling £831 in respect of travel, stationery, postage, hospitality and accommodation.

Repairs to the fabric of the church building

We continue to address the issues raised in the last quinquennial report. The report highlighted the likelihood of problems with two flat roof areas at an indeterminable future time and recommended a sinking fund be established. The PCC has agreed to set aside £5000 per annum in a designated Roof Repair fund as provision for this potential liability. Stonework repairs to the Tower & West window are now included in our Building for the Future project and this work will be undertaken in 2019.

Why we hold some money in reserve

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balance of £20750 is below this due to the contribution to the Building for the Future project but together with the designated Reserve fund there is adequate cover.

It is PCC policy to invest temporarily surplus general funds with the CBF Church of England deposit fund, returning proportionately these funds to our current account, as they are needed, to pay day-to-day bills.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Revd Giles Carpenter	Chairman
Curate :	The Revd Ben Sleep	
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Jill Preece	
Readers:	Mr Jorj Kowszun Mrs Jill Maddock Mrs Sarah Hassell Mrs Catherine Butcher Mr Nicholas <u>Pendry</u>	
Wardens:	Mrs Margaret Kowszun (to April 2018) Mr Tony Mottram Ms Vanessa Peters (from April 2018)	
Deputy Wardens:	Miss Sheila MacNicol Mr Robert Orchard (to July 2018)	
Deanery Synod:	Mr David Scott-Ralphs Mrs Sally Scott-Ralphs Mr Raymond Hassell	Vice Chairman

Elected Members

Mrs Debbie Canning	
Mrs Phyllis Hall	
Mr Frank Kelley	<u>Treasurer</u>
Mr Francis Kimberley (to April 2018)	
Mrs Julia Pinder	<u>Secretary</u>
Mrs Sarah Bull	
Dr John Caroe	
Neil Cumming (to November 2018)	
Mr Byron Stevens	

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and up to 15 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

The PCC operates through two committees to oversee various aspects of the Church's corporate life, which are –

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact any business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the full PCC.

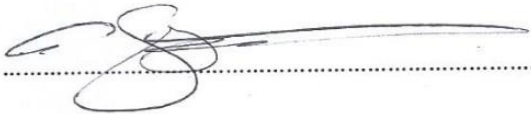
The Standing Committee also undertakes the function of a Finance Committee by monitoring the Church's finances and proposing action to be taken to preserve the funds.

Parish Hall Committee:

The committee has responsibility for hiring out the Parish Hall and maintaining the property.

Various teams exist, comprising members of the PCC and others, to further the work of the Church and report their efforts and proposals to the PCC where decisions are taken.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Revd. Giles Carpenter, PCC Chairman


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Date 6.3.19

Annual Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ST JOHN'S ROAD, EASTBOURNE BN20 7ND

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1131574

For the year ended 31 December 2018

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Annual Financial Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 December 2018
including the Income and Expenditure Account

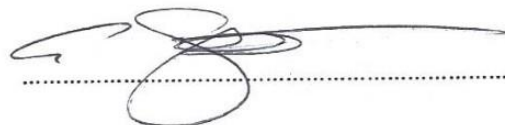
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2018	2017
INCOME from:						
Donations & legacies	2a	381297	500	-	381797	286734
Charitable activities	2b	5581	-	-	5581	4516
Other trading activities	2c	27261	-	-	27261	22386
Investments	2d	357	2527	-	2884	2676
Other receipts		-		-		-
TOTAL INCOME		414496	3027	-	417523	316312
EXPENDITURE on:						
Charitable activities	3a	409332	3520	-	412852	252128
Raising funds	3b	1849	-	-	1849	5084
Other trading activities	3c	25062	70	-	25132	15367
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		436243	3590	-	439833	272579
Net gains(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME or(Net Expenditure)		(21747)	(563)	-	(22310)	43733
Transfers between funds:						
Gross transfers in		68000	100	-	68100	16500
Gross transfers out		(68100)	-	-	(68100)	(16500)
Other recognised gains/(losses):		-	-	-		-
Revaluation of investment assets		-	-	(1143)	(1143)	6311
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(21847)	(463)	(1143)	(23453)	50044
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>						
Total funds brought forward		225618	4023	76229	305870	255826
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		203771	3560	75086	282417	305870

Annual Financial Report

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2018

	Note	Total Funds 2018	Total Funds 2017
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9a	3593	4791
Endowed investments	9b	75086	76229
Total fixed assets		78679	81020
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	16756	29362
Short term deposits		69823	68659
Cash at bank and in hand		125067	133257
Total current assets		211646	231278
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	7908	6428
Net current assets or (liabilities)		203738	224850
Total assets less current liabilities			305870
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-
Provisions for liabilities			-
Total net assets or (liabilities)		282417	305870
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted		203771	225618
Restricted		3560	4023
Endowment		75086	76229
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	13	282417	305870

This Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2018, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Giles Carpenter, PCC Chairman:



Date 6.3.19

1 Accounting policies

a. Accounting convention

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

b. Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

c. Income and endowments

All income and endowments, which are accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received.

Gift aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is received.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding, is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the events have occurred. Fees received in advance of the event are recognised as deferred income until the event occurs. The statutory proportion of fees held as agent for and due to the Diocese of Chichester, are not recognised as income and are included in creditors until paid.

Other trading activities

Where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services, income is recognised either: a - when received, or b - in the case of concerts: for the year in question, irrespective of date of receipt. Advance bookings are included in creditors until the concert has taken place.

Sales of magazines and study notes are recognised when received.

Investment income

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

All other income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December.

d. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, payment is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

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

Charitable Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis, reflecting the allocation set by our Deanery. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

e. Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets

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

Movable church furnishing 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. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to 1 January 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £1000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. Furniture and equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items with a purchase price of £1000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are stated at mid- market value at the balance sheet date.

f. Current Assets

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

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

2 Analysis of income and endowments

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2018	2017
		£	£	£	£	£
(a)	Donations & legacies					
	Planned giving					
	Gift Aid donations	109552	-	-	109552	112446
	Tax recoverable	50762	-	-	50762	39622
	Other	18867	-	-	18867	21972
	Cash Collections at services	8253	-	-	8253	8870
	Donations, appeals, etc	102904	500	-	103404	45202
	Grant	90959	-	-	90959	-
	Legacies	-	-	-	-	58622
		381297	500	-	381797	286734
(b)	Income from Charitable activities					
	Magazines, books and cards	1604	-	-	1604	969
	Fees	2211	-	-	2211	2361
	Clubs	1766	-	-	1766	1186
		5581	-	-	5581	4516
(c)	Other trading activities					
	Parish Hall lettings	19304	-	-	19304	18020
	Fund-raising events	7957	-	-	7957	4366
		27261	-	-	27261	22386
(d)	Income from investments					
	Dividends and interest (gross)	357	2527	-	2884	2676
		357	2527	-	2884	2676
	Other receipts	-	-	-		-
	TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS	414496	3027	-	417523	316312

