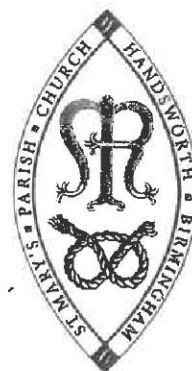


The Parish of Handsworth

The Church of St Mary

www.handsworthstmary.org



THE PARISH OF HANDSWORTH (ST. MARY)

St. Mary's Parish Church
Registered Charity Number. 1171344

St. Mary's Church Hall
Registered Charity Number: L4/603/840

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2018

Rector:
The Revd Dr Robert Stephen
Handsworth Rectory
288 Hamstead Road
Birmingham

Bankers:
TSB plc
Handsworth
Birmingham

Independent Examiner:
Laurence Parkes
5 Crondal Place
Birmingham

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Preamble

St. Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Dr Robert Stephen, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church of St. Mary's, Handsworth.

Objects and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our church and to become part of our parish community at St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our Church through:

- * Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- * Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- * Sharing our faith and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Mary's.

Worship and Prayer

The pattern of services has continued with a Holy Communion at 8.00am every Sunday using the Book of Common Prayer (1662); The Parish Eucharist is at 11.00am every Sunday; and Evensong is at 5.00pm, usually on the third Sunday of the month. All of these services has viable numbers attending,

All are welcome to attend our regular services and we are glad that our worshipping community is so very diverse in age, ethnic origin, employment and family situations. Given the demographic of the area, where only 22% would identify as Christians and these are not all Anglicans, we can be confident in a steady growth. At present there are 66 parishioners and regular worshippers who live beyond the Parish on the Church Electoral Roll, which will be completely revised in 2019.

The Church of England gathers statistics on the life of the Church each year and this year I share with you the key figures with the same statistics from 2010 and 2015 for comparison. Many of these are average numbers for all services on a Sunday and in the week and so can easily be skewed by how many special services there are (particularly during October when statistics are more closely recorded) or by external factors like the weather or, in our case, a cold Church because we have had inadequate heating.

	2010	2015	2018
Christmas	77	58	166
Easter	60	125	104
October	66	101	142
Average Attendance	43	62	69
Baptisms	1	8	6
Marriages	4	3	5
Funerals	25	9	8

When the refurbished Church is available we can reasonably expect that there will be an increase in the numbers of weddings and funerals as we shall then have greatly improved facilities. Our building will become a tool for mission rather than just a spiritual landmark in the area.

I have been glad to have had the support of my 4 licensed Readers who have assisted as Liturgical Deacons at the Parish Eucharist, have officiated at other services, have preached and have supported me in the pastoral care of the congregation. I also express my thanks to my Churchwardens, Doreen and Keith Hemmings, for their constant and consistent support, advice and encouragement and their unstinting generosity with their time and talents.

Deanery Synod

4 members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The Rector or one of the Readers have visited all church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. There is a very good and effective support network in the fellowship and this is a source of encouragement to many.

Financial Review

The details of the Parish and Church finances follow in this report. We are aware of the need to raise funds in the immediate future for the reordering and are glad that, because of the 'rainy day' monies in the general funds we can put the work in hand with some element of faith for God to provide the funds we need. The F&GP have pursued a policy of consolidating our unrestricted funds to simplify bookkeeping and management of investments. With the pressure from the Parish Share having increased and the uncertainty of the Diocesan funding being addressed in People and Places, we are aware that there is the ever present pressure to proceed with prudence.

Volunteers

We are a Church together and there is always a willing group of supporters for the many and various activities from cleaning to cooking and supporting special ventures (e.g. the annual beer festival): there are too many to mention by name. However, I would be remiss if I did not thank Edna Simkin, our Treasurer; Eddie Lear, who manages our investments and the Hall accounts; Roger Tipper, our independent examiner who has demonstrated his commitment to us in his tenacity in overcoming significant health issues to complete this work; to Richard Paton-Devine who has stepped-up to help with compiling the accounts; to Betty Lear our PCC Secretary and to Margaret Thomas who has, in this last year, been her Deputy; and to Christopher Hazeley-Jones for managing the Hall bookings together with Ron Hollins who has taken on additional care taking duties.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), churchwarden(s), the readers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members will receive initial training into the workings of the PCC. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

During this year we have taken some time to reflect on the roles and responsibilities of the various officers in the Church and to think positively about how we ensure there are people to take on these roles in the future.

