

**St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston
with St Chad's Irby**



MISSION AND ACTIVITIES IN 2016



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Thurstaston

Registered Charity Number 1132086

Trustees and Members of the PCC 2016-17

The names of the Trustees of the charity and Members of the Parochial Church Council following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2016 are shown below.

Revd E J Turner	Rector and Chair
Mr C Perry	Warden
Mr G Barley	Honorary Secretary
Mr C Turnbull	Honorary Treasurer (from June 2016)
Mrs J Deboorder	
Mr B R Dennison	
Mr A Harford	
Mr R Jackson	
Dr M James	
Mr J Oliver	
Mrs K Preston	
Mr C Smale	
Mr M Studholme	
Mrs J Trigg	
Mrs E Whitehead	
Mr C Williams	

Independent Examiner of the Accounts

Mr A Whelen BEng (Hons) FCCA

Banker

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 King's Hill Avenue, King's Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Investment Management

CCLA Investment Management Ltd

CBF Church of England Funds, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET

The accounts for 2016 follow page 22 of this report.

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR



2016 started in an unusual way as I headed off to Cuddesdon for three months sabbatical. For me it was three months in which I was refreshed, restored and renewed, and was the springboard to several changes in the way that we have done things throughout the rest of the year.

The PCC now has several committees (Buildings, Worship, Mission and Outreach which is linked to Activities, Finance and St Bartholomew's Building Project). This has enabled members of the PCC and others (co-opted on to the committees) to focus on particular areas of interest and has enabled many more initiatives to be followed through. So the worship committee enabled us to learn the new Gloria so that when we have joint services we can all join in rather than having to choose which one to use or to say it rather than sing it. The finance committee has been a great support to Mr Chris Turnbull as he has been on a steep learning curve in the role of treasurer, and I know that Chris would very much welcome any one with finance experience to join this small committee.

Once again, it was a year in which we were able to join national initiatives and to enjoy providing a community event to go along with that. The Queen's 90th Birthday



celebrations were much enjoyed by the congregations and also by the wider community who came together for afternoon tea. Many thanks to those who made this happen.

These two pictures were taken on my sabbatical and I think provide a helpful reflection for both our individual lives of faith and for us as a community of believers.



My muddy walking boots make me think of Hebrews 12:1-2:-

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

And the red kite reminds me of Isaiah 40:31:

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

It is my hope that as we head forward with God, as we plan to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the building of St Chad's, that we will see God at work in many and various ways in the coming year.

Revd Jane Turner

Some highlights of this report

- *Progress with grant application for main roof repair – page 1*
- *Chancel roof repaired, thanks to Mr Liam and Mrs Melanie Walker – page 3*
- *Handrails for the bell tower – page 4*
- *Quinquennial report on St Bartholomew's received – page 4*
- *Parish celebrates Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration – page 6*
- *Copies of "The Servant Queen and the King she serves" given to all primary school children in the parish – page 6*
- *Hall hire income up 39% - page 9*
- *Parish events in 2016 – page 11*
- *Lights in St Bartholomew's replaced with state-of-the-art LEDs, in memory of Winifred, mother of Joyce Dennison – page 12*
- *Junior Church – page 15*
- *Guides, Brownies and Rainbows – pages 19-20*

REPORT ON THE BUSINESS OF THE PCC AND OTHER CHURCH MATTERS



During 2016, the PCC (the Parochial Church Council) met nine times. The Standing Committee met once in a normal meeting and once as an "e-meeting", communicating by email on a single issue.

Appointment of Church Architect

Following the retirement of our previous architect, the Rector and Mr Roberts had met several candidates and recommended the appointment of Mr Mark Pearce. After discussion, members unanimously accepted the recommendation and the appointment was later confirmed by the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

St Bartholomew's

The Condition of the Church Roof

It was reported early in the year that the church roof appeared to be at serious risk. From inside the roof space, the roof of the nave could easily be lifted several inches. There was a hole in the north side of the chancel roof. Mr Roberts reported that the previous church architect, who had retired, and all three of the architects interviewed as possible replacements had agreed that the roof was in poor condition and should be replaced.