3 Analysis of expenditure

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2018	2017
		£	£	£	£	£
(a) Charitable activities						
Missionary and charitable giving						
Church overseas						
Missionary societies		3990	260	-	4250	5090
Relief and development agencies		2000	200	-	2200	1150
Home mission		8540	860	-	9400	9379
Note 4		14530	1320	-	15850	15619
Ministry:						
Parish contribution		73308	-	-	73308	76668
Housing expenses		7380	-	-	7380	3910
Clergy expenses		2967	-	-	2967	3257
Church running expenses		18466	-	-	18466	14437
Church maintenance		9780	-	-	9780	10944
Upkeep of services		23819	-	-	23819	20958
Upkeep of church garden		206	1917	-	2123	2254
Expenditure on parish magazine, books and cards		1678	-	-	1678	1991
Mission outreach & training		1267	17	-	1284	989
Salaries		26368	-	-	26368	48559
Children's activities		662	-	-	662	1744
Printing, office supplies & telephone		7517	-	-	7517	7804
Other administration costs		8399	266	-	8665	11834
New & replacement furniture and equipment		1353	-	-	1353	1514
Depreciation of furniture and equipment			-	-	-	1436
Major works		190047	-	-	190047	26650
Tower & Festival Project		20025	-	-	20025	
Governance		1560	-	-	1560	1560
Note 8		409332	3520	-	412852	252128
(b) Raising funds						
Stewardship expenses		621	-	-	621	729
Cost of applying for grants		1228	-	-	1228	4355
		1849	-	-	1849	5084
(c) Other trading activities						
Parish Hall running costs		23784	-	-	23784	13434
Cost of events		1278	70	-	1348	1933
		25062	70	-	25132	15367
TOTAL EXPENDED		436243	3590	-	439833	272579

4 Missionary and Charitable Giving

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2018	Total Funds 2017
Overseas:					
CMS	900	-	-	900	1000
Revive	900	200	-	1100	1190
Tearfund	1000	200	-	1200	1100
Open Doors	-	-	-	-	1100
Malawi Assoc. Christian Support	500	-	-	500	700
Mission Aviation F'ship	500	-	-	500	600
Mission to Seafarers	350	-	-	350	500
CMCT	840	60	-	900	-
Release International	1000	-	-	1000	-
<i>Other charities</i>				-	50
Overseas total	5990	460	-	6450	6240
Home:					
Linking Lives Eastbourne	1900	200	-	2100	2100
St Wilfrid's Hospice	1100	100	-	1200	1100
Beachy Head Chaplaincy	1100	100	-	1200	1379
CDAFSW	750	-	-	750	800
Eastbourne Winter Night	740	60	-	800	800
Matthew 25	1000	200	-	1200	1100
Eastbourne Foodbank	1000	200	-	1200	1100
Church Army	350	-	-	350	500
St Luke's Healthcare for Clergy	100	-	-	100	100
PARCHE	150	-	-	150	200
Meads community	300	-	-	300	200
<i>Other charities</i>	50	-	-	50	-
Home total	8540	860	-	9400	9379
Total Giving	14530	1320	-	15850	15619

5 Staff Costs

Unrestricted Fund	Wages & salaries	Social security costs	Pension contributions	2018 Total	2017 Total
Administration and Verger	18249	486	1496	20231	28780
Working with Children & Families	12300	-	167	12467	19660
Maintenance of Church and Parish Hall	10843	88	190	11121	10731
Total	41392	574	1853	43819	59171

During the year the PCC employed an average of 2 people in the following posts: an administrator (until October), a Children's and Families Worker (from July), a verger (part time until February) and a cleaner. There are no employees who received total emoluments of more than £60,000.

6 Payments to PCC Members

Mrs Catherine Butcher received £9500 in her role as Heritage Project co-ordinator.

Other payments were made to PCC members in reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC:

a) Clergy support (Incumbent & Curate): Council tax £6519, Environmental charges £1639, Travel, hospitality, telephone, stationery, accommodation £1635.

b) 4 members received reimbursement for travel, stationery, postage, hospitality and accommodation totalling £831.

7 Transactions with persons related to PCC Members

None

8 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2018	Total Funds 2017
Independent examination	1560	-	-	1560	1560
	1560	-	-	1560	1560

9 Fixed assets

a. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment £	Furniture £	Total fixed assets £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2018	2268	8270	10538
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	2268	3479	5747
At 31 December 2018	Nil	4791	4791
Charge for impairment			
At 1 January 2018	Nil	Nil	Nil
Additions	-	(1198)	(1198)
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2018	Nil	(1198)	(1198)
Net book amounts			
01 January 2018	£Nil	£4791	£4791
31 December 2018	£Nil	£3593	£3593

b. Investments

	Endowment Fund £
Market value at 1 January 2018	76229
Loss on revaluation	1143
Market value at 31 December 2018	£75086

10 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
Fixed Assets	3593	-	-	3593	4791
Investment fixed assets	-	-	75086	75086	76229
Current Assets (except cash)	16756	-	-	16756	29362
Cash at bank & on deposit	191330	3560	-	194890	201916
Current Liabilities	-7908	-	-	-7908	-6428
Fund balance	£203771	£3560	£75086	£282417	£305870

11 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total funds 2018	Total funds 2017
Income tax recoverable	9200	-	-	9200	14679
Prepayments	4285	-	-	4285	6366
Other debtors	3271	-	-	3271	8317
	16756	-	-	16756	29362

12 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total funds 2018	Total funds 2017
Accruals and deferred income	1960	-	-	1960	2885
Creditors for goods & services	5948	-	-	5948	3543
	7908	-	-	7908	6428

13 Statement of Funds

Endowed funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives.

The Garden Maintenance Fund is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (2961.0 shares), which requires income to be spent on maintenance of the church garden.

The Duplex Bequest is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (1509.7 shares), which requires the income to be given to charitable causes.

The Flower Fund is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (179.0 shares), which requires the income to be spent on floral decoration of the church.

The CBF Investment Fund shares were valued at £16.1485 per share at 31 December 2018 (2017: £16.3944 per share).

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales. The restricted funds comprise;

The Garden Fund which holds income for the upkeep of the church garden.

The Flower Fund which holds income to provide for the floral decoration of the church.

The Charities Fund which holds income from the Duplex Bequest pending payment to charities.

St John School Governor's Fund which holds monies allocated by the PCC to meet costs incurred by governors in carrying out their roles.