The standing committee of the PCC is the Finance and General Purposes Committee and it is responsible to the PCC and reports back to it regularly with regular reports given to the full PCC and discussed as necessary. Other committees deal with safeguarding, pastoral matters and social activities. The PCC are responsible to the Diocese to act as Trustees for the Church Hall.

Administrative information

St. Mary's Church is situated on Hamstead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, 288 Hamstead Road, Handsworth, B20 2RB. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is an independent charity registered with the Charity Commissioners.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st April 2018 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

- * Incumbent: The Reverend Dr Robert Stephen (Chairman)
- * Readers: Mrs Ruth Cooper; Mrs Eureka Drayton; Dr Stephanie Hayton; Mrs Penny Stephen
- * Wardens: Mrs Doreen Hemmings; Mr Keith Hemmings (Vice Chairman)
- * Miss E J Simkin (Parish Treasurer)
- * Mr V F Daniel (Deputy Warden)
- * Mr C Hazeley-Jones (Deputy Warden)
- * Mr G Walters (Deputy Warden)

Elected

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| * Mrs L Colwill | (elected until 2020) |
| * Mrs Diana Duggan | (elected until 2019) |
| * Mrs B Lear (PCC Secretary) | (elected until 2021) |
| * Mrs Camelia Paton-Devine | (elected until 2020) |
| * Mr Richard Paton-Devine | (elected until 2020) |
| * Mrs E V Lubin | (elected until 2020) |
| * Mrs E Moore | (elected until 2020) |
| * Miss R J, Seadon (Electoral Roll Officer) | (elected until 2019) |
| * Mrs S Taylor | (elected until 2020) |

Co-Opted

- * Mr E Lear OBE – Hall & Investment Treasurer
- * Mr D Holmes
- * Mrs M Thomas, Deputy PCC Secretary

Approved by the PCC on 30th April 2019 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Dr Robert Stephen (PCC chairman)

Report on the Fabric (Keith Hemmings)

If you drive down Church Hill Road you get a view of our Church that is unrivalled. The building, now that the tower has been refurbished, stands proud and, we pray, is a constant witness to the love of God and his dependability at the heart of our Parish. This is justification enough for us to invest the time, money and love that we do to ensure that the buildings we have entrusted to us reflect God's glory.

This has been a quieter year than some, but some of the highlights were:

- i) After a great deal of negotiation, persuasion and argument we were granted a Faculty for the reordering of the Nave of the Church. As this happened in December we were only able to prepare the tender documents for decisions in the New Year. All involved are aware that the work has to be completed by the Bicentenary of the death of James Watt on the 25th August 2019. We are grateful to the Chancellor for the very positive way he ensured that questions were addressed and obstacles cleared.
- ii) The regular programme of maintenance has been continued, especially with the clearing of the roof areas and the gutters and drains.
- iii) A flag pole was installed and the Diocesan Flag is flown on all Sundays and Holy Days and the Union Flag flown on the dates notified by the Lord Chancellors Office.
- iv) The Parish Hall has proven to be a popular venue for family parties and most people have respected the space. We have also been glad to use the space for worship during the coldest spells in the year (although the 8.00am congregation braved the cold throughout).
- v) Our thanks to all those members of the congregation and community who have supported the various cleaning days: it does help with keeping the Church clean and useable.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee (as the only Standing Committee of the PCC) continues to carry most of the workload behind the scenes on behalf of the PCC. Currently serving on this committee are:

The Revd Dr Robert Stephen	(Incumbent & Chair);
Christopher Hazeley-Jones	(Hall Letting Officer);
Doreen Hemmings	(Churchwarden);
Keith Hemmings	(Churchwarden);
David Holmes	(PCC Appointment);
Eddie Lear	(Hall & Investment Treasurer);
Rosemarie Seadon	(Gift Aid & Electoral Roll)
Edna Simkin	(Parish Treasurer)
Shane Taylor	(Social & Fund-raising Committee)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE P.C.C. OF ST. MARY, HANDSWORTH

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") and St. Mary's Church Hall Charity for the year ended 31st December 2018, which are set out on pages 8 to 15, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under S.144 of the Charities Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under S.145 of the Charities Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under S.145 (5)(b)) of the Charities Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, and
- To state whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission and Church Guidance. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the PCC officers concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Charities Act and Regulationshave 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.