The Government Roof Repair Scheme provided grants of up to £100,000, with no attached conditions, but the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) believed it would cost much more than that. Our new church architect advised us to apply for Heritage Lottery funding (HLF), because he believed a Government Roof Scheme grant would require substantial topping-up from other sources.

Mr Roberts had attended a seminar run by the diocese on Heritage Lottery grants. Grants for roof repairs could be up to £250,000 and could include other repairs or replacements and new ancillary works up to 15% of the cost of the project. HLF would require us to offer "activities" related to heritage and to ensure the church was open for 40 days a year in addition to Sunday services. Mr Roberts said that the processes were lengthy and explained the stages to us.

If we secured significant supplementary funding from “non-public” sources, a successful application to the Government scheme would make it possible to complete the roof repairs within six months with no conditions attached. However, Mr Roberts had been advised by the North West Grants Officer for the Government Roof Scheme not to apply to that Scheme before other non-public grant providers had promised all the other funding required. Members believed that the amounts involved made that impractical.

Although an HLF scheme might raise ethical issues, no other source could provide the level of funding required. The Government scheme would not cover the costs of the other building repair work required such as repairing the sanctuary wall or the oil fired boiler, so an HLF grant was essential for that, even if the roof repairs could be funded through the Government Roof Scheme. The Rector said that she had ethical concerns over the use of the HLF, but as they were now the major provider for what used to be English Heritage Grants, there was no alternative and she would reluctantly agree to go with a decision for HLF if that was agreed. In addition to the roof repairs, the quinquennial inspection had found that some of the walls required attention because the surface of the stonework was breaking off and cement mortar had been used in places instead of lime mortar, causing deterioration of the stonework. A feasibility study was essential, as it was a conservation area and consecrated ground with limited access, and the PCC agreed unanimously to authorise it at a cost of approximately £2,000 plus VAT, to be paid from the Open Door Fund, as the work was towards part of the original purpose of that fund.

HLF grants are dependent on making arrangements for “activities”, and Mr Roberts reckoned that the average extra funding provided for that was between £5,000 and £10,000. Good activities would make the proposal much stronger. Mr Roberts said that the copies of the diaries provided by Ismay’s grandson, describing daily life in those days, were “gold dust”. He also had the plans for an earlier design of a much bigger church with two aisles. It was agreed unanimously that an Activity Committee would be formed as soon as possible.

At a later meeting, four suggestions were made:

- To open the church on Thursdays, as it was already open on that day for flowers. This could be advertised so that schools and other groups could visit.
- To create a professional heritage church guide reporting the history of the church.
- To create a heritage display, charting the church over the last 100 years.
- To design several leaflets on the history of significant historical connections, such as the Ismay Family and the War Memorial.

The PCC also agreed that Mr Roberts would take on the formal role of Building Development Manager, as he still had full responsibility for the building developments despite not being Church Warden or a PCC member since April.

Repair of Chancel Roof

The Rector reported that Mr and Mrs Walker, of Thurstaston, had arranged for the visible hole in the roof to be patched. The PCC expressed great thanks for their generosity.

Other Building and Development Projects at St Bartholomew’s (Open Door)

Mr Roberts presented plans for the provision of toilet facilities, modifications to the entrance to provide unassisted access for all comers and modifications to the heating system. The plans were divided into three phases to be undertaken as resources permitted. Phase 1 would be an extension with disabled toilet facilities, a kitchen and a rest area. Phase 2 was to modify the porch and pathways to provide unassisted access for all users and to fit glass outer doors to the porch to protect it and to improve temperature control in the church. Phase 3 was to replace the boiler and the heating

pipes and to install new radiators in the sanctuary and choir. Four options were suggested for Phase 1, at costs starting at approximately £100,000. Mr Roberts believed that competitive tenders would reduce that to approximately £90,000. If our application for a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant for the roof was successful, the HLF would provide an additional £30,000 for other work. As Phase 1 was an Open Door objective, we could use Open Door donations to bring the cost of Option 1 in Phase 1 within our reach. Option 2 was a longer extension, also along the south side of the church, with a larger kitchen and community room. Options 3 and 4 were for extensions to the west end of the church. The predicted costs of Phase 2 ranged from £45,000 to £75,000, with three options and Phase 3 was expected to cost £30,000.