13 Statement of Funds (continued)

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides.

The PCC has designated certain funds for administrative purposes and to set aside monies for future anticipated expenditure. The designated funds comprise;

Parish Hall Fund to provide for the running costs and upkeep of the Parish Hall

Parish Hall Maintenance Fund to provide for maintaining the fabric of the Parish Hall

Reserve Fund to provide funds as a contingency and for the further development of the church.

Organ Fund to provide for future repairs to the organ

Repair Fund to provide for repairs and decoration of the church and replacement of equipment.

Roof Repair Fund to provide for future repairs to flat roofs as recommended in latest quinquennial report.

Anniversary Appeal Fund to meet the costs associated with the Re-ordering Project

Tower & Festival Project Fund to monitor income & costs associated with the Remembrance Festival & Heritage Project

Summary of all Funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2018	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains & (losses)	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2018
Garden Maintenance	48544			(728)	47816
Duplex Bequest	24750			(371)	24379
Flower Fund	2935			(44)	2891
Total of Endowed Funds	76229			(1143)	75086
Garden Fund	1970	1610	(1977)	100	1703
Charities Fund	-	1320	(1320)	-	-
Flower Fund	635	97	(70)	-	662
St John's School Governors	1418	-	(223)	-	1195
Total of Restricted Funds	4023	3027	(3590)	100	3560
General Fund	94317	187215	(243482)	(17300)	20750
<i>Designated Funds</i>					
Parish Hall Fund	20609	19304	(23886)	-	16027
Parish Hall Maintenance	10000	-	-	-	10000
Reserve Fund	50000	-	-	-	50000
Organ Fund	2118	2095	(2735)	-	1478
Repair Fund	468	-	(9118)	10000	1350
Roof Repair Fund	10000	-	-	5000	15000
Anniversary Appeal Fund	38106	139610	(136698)	(49950)	(8932)
Tower & Festival Project Fund	-	66272	(20324)	52150	98098
Total of Unrestricted Funds	225618	414496	(436243)	(100)	203771
TOTAL FUNDS	305870	417523	(439833)	(1143)	282417

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne for the Year Ended 31st December 2018

Section A

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St John Meads on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2018 set out on pages to

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members 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 INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES]] Please

delete [bracketed words] if not applicable.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. 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
3. 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 matter has come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below in Section B *~~)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

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

Examiner's signature

M J Neilan

Examiner's name CAPITALS

MICHAEL NEILAN

Date

16 APRIL 2019

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body if any

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Examiner's address

PRICE & COMPANY, 30-32 GILDREDGE ROAD, EASTBOURNE BN21 4SH

St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

This year's report essentially falls in to two categories

- a) **Re-ordering works.**
- b) **General works.**

Re-ordering works, falls itself into two items, internal re-ordering of the church and external repair work.

Internal re-ordering. Began September 3rd 2018 and completed December 2018. Items included.

- 1) Chancel Area
 - a. Installation of cross
 - b. Lighting, both to the cross and the chancel area.
 - c. Absorba sound proof boarding behind cross.
 - d. Installation of removable hand rails.
 - e. Provision for a moveable Communion table constructed from presidents' stalls.
 - f. Installation of 84" screen and bracket.
 - g. Limited decorating to main walls.
 - h. Chancel wooden floors made good where required and re-varnished.

Note there is a difference in the colour of the flooring in the two areas previously occupied by the president's stalls. A decision not to re-decorate at the time of the work being undertaken was made by P.C.C. It is anticipated that when funds are available this will be dealt with.

- 2) North Porch.
 - a. Install fire exit door and escape ramp, with hand rails.
 - i. Escape lighting provision in main church.
 - b. Create storage cupboard.
 - c. Create false ceiling.
 - d. Carpet
- 3) Nave of Church.
 - a. Removal of pews and provision of 320 seats. 4 transport dollies
 - b. Installation of new sound desk.
 - i. Including satellite module located by the pillar nearest the North Door.
 - c. Installation of new sound system.
 - d. Installation of lighting controls to Cross, chancel and dais areas.
 - e. Installation of operating systems for monitors.
 - f. Installation of wall speakers.
 - i. *Note: The sound system had been designed on the basis that provision was made to acoustically board the walls in the Knave. P.C.C subsequently decided to defer the Acoustic boarding to wait and see the outcome of the sound installation.*
 - g. Installation of an access ramp into the chancel from the knave was postponed awaiting impact observations of new services. The portable ramp kindly provided by Mr and Mrs D. Thompson is being used temporarily, as required.
 - h. Ducting all cabling and re-carpeting.
 - i. Baptistry area at high level; provision for power socket and camera to eventually allow transmission of the font to the screens.
 - j. West window internal repairs and cleaning of stone work.

4) Church Tower.

- 1) Internal glazed door and lock fitted
- 2) Internal stone work cleaned with proprietary cleaner.
- 3) Additional internal works are proposed as part of the grant aided Heritage display.

External Repair work.

This work has been needed to be carried out for some years. The work falls into 3 main areas.

- 1) Repair work to south wall of tower.
 - a. Replacement of 102 Bath stone elements, and where possible repair others as needed.
 - b. Re-pointing of flint face work.
 - c. Dig a French drain on south side of tower wall.
 - d. Main door; iron work replaced.
- 2) West window.
 - a. Cut in drips to West windows
 - b. Replace putty round windows
 - c. Re-point flint work as required.
- 3) South Side wall.
 - a. Re-pointing work to flint
 - b. Bath stone chimney needs to be tied in to wall

Additionally; North lawn re-turfed (small area to be completed on removal of works cabin).

North wall adjoining Baptistry; an external power point installed for stone masons. To be left in situ for church use.

At the time of writing, the final elements of the external works are on target for completion before 10th May 2019. Work originally planned but not undertaken following discussion by P.C.C.

- Internal decoration of church; floor to ceiling height (not to include ceiling)
- Acoustic panelling to identified wall areas.

As with all projects and especially one of this complexity, there have been a number of snags to be worked out. This is a process we are currently working through.

General Works.