Laurence E Parkes
Chartered Accountant

5 Crondal Place
Birmingham
31 October 2019

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST. MARY)
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2018

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (CONSOLIDATED)

	Unrestricted & Designated Funds	Restricted & Endowment Funds	Total Funds	(2017)
RECEIPTS				
Voluntary receipts:	48,424	280	48,704	47,958
Activities for generating funds:	20,652	-	20,652	6,053
Receipts from Church activities:	-	-	-	1,537
Investment income:	23,808	11,751	35,559	26,340
Other incoming resources:	33,724	-	33,724	296,568
£	<u>126,607</u>	<u>12,031</u>	<u>138,638</u>	<u>378,456</u>
PAYMENTS				
Church Activities:	£ 151,750	563	152,314	371,844
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(25,143)	11,467	(13,676)	6,612
Change in value of investments	(34,893)	(39,471)	(74,365)	52,443
Balances at 1st January, 2018	<u>747,086</u>	<u>585,646</u>	<u>1,332,732</u>	<u>1,273,677</u>
Balances at 31st December, 2018	£ <u>687,050</u>	<u>557,642</u>	<u>1,244,692</u>	<u>1,332,732</u>

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST. MARY)
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2018

PARISH ACCOUNTS (UNRESTRICTED FUNDS)

	<u>St. Mary's</u>	<u>Church Hall</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(2017)</u>
RECEIPTS				
Regular Giving:				
Gift Aided Receipts	29,337		29,337	27,583
Other Pledged Giving	3,975		3,975	2,869
Income Tax recovered	9,072		9,072	7,929
Open	4,271		4,271	5,534
	<u>46,655</u>		<u>46,655</u>	<u>43,915</u>
Other voluntary receipts				
Special Collections	875		875	712
Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals	81		81	793
Donations	813		813	2,276
	<u>1,769</u>		<u>1,769</u>	<u>3,781</u>
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Lettings		15,457	15,457	3,808
Social activities	-		-	291
Fundraising	3,820	1,375	5,195	1,954
	<u>3,820</u>	<u>16,832</u>	<u>20,652</u>	<u>6,053</u>
Receipts from Church activities				
Statutory Fees	-		-	1,218
Contributions from Parish organisations		-	-	319
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,537</u>
Receipts from investments				
Trust Income	9,268	-	9,268	166
Church Hall Residue Income	4,506	-	4,506	1,632
Income from Parish Reserve investments	4,413	-	4,413	2,894
Substation rent	-	75	75	75
Interest: CBF	-	37	37	1,201
	<u>18,187</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>18,299</u>	<u>5,968</u>
Other incoming resources				
Donations - settlement	-	10,000	10,000	
Sundry receipts	552	-	552	266
	<u>552</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,552</u>	<u>266</u>
Total Receipts	70,983	26,944	97,927	61,520
Total Payments	66,475	26,332	92,807	66,639
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	4,508	612	5,120	(5,119)
Balances brought forward	62,029	17,684	79,713	84,832
Balances carried forward	£ 66,537	18,296	84,833	79,713

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST. MARY)
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2018

PARISH ACCOUNTS (UNRESTRICTED FUNDS)

					(2017)
	Notes	St. Mary's	Church Hall	Total	
PAYMENTS					
Common Fund	5	28,140		28,140	27,600
Church Service:					
Service Expenses		738		738	1,806
Ecclesiastical requisites (donated)		2,344		2,344	4,306
Organist		3,240		3,240	4,135
Organ Maintenance & Repair		294		294	568
		6,616		6,616	10,815
Church Maintenance:					
Electricity		3,569		3,569	2,575
Gas		1,369		1,369	3,580
Insurance		9,300		9,300	9,137
Sundry Repairs & Maintenance		8,229		8,229	454
Cleaning		882		882	1,052
Other Expenses		120		120	120
		23,469		23,469	16,918
Clergy Housing:					
Water Rates and Insurance		361		361	300
Utilities		625		625	591
Sundry Repairs and Maintenance		312		312	387
		1,298		1,298	1,278
Clergy Expenses:					
Telephone		214		214	214
Motor and Travelling Expenses		661		661	888
		875		875	1,102
Church Hall Maintenance:					
Cleaning			384	384	384
Water charges			400	400	323
Electricity			645	645	360
Gas			1,202	1,202	1,430
Repairs and maintenance			1,247	1,247	382
Refurbishment			19,116	19,116	-
Insurance			1,512	1,512	959
Other expenses			1,826	1,826	50
			26,332	26,332	3,888
Other:					
Charitable Donations		875		875	712
Fundraising expenses		-		-	1,584
Printing, Stationery & postage		2,344		2,344	2,161
Bank charges		-	-	-	60
Sundry Expenses		2,858		2,858	521
		6,077	-	6,077	5,038
Total Payments	£	66,475	26,332	92,807	66,639