The PCC agreed that one of the three phases could be included in the current grant application. However, HLF would not allow us to supplement the additional 15% allowance for New Works with existing funds, so with the approval of the Standing Committee in an "E-Meeting", Mr Roberts amended the application to include upgrading the heating arrangements instead.

Quinquennial Inspection

Mr Roberts, who was then churchwarden, drew attention to water entering the church through defects in the south side of the chancel roof and running down the sanctuary wall. The heating boiler, 35 years old, was at the end of its life. He showed photographs of rainwater damage to the interior of the church, along with the response of the architect that an application for grant funding should not be delayed. It was not clear how the water was entering the building. There appeared to be three possible entry points. The only way to clarify this was to arrange work to open the space beneath the roof, which would cost £2,500 or more. Members were very concerned and Mr Roberts agreed to make arrangements for the quinquennial inspection as soon as possible.

When the Quinquennial Report was received, several members commented on its thoroughness, detail and historical background. The recommendations divided the work required into several categories, including work required urgently and within 12 months.

The principal danger was the effect of water on the lime mortar of the stone ceiling beneath the hole. Mr Roberts believed that if we did nothing, we could be criticised by agencies such as Historic England. Making an insurance claim would show intention to act.

Request for a handrail for the stairs to the bell tower

Dr P Robson, Tower Captain, had asked whether a handrail could be installed to assist those using the spiral staircase in the bell tower. Mr Roberts had been in touch with the architect, who supported the proposal and preferred a rope support because of the restricted width of the staircase. In response to a question about the lighting on the stairs, it was pointed out that it had been improved about three years before. Other users were to be asked for their views on this matter. An offer by the bell ringers to pay the costs from their bell ringing fund was gratefully accepted.

Grounds Maintenance

The PCC was informed that the income from the Tudor legacy and the income from the Morrell Trust were restricted to use in maintenance of the churchyard, and were expected to be sufficient to pay for a significant amount of professional maintenance. The income from the Shaw Trust could be used for the church building and the grounds. In the meantime, the income from the Morrell Trust was expected to be enough to pay for some limited strimming work at St Bartholomew's once a month for three months. Members hoped that meanwhile, Dr Robson and Mr Oliver would continue with that work when possible. We also hoped to make better arrangements for trimming the hedges at

St Bartholomew's. The trees could not be trimmed or removed until we had a report from an arboriculturist, as required by the Archdeacon, as some were a possible safety hazard.

At St Chad's, about half a dozen people are involved in mowing and strimming. It was suggested that maintaining just the flat section, with an annual trim of the rest, should be enough to keep brambles, nettles and ground elder at bay.

Benches by Lich Gate

The Irby, Thurstaston and Pensby Amenity Society (ITPAS) had offered to install a bench on each side of the lich gate. A meeting on site had concluded that it was not possible, because the conditions of the funding were that the benches would have to be on council land. ITPAS would seek further different funding for the project. Other considerations were public liability, possible litter and the need for a faculty.

Safety Checks on eyebolts and ladder ties

Mr Studholme reported that a firm from Pontefract had previously carried out the work. He had contacted five local firms. They were all either uninterested or much more costly, so he recommended staying with the same firm. This was agreed unanimously.

St Chad's

Heating System

The main boiler was serviced by a local firm, but the wall heaters were condemned in the inspection.

St Chads' kitchen

The kitchen was refurbished and a new cooker installed, the costs being paid from a grant by Wirral Borough Council and donations. Councillor Green and others inspected the new kitchen on 16th September.

Supplier of Gas and Electricity

On the expiry of our contract, the Diocese had recommended a Fuel Supply Broker. The Broker had made proposals that were expected to save £1,000-£2,000 a year.

As the fire extinguishers were fixed too high above the floor, we agreed they would be corrected during the inspection due in both churches in March or April.

Cleaner and Caretaker

The cleaner had resigned owing to ill health. Concern was expressed that, as usage picked up after the holiday period, users might complain about the worsening state of cleanliness of St Chad's. Mrs J DeBoorder had volunteered to clean part of the new building, so a cleaner would be required for three one hour periods, ideally on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week.