I would like to at this point express my most sincere thanks to Dick Thwaites for all the work he undertakes for us in this area.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1) May-18 | Fire door; replace batteries in Fire Guard |
| 2) Jul-18 | Cloister; replace lights and starters |
| 3) 31-Jul-18 | Roof; Russell Asphalt do patch repair to stop damp in south aisle |
| 4) Nov-18 | Lighting; replace 2 x LEDs in lighting hoops over glass door |
| 5) 30-Nov-18 | Electrical; Popes attend to loss of power in Church. |
| 6) 23-Nov-18 | Electrical; Popes attend to investigate loss of spotlight in Gregory Chapel.
Discontinuity in light circuit but unable to fix. Circuit made safe.E166 |
| 7) Dec-18 | Fire doors; replace batteries in Fire Guards |
| 8) Feb-19 | WiFi ; Installed into main body of church and Jubilee hall. |
| 9) 29-Mar-19 | Glass Door in nave; KB Glass attend to replace hinge at the top of the southernmost glass door between the narthex and nave. |
| 10) 1-Apr-19 | Locks; Armoury locks re-pin Jubilee door lock and provide 20 new keys |

- 11) Cleaning cupboard in Jubilee hall; Shelving and clothes rail fitted for open the book (*courtesy of Harte Read and Co*).
- 12) Mar-19 Kitchen; New noticeboard, wall mounted towel dispenser and apron dispenser fitted.
- 13) Mar-19 Signage; installation of finger sign post to south side entrance.

Works outstanding.

- Rain water outlet over fire door by kitchen in Jubilee hall. CPL have asked the main contractors to come back and install a rain water chute as per the building spec. This will then allow for the redecoration of the wall area affected by the ingress of water.
- Access toilet by the kitchenette off the office lobby. After exploratory work, in removing brick work, it has been discovered that severe condensation builds up in the void in the wall. This it is hoped will be remedied by fitting a wall vent. The wall to the w/c then needs be redecorated.
- Light bulbs to external bulk heads at the rear of the North end of the Jubilee hall need replacing. A large set of steps have been ordered to allow access to carry out the necessary work.
- Light bulb replacement to a northern light ring set to be undertaken as and when steps arrive.

Church Fabric and inventory.

The inventory was taken in March with the aid of the assistant wardens. This included all items of furnishings and church silverware.

The main items of note are the replacement of the Communion table cloth, which had become threadbare. The Terrier which is the churches main copy of buildings and property appears to have been sent to the Keep. Efforts are under way to have it returned.

The inventory has a note of a Bishops chair, possibly from the original church, having been sent to Battle Abbey circa 1984. My efforts to track this item down have proved fruitless, English Heritage have been contacted over the past 3 years to no avail. I would therefore ask if this item might be removed from the inventory?

Quinquennial 2019

2019 will see the Quinquennial report undertaken. This is likely to occur in September. I am indebted to Dick Thwaites for liaising with the relevant parties and putting it all together.

This year we will require an Access and Disability Audit Report and Health & Safety Risk Assessment, to have been completed for the Quinquennial. This is also at the time we are applying the necessary regulations for Food and Hygiene; on this last point I would like to mention all the hard work that Sally Smith has put into raising the standards required to meet this obligation. Thank you.

The Quinquennial will undoubtedly raise some works to be initiated, however the external works that have been undertaken this year have dealt with key elements, and should ensure that we are well ahead of the report, which may revolve around energy conservation i.e. roof insulation and effective heating controls etc. One area of concern that will arise is the glazing to the Narthex. Water is now freely penetrating inside the building past the existing installation.

So as you can see we are likely to be busy in a number of areas; if you have skill sets you feel able to offer in any of the matters, especially the three reports mentioned, then please let me know.

Tony Mottram Churchwarden

REPORT ON THE DEANERY SYNOD PROCEEDINGS

Eastbourne and district Deanery Synod

There were three Deanery Synod meetings in 2018, in February, June and October. St John's representatives were David and Sally Scott-Ralphs, Ray Hassell and Jill Preece. Peter Pickett also attended a couple of meetings but stood down during the year.

In February the Bishop of Lewes, the Right Reverend Richard Jackson, gave a talk on the state of the Church of England today. He emphasised the need for the church to be more missional, with a need for a new confidence in the life-changing power of the gospel. The church should be less of an institution and more a community that sustains and nurtures faith, grounded in the Word of God, demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit. In discussion, it was recognised that how we welcome people is hugely important and that there are opportunities for churches to engage with their community by serving in areas where government is failing.

The July meeting was largely given over to a presentation from the Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance – the average Parish Ministry Costs (PMC) for a typical parish were just under £70,000 in 2018. Some parishes in the Eastbourne Deanery benefit from what is known as Credit for Mission, which are funds to assist mission-oriented churches in deprived neighbourhoods to pay their PMC. The Diocese has set a target of 31st December 2020 for parishes to be self-sufficient, with a call for all to make stewardship a vital part of church life.

The final meeting of the year looked at how the Deanery can best support mission and evangelism, with some examples shared – ministry to the bereaved, developing a culture of invitation, 'radical hospitality'. This is work in progress for the Deanery to develop and support.

David Scott-Ralphs

St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Growing in relationship with God and each other – *building belonging*

Prayer Ministry

Jesus stopped and called them. ‘**What do you want me to do for you?**’ he asked. Matthew 20.32

It can be easy for us to be so focused on what we can do for God that we forget that He wants to do things for us. We build up a model that says we have to cope by ourselves, and lose sight of God’s longing to restore us and make us whole.

In prayer ministry we have the opportunity to come before God and to lay down before Him the things which are on our hearts. Of course, we can do this by ourselves in our own prayer time, but there is something powerful about coming to God supported by the prayer of others.

Currently the main opportunities to receive prayer ministry are during Communion at the 9.30 service and after this service in the Gregory Chapel and during coffee. Please feel free to approach members of the Prayer Ministry team, identified by their name badges, to ask for prayer. A further opportunity is the 4th Thursday of the month after the 11.00 am service of Holy Communion. Please make use of these opportunities to ask for prayer for yourself or a friend, or to come and give thanks for answered prayer.

When you come for prayer you can share as much or as little as you like and you can be assured that whatever you say will be kept in confidence. Those praying will invite Jesus to come, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and will then wait on God, listening for whatever He might want to say into this situation. We pray with confidence that God always answers our prayers, although not always immediately or in the way we might expect! The first result of committing a problem to God is often a sense of peace and an increased awareness of his presence with us.

We try to meet as a team every few months to pray and learn together, and if you would like to come along to one of these times to find out more please let me know.

Jill Preece

Quiet Prayer

Wednesday’s 9.30 – 10.00a.m. Gregory Chapel

Quiet Prayer – perhaps that seems a contradiction in terms but for many decades now this prayer time has been a significant part of the spiritual life of St John’s. It has given opportunity to bring before the Lord in the quietness matters on our hearts and minds to do with the world, the church and people we know.

This last year Sarah Hassell and Jeremy Daniels have shared in leadership with Jill Maddock with occasional help from Toni Lawrence. Numbers attending are usually around ten. The last five minutes are devoted particularly to prayers for the parish of St John’s.

May I encourage you to participate in this regular prayer time in the coming year.

God Bless – Jill Maddock

Pastoral care

The pastoral care team support and visit a number of members of the church family who are in particular need, or are isolated, either on a long-term or short-term basis.