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST. MARY)
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2018

PARISH ACCOUNTS (DESIGNATED AND RESTRICTED)

		DESIGNATED				RESTRICTED			

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST. MARY)
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2018

PARISH ACCOUNTS (ENDOWMENTS)

	Tims Bequest Capital	Vaughton Bequest Capital	Arrand Legacy Capital	Arrand Legacy Income	Assistant Clergy Capital	Assistant Clergy Income	James Watt Capital	James Watt Income	Coffee House Capital	Coffee House Income	C Hall Residue Capital	Small Trusts Capital	Total	(2017)
RECEIPTS														
Investment income:														
Trust Income				3,149		1,047		217		62			1,326	1,637
Dividend Income				18									3,149	2,980
CBF Interest				3,166		1,047		217		62			4,493	4,643
PAYMENTS														
Investment management fees														
	563												563	615
	563												563	615
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(563)					1,047		217		62			3,930	4,028
Change in value of investments in the year	(13,658)			3,166	(2,924)		(98)		150				(36,835)	36,582
Transfers to Unrestricted Funds														
Transfers to Restricted Funds	(14,221)					1,047	(98)	217	150	62			(31,268)	(31,268)
Balances brought forward	190,480	104,333	72,439	5,288	31,497	4,529	6,541	3,268	9,833	4,079	51,972	5,086	489,345	480,003
Balances carried forward	£ 176,259	96,266	63,724	8,454	28,573	5,576	6,443	3,485	9,983	4,141	51,972	1,563	456,440	489,345
Note	6	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	11	3	2		

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST. MARY)

PARISH BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 2018

				(2017)	
PARISH FUNDS		Note			
Endowment:	Capital Funds		434,783	472,181	
	Accumulated Income		<u>21,657</u>	<u>17,164</u>	
			456,440		489,345
Restricted:	St. Mary's Fabric Fund		90,461	80,356	
	Church Hall Capital	12	<u>10,742</u>	<u>15,945</u>	
			101,203		96,301
Designated:	Parish Reserve	14	376,563	411,456	
	Special Projects Fund	13	224,293	254,556	
	St Mary's Churchyard		<u>1,361</u>	<u>1,361</u>	
			602,217		667,373
Unrestricted:	General Fund		66,537	62,029	
	Church Hall		<u>18,296</u>	<u>17,684</u>	
			84,833		79,713
Total Funds Held			£ 1,244,693	£ 1,332,732	
Represented by:					
Assets held by Birmingham Diocesan Trustees:					
	Portfolio managed by Barclays Wealth		176,259	190,480	
	CBF Investment Units		86,004	93,299	
	CBF Property Fund		<u>102,079</u>	<u>99,255</u>	
			364,342		383,034
	CBF Investment Units		85,739	85,697	
	Portfolio managed by Hargreave Hale		376,563	411,456	
	Charities Aid Foundation		24,118	27,565	
	Black Rock Charishare		28,573	32,532	
	M & G Charifund		56,762	65,477	
Cash Deposits:	CBF Deposit Fund balances		<u>275,759</u>	<u>221,292</u>	
			847,514	844,019	
			1,211,856		1,227,053
Current Assets:	Amounts owing to the Parish		266	513	
	TSB Bank		<u>33,453</u>	<u>113,569</u>	
			33,719	114,082	
Current Liabilities:	Amounts owing by the Parish		882	8,403	
Excess of Current Assets over Current Liabilities			32,837		105,679
			£ 1,244,693	£ 1,332,732	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTS

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations using the Receipts and Payments basis. The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Balance Sheet: moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

TRUST INCOME

Various small bequests for general purposes are invested in CBF Investment units.

CHURCH RESIDUE (endowment)

Following the creation of a separate charity to hold the Church Hall, 283 & 285 Hamstead Road and the electricity substation, these funds are now held for other purposes.