Security

The churchwarden had found the double doors either not locked or not locked properly on several occasions. This would be addressed by a sign on the inside of the door, information to users and guidance for users on how to lock the door.

Fire alarm system

It was agreed to accept a quotation for the installation of optical mains powered smoke alarms (interlinked) with ten year rechargeable lithium battery back-up and the additional fire alarm interface work. It included test keys for the call-points and a log book. This integrated the alarm systems integrated throughout both buildings, and an incident that triggered an alarm would set off all the alarms in the buildings.

Electrical Inspection

The PCC also had to arrange for work to bring the electrical systems in the buildings to modern standards. That involved fitting two new consumer units with RCBOs (residual-current circuit breakers with overcurrent protection).

Asbestos

Wirral Borough Council had recommended a particular firm to carry out a management survey of St Chad's for asbestos. Mr C Perry and Mr M Studholme made the necessary arrangements. Their report had not been received by the end of the year.

Pension Arrangements

Under the Pensions Act 2008, the PCC had to select an auto-enrolment pension scheme for employees. After a short discussion the PCC selected the "NEST" scheme set up by the Government, as it was free of charge to employers. It was considered unlikely that anyone employed by the church would wish to enrol, at least for the time being, but we were obliged to provide the opportunity.

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration 10-12 June 2016

We were encouraged by Bishop Peter to consider mounting an exhibition of the life of the parish over the last 90 years. Mrs E Jones had offered to coordinate our arrangements and the PCC unanimously accepted her offer, with thanks. As this would affect the 9.30am morning service at St Chad's, the PCC decided to replace the 9.30 and 11.15 morning services with a service at 10.30 am at St Bartholomew's.

The Rector had suggested that copies of a book called "The Servant Queen and the King she serves" should be purchased for all children at Dawpool and Irby primary schools. Sample copies were obtained of the children's version, the adults' version and bookmarks. It was agreed that the Rector and PCC members who were parents of school-age children would decide on what to buy, up to a limit of £50. Later, the Rector attended an assembly at each school, to distribute the books to the schoolchildren.

Changes to Planning Conditions for Use of the New Building at St Chad's

The Rector had received an enquiry about use of the New Building that would require a change in the planning permission conditions of use. Mr Williams had been told that there were no obvious problems in broadening the use of the building as long as we stopped general use by 8-9 pm on weekdays and perhaps 6 pm at weekends. The PCC agreed to commission a planning adviser to make the application on our behalf, with nearly all the costs paid for by a grant from the Local Authority. Unfortunately the original request was withdrawn because the times when the hall was available did not meet the organisers' requirements, but they said that they would be very interested to discuss the proposals again if the use of the hall by others changed and freed the times they needed.

A new user, with church affiliations, had begun to use the room but had to enter the building by the door to the foyer. The PCC decided to make changes to doors and locks so they would be able to enter the New Building by the door at the end near Roslin Road.

Vacancy for Treasurer

Mr Turnbull offered to undertake the role of Treasurer, provided others supported him, particularly Mrs Rostock, Mr Smale and Mr Roberts for the remainder of the year. He had spoken to Canon Betty Renshaw, previously chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, treasurer of St Michael's, Newton and secretary of the PCC, and now the parish gift aid officer. She was very familiar with the Data Developments software, which Mr Turnbull found much more user-friendly than QuickBooks, our present system. Mr Roberts however was concerned about the implications of having only one computer to access the accounts.

The Rector welcomed the proposals and thanked Mr Turnbull, recommending that he and Mrs Rostock should enrol on a training course for Data Developments. She said it was important to verify that Mr Roberts was willing to continue to be involved until the end of the year and whether the safe at St Chad's was suitable for use within the arrangements.

Committee Structure

To improve and extend all the issues considered by the PCC, especially mission and outreach, and to reduce time spent at meetings on technical issues such as finance, the PCC approved a recommendation by the Rector produced introducing a committee structure, with committees responsible for Buildings, Worship, Mission and Outreach, Activities, Finance and the St Bartholomew's Building Project.

Planned Giving Officer

Mr Turnbull asked the Council to approve the appointment of Mr C Smale as Planned Giving Officer. Access to the list of names of those who received envelopes would be restricted to the Planned Giving Officer and the Treasurer. These proposals were agreed unanimously.