We recognise and appreciate that this care often happens in a natural way within the church, however the aim of having a team is to provide a structure that ensures no-one is missed out, and to ensure that we offer a safe and supportive framework for both those visited and those who visit. As a part of this all the team have safeguarding checks and undertake safeguarding training, and we plan to undertake further training in other aspects of offering good pastoral care.

During the autumn of 2018 3 members of the church were trained as Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) in pastoral care, and Ian Chisholm, Maggie Gibson and Margaret Kowszun were authorised at a service in Chichester Cathedral in January 2019. Each of them has a particular area of concern and we welcome their ministry within the church and community.

The opportunities for pastoral care within the church will never diminish. Over the past year this care has continued to support many in our church family and we are immensely grateful to those who offer this care.

If you or someone you know would appreciate the support of the team, or if you would like to join the team, please speak to me or to Nick Pendry.

Jill Preece

Worship Team

I can report that it has been a very exciting year for me at St John's, personally.

In these turbulent times, there is a very real feeling that God is at work amongst us, I'm sure you'll agree!

In the worship team, we have seen growth, not just numerically with more and more people expressing a desire to get involved, but also in friendship; such great laughs and enriching fellowship in making music and just being together. Alongside this there's a sense of God drawing us to go deeper, to be thoughtful, creative and have fun in exploring how we best express our worship to him.

I am so thrilled to see our lovely 9.30 congregation engaging more and more in sung worship, and to feel a growing sense of expectation as we gather to worship on a Sunday. There is often such an atmosphere of joy, celebration and love – surely a sign of God's presence amongst us. And thank you all so much for the encouragement you feedback to the group so generously.

I have been thinking recently about worship as a *type* of tabernacle. God called the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt, but to what? He drew them to *himself*, to intimate relationship, as he dwelt in the midst of them in the tabernacle. In a way it feels as though our worship is like a tabernacle, a sanctuary which we build, and where God dwells amongst us. He inhabits the praises of his people.

God gave very detailed instructions on the building of this beautiful, portable, sanctuary, where he would be constantly present with his beloved people.

As we choose songs, arrange the music, and come together in the various groups to rehearse, we are also trying to build something beautiful and unified, that God might choose to dwell within, and make his presence real to us.

As musicians at St John's, we treat music with great reverence and respect, as a powerful gift, and tool, in which God has placed a great mysterious power – a power to *engage our emotions*; love, joy, awe, and gratitude, as we declare who he is and what he has done!

It is first and foremost for HIM, not for us, of course, but in his presence there is comfort, healing and transformation. It is our job and intention as a team, to assist the congregation in expressing their worship in Spirit and truth, not to draw attention to ourselves.

It has been incredibly rewarding for me to see members of the team growing in skill and confidence as worship leaders and musicians, and to see the bands sounding better and better. But I also draw so much from their maturity, wisdom and humble attitude - I am so grateful to you all.

We have also been blessed to have some amazing guest musicians come and play with us on occasion, which is always fun.

It's lovely to be able to draw from such a wide pallet of traditions and music at St John's. During the 9.30 service we sing worship songs from the 70's right through to present day, alongside traditional hymns, Taize chants, gospel songs and even the odd foray into classical music and jazz! This diversity is something which is very special about St John's, and has been completely shaped by the individuals whom God has brought to us, and who give so generously of their time and talents week by week.

If one week we have a lively (and perhaps slightly louder than usual) band, I am mindful that this isn't to everyone's taste, and will try to balance this with a more reflective gentle approach the following week. The talents we have, on a wide array of instruments and in different genres, allow for this rich variety.

Of course this diversity extends way beyond the worship group, to the amazing and tireless work that David Oakenfold and others do in drawing in many instrumentalists and singers, with a brilliantly inclusive and gracious approach. It's wonderful when these teams come together on a combined service, particularly when we experience the awesome 'surround sound' of the band at the front of the church and the organ bellowing from the back!

Looking forward, in the near future we will be providing a 'give away' CD/Download of new songs we'd like to introduce into our canon of worship. You can use this in home groups, or just to listen to in the car, or at home to familiarize yourself with songs you may not know. I am receiving suggestions from the team and leadership, to choose songs with good content, musical merit, and which reflect well where we are at as a community.

In the autumn there will be a series of talks on worship, with one or two exciting guest speakers to be announced. Our hope is that, as we study worship from a biblical perspective, and consider why God calls us to be worshippers, we will be able to move more deeply into a tangible experience of his presence – which is always with us of course – as we gather together. We enter his courts with thanksgiving and praise, but how do we move into the Holy of Holies?

I love being a part St John's and consider it a privilege to serve alongside the wonderful group of people God is gathering here. I'll leave you with the image of the dove which Noah dispatched after the flood, seeking somewhere to alight, and how this is a picture of the Holy Spirit hovering over the earth, looking for somewhere to land and bring the presence of Christ to his beloved people. He lands where he sees purity and unity, a love for Jesus, and one another, and an openness to receive him.

Thanks for reading.

Mark x

Church Music

Some of this report was written just after Christmas but unfortunately was not seen by everyone so I have expanded that here.

Music has continued to form a very important part of worship in St John's during the last year.

The monthly Choral Matins has been joined by Choral Evensong. These services are held the second and fourth Sunday of the month respectively unless otherwise advised. The encouraging growth of these services has shown the successful diversity of services at St John's. The 'St John's Singers', our choir, have provided Choral accompaniment for these and other services throughout the year.

I cannot express my appreciation enough for this group of dedicated singers and musicians who turn out in all weathers!

There has not been one occasion in either of the monthly Choral Services where an anthem has not been sung! The choir practices are great fun and we would welcome new singers/musicians. Everyone has a note in their head! We have a choir practice the Thursday before each Choral Service at 7.45pm which lasts about an hour.

We are privileged to have other musicians who participate from the organ loft and the two services which continue to prove our diversity are the Remembrance Service and the traditional Carol Service.

Our very special service of Darkness to Light, held on the first Sunday in December, has got to be one of the most moving Evening Services held throughout the Church year. From the opening solo from Messiah, sung in total darkness, to the eventual light in the Church provided only by candles, it's a most wonderful introduction to Advent and the run up to Christmas. May I suggest you make an advanced note in your diary for this year?

I'm grateful to all the musicians who take part in these, and other, services but particularly proud of our youth brass group. Their ability is exceptional! Thanks to Colin and Andy for their assistance here.

The coffee concerts continued during the year but became more difficult to hold, not because of lack of performers, but logistical support during the concerts. This year was a challenge as timing determined whether events could be held or not depending on church reordering.

The Renaissance Singers sang the Advent and Epiphany Meditations which were particularly poignant. We are grateful for the ongoing support of this special group of dedicated singers.