The Capital Fund represents the surplus on the disposal of Hutton Road Mission Hall and other property: there are no provisions relating to their use. Part of these funds was used for the Parish's contribution towards the purchase of accommodation for an assistant curate. This property was sold in 2014, and in 2017, £31,414 was used towards the refurbishment of the Church Hall. The Diocesan Trustees hold the balance in CBF Investment Units or as a cash balance.

Income is used for general parish purposes.

TIMS BEQUEST (endowment)

A bequest from the Estate of Albert Leslie Timms is held in trust by the Birmingham Diocesan Trustees, the income from which is to be applied only for the upkeep of the fabric of St. Mary's Church.

VAUGHTON BEQUEST (endowment)

The Vaughton Bequest is held in trust, the income to be applied only for the upkeep of St. Mary's Church.

ARRAND LEGACY (endowment)

The Capital funds represent the final distribution from the Estate of Elizabeth Arrand, the remainder having been allocated to the main roof appeal. The funds are to provide income, the use of which is determined by the PCC.

ASSISTANT CLERGY FUND (endowment)

This was set up many years ago to support a full-time assistant clergyman. The investment is provided by way of units in the Investment Fund representing moneys bequeathed by the Hampton Goffe family.

JAMES WATT MEMORIAL FUND (endowment)

Certain investments were left in trust by the Watt family for the maintenance of the memorial statue of James Watt and the Income Fund represents the accumulated income to date, after deducting maintenance costs. The investment is held in the CBF Investment Fund.

ST. MARY'S (COFFEE HOUSE) TRUST (endowment)

Surplus moneys from this trust are administered by the PCC in accordance with the trust deed, in succession to the Trustees of the Handsworth Parochial Charities. The investment is held in the CBF Investment Fund.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL CHARITY (Regd. No. L4/603/840) (Restricted)

The charity was registered on 28th February 1985 to correct anomalies that had appeared over the ownership of the properties which the Trust held at its inception: St. Mary's Church Hall, 283 & 285 Hamstead Road, Handsworth and land on which stands an electricity substation. The property is vested in the Custodian Trustee, which is Birmingham Diocesan Trustees Registered. The Managing Trustee is the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary, Handsworth.

The property and surplus income are to be used for the purpose of furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England within the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Handsworth.

The Capital Fund represents the surplus proceeds from the sales of 283 and 285 Hamstead Road, less the costs of improvement to St. Mary's Church Hall and the Pound. No formal valuations of St. Mary's Church Hall have been made, and consequently its value is not reflected in the Balance Sheet. The bulk of the funds were used to undertake the refurbishment of the Church Hall in 2017.

ST. MARY'S SPECIAL PROJECT FUND (designated)

This fund holds moneys set aside for special projects to be identified by the PCC at St. Mary's. Movements are shown in the accounts.

PARISH RESERVE (designated)

This fund was created in 2017 to provide monies, principally the proceeds from the sale of the Church of the Epiphany, for investment to produce income for general parish use.

Report from the Bellringers (Rosemarie Seadon)

**HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST MARY)
ST.MARY'S BELLRINGERS
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018**

BELL TOWER FUND

Receipts:	Wedding and wedding blessing	£36.00
	Birmingham School of Bell ringing	<u>£210.00</u>
		£246.00
Payments:	Padlock and keys	£16.00
	Wood for stays	<u>£19.99</u>
		£35.99
Balance in hand at 1 st January 2018		£1633.30
Balance in hand at 31 st December 2018		<u>£1843.31</u>
Cash in hand		£29.50
TSB Bank		<u>£1813.81</u>
		£1843.31

OFFICERS Rosemarie Seadon
David Holmes

AIMS

To ring the Church bells prior to services to 'call people to worship'. We aim to ring every Sunday from 10.40 – 11am.

To ring for weddings when requested.

To teach new recruits to ring to ensure continuity of the band. New members are always welcome.

To ring commemorative quarter peals or peals to mark special events.

To maintain the ring of bells in good working order. To this end we have a bell tower fund in which we collect fees for weddings and from visitors who make a donation when they ring quarter peals, peals or visit on an outing. This money can then be used for repairs, e.g. new ropes and stays.

ANNUAL REPORT

We continued to ring for the 11am service on Sundays, and occasionally welcomed visitors. We also rang on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

On 11th November in addition to our usual half muffled ringing before the service and tolling of the tenor during the 2 minutes silence we also rang open at 12.30pm as part of the national *Ring and Remember* initiative.