Die Alten Knaben group will return this year in May.

Lunchtime concerts have been arranged for 2019 so please support these and the musicians who have given their time for our enjoyment! Our last organ recital was given by Peter Dutton, Christ's Hospital, and was a great success. I'm pleased to say he will return in July this year. Please see the separate notice for this year's coffee concerts.

Noteworthy gave us an interesting programme of a Capella singing and we are delighted to welcome them back again shortly.

We were able to help St Saviours when their organ blower failed just as they were about to have a recital. The recital was successfully transferred to St John's and was a great example of inter-Church cooperation.

There are a number of ideas for this year which are now being explored. The old adage of 'one door closing and another opening' is to the fore at present. We will keep you informed.

The organ has been used regularly in the various services and it has been encouraging to hear how the services where the group and organ are used together, are greatly appreciated. We will continue to explore further avenues

for this with Mark. It's been a pleasure to play with Mark and his group and disprove the comments that it's not possible to play together!

Special thanks must go to Rachael for her part in providing music from the organ loft and playing for some of our services. It may not be seen from below but there's often organ bench changes, conductor changes etc during the services and the fact we both have white hair, adds to the confusion!!

Brian continues to help on all fronts and Rachael and I are extremely grateful for, not only his help, but advice.

The organ has continued to be well maintained, tuned and kept in good condition wherever possible. There are issues which are being exacerbated by the continued ingress of damp through the west window. The issues with the great and swell organ were covered in the last expenditure and the choir organ will need to be addressed when the window has been fully repaired and the damp issue solved. This is planned to be done imminently together with the Tower repairs, now in progress.

Again, we'd love to welcome new singers into the loft, it's only two practices a month and we do have fun! 'I can't sing' is not an excuse!! Come and give it a try

To everyone who has helped in the music at St John's, thank you. These thanks are extended to those who have stoically provided the refreshments when needed!!

David Oakenfold

Home Group/Alpha Groups

Jorj Kowszun recently did an interview survey on Home Groups which showed that the members value their group highly. They value it for the support/fellowship they receive, for the spiritual growth that results and for the fun. There are currently 12 groups with 159 members. This is close to three quarters of the church attendance.

Here are some comments that people have recently made about their Home Group:

"The best thing about Home Group is that everyone looks after each other especially when people are finding things tough. It becomes like a second family"

"Home Groups are wonderful!"

"It's a chance to go deeper into your faith in a small group."

"I look forward to it – it's become an important part of my life."

"There are lots of groups which each have their own flavour so you can find the one that best suits you."

"We have a lot of fun as well as discussing a topic or a Bible passage."

"Anything said in Home Group is confidential and is kept within the group."

"You feel more comfortable about speaking up with people you've got to know and trust."

"In Home Group you can ask any question you like – nothing's off limits and nobody criticises you."

"You don't need to know the Bible to be in a Home Group and no-one is going to embarrass you."

"You can be any age to join a HG, nobody's too young or too old. In our group we have an active member who is 94!"

Nick Pendry

Hospitality

The Hospitality team have had a busy year and its responsibilities have grown, as has the number of team members, which has been a huge blessing to the Church.

We have provided Church lunches, coffee, tea and cake at many gatherings plus the weekly provision of refreshments after Sunday service. Huge cake baking went on for the Summer fete and it was all hands on deck for the welcoming of the new curate Ben and his family with a Church barbeque.

The Remembrance Festival week was a great success, with the team providing lunches and refreshments throughout the week culminating in a huge tea for the Peace Party.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Hospitality team for all their hard work and fun.

Sally Scott-Ralphs

Connexions

Five or six times a year we hold a “Connexions” tea-party at the Vicar’s house for people who are new to the church.

The purpose of Connexions is to provide new members with an insight into the nature and character of the Church. They meet a range of people involved in the life of St John’s and Giles gives a brief overview of our current Mission Action Plan. More than anything else, it is an opportunity to meet and talk with each other and with key members of St John’s.

I would like to thank Giles and Rachel for opening up their home and for their generosity and hospitality in welcoming new members.

Anon

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES (continued)

Reaching out to the community around us – *hospitality to the fringe*

Outreach to those in Care Homes, including PARCHE (Pastoral Action in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly)

Under the PARCHE umbrella we have responsibility for three care homes in the parish. Sarah Hassell leads the team at Alma Lodge, while Derek Mouland leads teams at Camelot and Meads House. Each month they lead a service of familiar hymns, Bible readings and prayers, which are greatly appreciated by residents and staff. *Sadly several members of the teams are not able to continue this work, so new members would be warmly welcomed to each of the teams, and Derek would be happy to speak to anyone who might lead a team.* Other care homes in the parish, including Elstree, are visited by PARCHE teams from other churches.

Sarah Hassell also leads a team visiting Elstree Court each month: from the start of this year this is a service of Holy Communion one month alternating with 'Songs of Praise' the next. This is greatly appreciated by the residents. Although our involvement in providing a service at Chaseley has ceased there is now a PARCHE team going in each month, and several of the residents have been able to join us at Sunday services. If you would be able to help by walking up the road alongside a resident in a motorised wheelchair please speak to Tony Mottram.

St John's is one of the churches in Eastbourne that leads Sunday afternoon services at the DGH. The service is broadcast on the hospital radio so those who attend are joined by those on the wards. The service begins at 5.00 pm and lasts 30 minutes. Again if you would like to join in you would be very welcome. Please speak to Derek Mouland for more information.

May I extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to all those who take part in these activities – they are a vital part of our commitment to love and serve our community, and we are grateful to all those who express God's love in this way. If anyone would like to join in any of these teams we would love to hear from you.

Jill Preece

CAMEO

During 2018 we had a very exciting programme starting the year with a visit from Jill Parker, Chairman/Co-ordinator for the JPK Project (Providing Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities). All enjoyed the film "Tea with 'Mussolini'". It was a pleasure to have 2 of our church members spending the afternoon with us – Toni Lawrence – on "My Friend Esther" (The story of Esther in the Bible), and Hazel Mottram on "The Role of a Foster Carer". They were most challenging and brilliantly presented. We all learnt that we had a 'Dame' in the Church and Elaine Montgomerie shared her story performing in the theatre.

The Hand Bells team from Seaford accompanied our annual afternoon tea. A walk through London's Christian Heritage was excellent from Peter & Judith Moore: it was a great education of the Christian presence in London over the centuries. We had a duo afternoon with Tracey Edwards "Living with dwarfism" and Rev. Jill Preece "From motherhood to ministry". Two interesting stories of how God had blessed and guided their lives. One afternoon we shared what we had done earlier in our lives. Finally our Christmas celebration this year was a fascinating and interesting Christmas Art slide show from Helen Rufus-Ward. One of our regular ladies said:

"I really enjoy CAMEO – so pleased to meet up with ladies from across the whole spectrum of church services in an easy relaxed atmosphere. Each month we have something different – never gets boring".

All Ladies very welcome.

CAMEO TEAM: Rowena Adams, Pauline Drayson, Barbara Eddleston, Patricia Kelley, Yvette Kemp & Brenda Prior. (Toni Lawrence on sabbatical).

St John's Festival of Remembrance

The festival exceeded expectations and involved more than 100 volunteers, mainly from St John's, who hosted and staged events, catered and performed for different community groups, and built bridges with different community groups. During the week the flexibility of the newly reordered church space was shown, and the new hanging system in the Jubilee Hall demonstrated the skill of local artists.

Fourteen local businesses advertised in the programme helping to cover its cost; 3,500 copies were distributed in Meads and the town centre. Terri Rintoul from Meads Community Association and the Friends of Meads Parks & Gardens provided the dance music for the Community Peace Party. Age Concern Eastbourne ran the Memory Day and made poppy candle holders. Their Men's Shed project cut out the Remembrance Tree from wood donated by GC Builders. The 'Shedders' also made wooden crosses and a cross-shaped planter. Bede's School, local artists, St John's C of E Primary School, Shinewater Court Disabilities Trust and the Compass Community Arts project contributed art. Residents of Ashley Gardens Care Home made a collage to add to the art exhibition. Poppies were made by pupils at Bede's School, St John's C of E Primary School, and residents of East Dean Grange. Beavers, Cubs & Scouts attended the opening and laid a wreath at the memorial. Volunteers from the Matthew 25 project provided security for the Vigil.

The festival can be summarised in numbers as follows:

- 100+ volunteers hosted and staged events, catering and performing
- 200 lunches served
- 600 served with refreshments
- 120 served afternoon tea with cakes
- 2000 attended the events
- 155 leaves were added to the Tree of Remembrance
- 4 local schools contributed artwork or attended events
- 69 children from St John's C of E Primary School each made a poppy to remember the men on our war memorial
- 15 art and English prize winners and 13 musicians from Bede's made a 'Thank You' display
- 6 soloists, 3 music groups, 1 orchestra, 2 choirs, 3 readers from St Andrews performed
- 40 girls from Roedean Moira House attended an event
- 50 Beavers, Cubs & Scouts and their families came to the opening
- 19 artists contributed to the Jubilee Hall Festival Art Exhibition plus local school children
- 9 artists contributed to the cloister display from Shinewater Court Disabilities Trust
- 2 local residential care homes contributed poppies and art to the Festival displays
- 24 clients from Age Concern attended a Memory workshop
- 14 local businesses advertised in the festival programme helping to cover costs
- 9 local residents researched the stories of the men on the war memorial

Catherine Butcher
Festival Co-ordinator

Eastbourne Foodbank

Eastbourne Foodbank is still here and continues to grow and is now the largest foodbank in the South East, what a sad indictment on the town of Eastbourne. With good fortune, the foodbank has the support of the town who give generously and regularly, thereby helping to support the ever increasing need.

It is now a little over a year the foodbank closed its doors to the warehouse in Cornfield Lane, moving the warehousing and administration to a newer and larger industrial unit in Brampton Road. The storage is considerably larger, enabling important additional items to be available in greater quantities, such as toiletries and hygiene products. The CEO of the foodbank and his administration staff are now housed in a purpose built office which makes their working environment more conducive and healthier. The old warehouse in Cornfield Lane was generously given rent free by the Trustees of St Andrews Church, sadly this is not the case with the Brampton Road warehouse and considerable raising of funds is required to cover this cost.

With the move to Brampton Road the operating ethos has changed with the warehouse being out of town; the previous warehouse being used for both storage and distribution to clients. The clients are now able to collect food from 7 satellite distribution points, Grove Road, St Elisabeth's Church, St Richards Church, Community Wise, Willingdon Trees, Gateway Community Church and Shinewater Community Centre. Grove Road in the town is by far the focal point for collection, but the additional outlets do ease the travelling for those living out of town.

The issuing of clothing has ceased due to the lack of space at the satellites; baby clothing, baby toiletries, pushchairs and bedding continues to be distributed solely from the warehouse.

A label that the Eastbourne Foodbank took on several years ago was foodbank and more. The more offering advocacy advice, assisting with benefit forms and applications. Now a new service was started this year, Money Life offering debt advice by 5 qualified debt advisers; it's early days but it is fast moving forwards.

In terms of numbers, 12,100 were given food in 2018, in November 2018 alone, over 1,400 people were fed. Devonshire Ward continues to be the highest level of clients to be using the foodbank, with the Meads Ward continuing to be high on the list of clients using the foodbank, this being driven by local hotels housing Social Services cases.

Without the paid administration staff, 130 plus volunteers, the Board of Trustees and the generous giving by people such as the congregation of St John's, the good work of the Eastbourne Foodbank would not be happening and for this, all those at the foodbank thank you.

Dennis Thompson
Eastbourne Foodbank Trustee

HARMONIA Ladies Choir

As part of the November 2018 Remembrance Festival held at St John's Church, Meads last Autumn, I assembled a choir of women's voices to sing Paul Mealor's beautiful song *Wherever You Are*, originally written for Gareth Malone's choir of Military Wives. I would have been happy if I had gathered about a dozen voices for the concert, but in the end there were about twenty-five women from the church and from the local community who rehearsed together to prepare for the performance.

The piece was sung in the *Concert for Remembrance* on Saturday 10th November, and was a great success. The ladies enjoyed performing together so much they very much wanted the choir to continue and we have subsequently rehearsed on Wednesday evenings, learning a diverse range of music including spirituals, pop songs, Christian worship songs, anthems and art songs, arranged in two or three parts for upper voices. Singing in *Harmonia* (as the choir is now called) is not only great fun, but it builds confidence and has introduced music to a

whole new group of women. The age range of the singers is from early-20s to 80s, so it really does gather everyone together, with new friendships being forged every week. The choir has continued to grow in numbers and new voices will always be welcomed (no auditions!).

On Ash Wednesday, *Harmonia* led the music at the evening service. This was a wonderful opportunity for the choir to take part in a church service, with the purity and ethereal quality of the high voices enhancing the worship for the beginning of Lent.

We are performing again at the beginning of April, when *Harmonia in Concert* will be the first time the choir has sung a more extensive repertoire. We are delighted to welcome some guest soloists for that concert, including a young music scholar from Christ's Hospital School, extending the concert platform to musicians from the wider community.

The choir will be continuing rehearsals in the Autumn, preparing for a Christmas concert, and hopefully attracting even more local women to join us in raising our voices in harmony.