We rang for a wedding in September and a wedding blessing in October.

We held an open evening in June and welcomed some members of the Church as well as outsiders. We gained a new recruit.

During the year the bells continued to be used regularly on a Saturday morning by the Birmingham School of Bell ringing for stage 2 of their teaching programme.

We would welcome more people who would like to learn to ring; we are still aiming to have all eight bells rung on a Sunday. Practice night is Wednesday 8 – 9pm, (in addition the School of Bell Ringing run a beginner's course at St. Pauls on a Saturday morning) please ask Rosemarie for details.

Report from Mums & Toddlers (Ron Hollins)

**HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST MARY)
ST.MARY'S MUM'S & TODDLERS
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018**

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2018

Opening Balance from 2017, Lloyds TSB, Great Hampton Street Branch, £1651.19

Closing Balance at the 31st December 2018, £1980.07

Term	Date	Income	Expenditure	Banked
1	11th January to 15th February	£81.00	£24.07	£56.93
2	1st March to 29th March	£63.50	£6.53	£56.97
3	26th April to 24th May	£100.00	£13.15	£86.85
4	7th June to 19th July	£98.50	£27.41	£71.09
5	6th September to 25th October	£142.50	£31.64	£110.86
6	11th November to 14th December	£96.00	£59.38	£36.62
TOTALS		£581.50	£162.18	£419.32

RW Hollins, *Treasurer*

Mrs D Hemmings, *Volunteer Leader*

AIMS

To promote a safe and friendly church-based playgroup for pre-school children; a place, not only for mothers and carers to meet, but also a place where their children will have the opportunity to learn, to share in activities and to respect the beliefs and cultures of others and so enrich their lives within the rich diversity of our local community.

REPORT

This was our first year starting back in the rebuilt interior of the Church Hall. It has only been moderately successful, not only because we had to close for almost a year and lost a lot of our regulars but also, owing to the Government's new guidelines allowing free nursery places for children aged 3 to 4, we have seen a drop in attendance.

We totalled 38 weeks of opening on Thursdays throughout the past year and consequently, after expenses, we are still in profit. Without the PCC's generous decision to allow us to use the Hall rent-free, we would not have been able to continue to run the group; this would have been a shame because the toddler group helps promote friendship; not only for the children that learn to play together, but also for the mothers - this helps to create trust between the culturally diverse groups residing in our Parish.

Report from the Mothers' Union (Ruth Cooper)

**HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST MARY)
ST.MARY'S MOTHERS' UNION
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018**

As this is the first year there are no formally inspected accounts and what is below is largely the minutes from the MU Branch AGM

Officers:

Branch Leader: Eureka Drayton
Secretary: Ruth Cooper
Treasurer: Edna Simkin
Chaplain: The Revd Dr Robert Stephen, Rector

Secretary's Report:

We had our inaugural meeting in September 2017 and after some discussion it was decided to hold a monthly meeting on the 2nd Thursday at 7.30 pm, aiming to finish at 9 pm.

Despite having MU speakers keen to involve us in their particular projects, we decided to take our time and spend the first few meetings getting to know each other better and seeing where our interests lay.

We were officially admitted to MU in church on 11th February 2018 and immediately asked for our £22 membership fee!

However we had to wait a while for our startup grant and this meant we looked for cheap and cheerful speakers, and our members didn't disappoint.

Edna taught us flower arranging. Rosemarie had us ringing hand bells. Penny did a couple of sessions where we made soap and then hand cream or hand lotion (or both). These events proved very popular and show that we prefer to be 'doing' rather than 'listening'.

Eureka and Ruth represented us at the Festival Service at the Cathedral in April and led prayers.

We have begun to get involved in the wider MU. We supported Aston's call for toiletries and we have started knitting teddies and hats for premature babies.

Now as we begin a new year we need to look at the MU projects we wish to undertake and marry that with the needs of our parish.

Treasurer's Report:

Receipts:	Diocesan Subs @ £22 per member	£176.00
	Branch Subs	£185.00
	TOTAL	£361.00

Payments:	Diocesan Subs @ £22 per member	£176.00
	Aston Food Bank	£47.20
	TOTAL	£223.20

Balance at 31st December 2018	£137.80
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Prepared by Edna Simkin (Treasurer)
Approved by E O Drayton (Branch Leader)
Independently Examined by Rosemarie J Seadon