Jane Pendry

St John's Scrabble Club

Our Scrabble Club meets twice a month in the Jubilee Hall at 2.30 pm. on the second Monday and last Wednesday of each month. Our members who come along have a really enjoyable time with refreshments during the afternoon. We welcome all levels of experience from beginners to internationals (perhaps not yet but you never know). Our club reaches out to everyone, men and ladies, whether they attend church or not. Any donations which are received go towards our Church funds.

Pam Lade

Men's Breakfasts

Another good year for the Men's Breakfast with 10 meetings held at the Holywell Café, from varied speakers from the congregation, bar one.

Perhaps a sign of age but I cannot remember if this is the second or third time I have been asked to write this report, but what I can remember is that those attending have been blessed with interesting, as I call it, a Thought for the Day.

Since starting numbers of those attending have been slowly increasing to now close to 30, we have just not reached that magic figure yet.

A full program for the remainder is in place for 2019, but we are fast going through the congregation of those prepared to talk, there are some still untouched, but the number is depleting. It may be the case in 2020 when people will be asked if they will speak again or I look for speakers outside of St John's.

To all those who spoke I say thank you and to those coming up, we look forward to hear what you say.

A special thanks to Richard Brewall and his team who raise themselves from their beds to present us with a hearty breakfast early on a Saturday morning.

Dennis Thompson

Parish Hall

The hall has continued to be a very popular venue, with increased usage in a large variety of areas which has produced a steady rise in income. In addition to the regular hirers it is the venue for many children's parties.

Rosie Whittaker our cleaner/caretaker has continued to look after the flower beds and garden area of the Parish Hall. We have some new shrubs and flowers which have improved the look of the garden area.

Thanks to Rosie, as usual, for the work she does at the Hall. She's continued to care for the Hall and has also helped set up for the Lunch Club each month.

The Hall has continued to go from strength to strength during 2018 and the diary is full throughout 2019. Our Parish Hall is most definitely a much loved and well used facility which continues to be greatly appreciated throughout the Meads community.

Church Garden

The church gardens provide a beautiful tranquil space which is enjoyed by church goers, Meads residents and tourists venturing up the hill from the promenade. The ashes of loved ones are scattered in the memorial garden and flowers or crosses are placed there on Remembrance Sunday and other anniversaries. The gardens provide an important part of church life and are kept looking lovely by a group of hard working volunteers.

The gardening team have had an excellent year. Although we are still quite a small band and could always do with some additional help this year we have held a number of working parties to prune the shrubs, tidy up and have a laugh and a chat at the same time. It was difficult to do any work on the north side whilst the marquee was there but the grass has now been replaced, thanks to a generous donation, and it all looks beautiful again. The long hot summer provided a challenge but we rose to it and I think everyone appreciated the fabulous sunflowers in the memorial garden. We will continue to work hard in this wonderful God given garden.

Karen Fletcher-Wright

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club continues to be a popular monthly event at the Parish Hall. We cater for approximately 30 customers each month and they really enjoy and appreciate the food and company. We have a lot of regulars but also have seen some new faces recently which is always lovely.

An enormous thank you goes to every single person on both lunch teams, who work so hard to ensure everyone is fed and happy, especially the team leaders Ken and Pam Mayhew and Sam Williams and Pat Smith. Thanks also to Rosie, as she sets up for the Lunch Club each month.

We look forward to welcoming more people over the coming months.

Children and Families

Sunday Club

A team of faithful volunteers kept children's church going from the beginning of the year until our new Children and Families worker, Kim Leach joined us in July. Her role continues to be a joint one with St. John's Church and St. John's C of E Primary School.

With a few exceptions, Children's Church has continued in the previously set pattern of whilst Kim has settled in and familiarised herself with the church structure and families who attend the 9.30am service. Instead of beginning in church, the children have their own short time of praise and worship together, split into different age groups and then join into the main service during the peace to either partake in communion with their families or share in a 'Take Away' (What we've been thinking about at church/what God has shown us) time along with the adults.

In order to create a space for families to engage at home together on what has been learnt / thought about in church on a Sunday morning, the junior church has had the same focus each week as the adults. From the youngest toddlers to the more 'energetic' teens we've tried to think about how we can be the reflection of Jesus at home, in school and wherever else we go. It's wonderful to hear stories from parents who come back and share how little ones are engaging with it through the week. After a session looking at being the light in the world where the toddlers made little lanterns out of clear plastic cups, a mum shared how each night before going to bed her daughter asks for the 'God light' to be put on.

Highlights of the year have been: All age 'Sukkot' Harvest Service (in the tent) which was well attended by families and had a good spread of all age interaction. The Christingle Service, which was done in 'the round' and attended by church, school and toddler group families. The Nativity service which was a combination of filmed story and real life action – children and families got involved in different parts and many people commented on how engaging it was for all ages.

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP- Thursday mornings are becoming a busy hive of activity at St. John's baby and toddler group. The little ones love the variety of toys and simple activities set out. We've had great fun over the past few months getting our fingers mucky with paint, threading beads, hiding bugs in coloured rice, singing jubilantly with noisy instruments and tucking into good healthy snacks. It's great seeing the mums, grannies and the odd dad building relationships with each other and playing with their little ones.

School Links

Kim spends two days a week in the school supporting staff, children and families through different means. A vital part of being the link between church and school is to enforce the Christian distinctiveness which is fundamental to the ethos and vision of St. John's Church of England Primary School. This is achieved through daily collective worship, a weekly adult prayer group open to staff, parents, governors and church members wanting to pray for the school, a children's prayer group who meet once a week to pray for each other and their school, services at Church, family communion once a term in school, prayer station sessions and monthly Pastoral Care sessions which the whole school participates in.

Open the Book continues to play an important role in collective worship and the children thoroughly enjoy each story shared. A separate report follows.

Kim Leach

Open the Book

We have had another good year with some 22 storytellings at St. John's Meads School.

It has been great to welcome Jorj, Hazel, Geraldine and Peter into our teams, and to mark 2 years of Open the Book at St. John's with a celebration meal at Eastbourne's La Locando del Duca restaurant.

Looking to the future, we are hoping to expand by producing storytellings at a local Special School.

As part of the Mothering Sunday celebration this year, we put on a colourful storytelling in church: The Helpful Servant, which included a magnificent procession round the church as horses, donkeys, soldiers and sundry others followed in Naaman's wake. It featured wonderful sound effects, courtesy of a blue tooth speaker and an iPad, and a great performance by Coco Kimberley as the servant girl.

We are always looking for more people to join our Monday and Thursday teams, no matter how long or short a time you've been at St. John's. No prior experience needed!

Sarah Hassell