Trustees

Following investigations by Mr Roberts, he had advised that we would have to update the names of the trustees on the Charity Commission website. All other churches in our deanery that he had checked showed the names of all members of their Church Councils. All members of the Council should sign an HMRC declaration that they were "Fit and Proper Persons" to have responsibility for parish funds and other assets: the forms would be retained in the parish as proof that we had used our best endeavours to verify that everyone was suitable to be a trustee and would only be sent to HMRC if requested. It was also noted that the presenter at the CPAS training course, attended by several members of the Church Council, had emphasised strongly that all members of the Church Council are also trustees, because they are involved in decisions about the financial and other assets of the church. After discussion, it was agreed that:

- Mr Roberts would also be appointed as a trustee;
- All PCC members would complete the "Fit and Proper" declarations;
- The names of the members of the Standing Committee would be put forward to the Charity Commission as our trustees.

After the meeting, HMRC informed us that they only required the names of two "officers" and about three others. However, the Charity Commission had not accepted the arrangement agreed by the PCC, that the names of the members of the Standing Committee would be put forward as our trustees. Names of all members were required. Members had already been informed of that and had agreed verbally that their details could be provided. No personal details, other than names, would appear on the public website of the Charity Commission and would be held by the Rector in a sealed envelope.

CPAS Training Evening

The Rector had provided details of a training event for PCC members that she hoped the PCC would support, perhaps in place of a PCC meeting. Several members attended, and they had in general found it interesting and useful.

FUPS/FUSS (Free Uniforms for Primary/Secondary Schools)

Arrangement for this scheme in our parish had been made by Mrs Robson. Revd Fletcher and Mrs Barley had agreed to be in charge of issuing uniforms once a month. A collection bin had been placed in the foyer at St Chad's. The arrangements would operate from 10th February. St Luke's would arrange the advertising at schools. We would take uniform from any schools and pass the surplus to St Luke's. Uniforms not required, or in poor condition would be passed, by St Luke's, for recycling. Any large

quantities of matching usable uniform not required would be sent by St Luke's to countries abroad, for use in schools.

Appointment of an Independent Examiner of the Accounts and a Payroll Controller

Our Independent Examiner would for personal reasons be unable to continue in her two roles after 2016. Two people had been approached and one had agreed to be Independent Examiner. For payroll control, Mr Turnbull agreed to carry out further investigations.

Other Matters

Server for 8am Holy Communion

- Miss M Rodgers was appointed as a server at the 8am services at St Bartholomew's
- Applications from Elizabeth and Adrian Bridglock to join the electoral roll were approved
- Mrs D Rudd was unanimously approved as a governor of Dawpool School, to replace Mr M Rostock, who had retired.
- It was unanimously agreed to pay the cost of Dawpool's membership of the Chester Diocesan Family of Schools for the current year.
- The PCC unanimously thanked Mrs Robson for making all the arrangements for an excellent concert by Wirral Schools Concert Band, and agreed that the decision as to which charity would be supported should be left to her.
- The Rector informed members the PCC that Mrs Joyce Ratcliffe, the verger, had resigned. All members joined in thanking her for all her work for the church. John Oliver was appointed to the position of verger.

Graham Barley (Honorary Secretary)



TREASURER'S REPORT

2016 has been a difficult year for the finance team. The finance team includes 10 people to all of whom I am grateful for their contribution. There were gaps in 2016 when we were effectively without a treasurer and only essential tasks were carried out. Reconciliation of the bank account was not done until I asked Chris Rostock if she could do this. Chris Rostock has done an enormous amount of work dealing with the finance of hall hire. She also does the majority of payments which she records in Quickbooks. She took on all the backdated reconciliation (which I am now doing). We have an enormous amount to thank her for. I am also grateful to Roger Dennison for taking on the cashier and banker role, which has saved me a great deal of time, and to Chris Smale for gradually taking over the Parish Giving Officer role.

2016 has also been difficult with our income and expenditure. We have only been able to make a contribution of 60% of parish share, which means that if our rector leaves us we are unlikely to get more than 60% of a full time replacement.

I am extremely grateful to all those who have organised fundraising events and am glad to report that the income from these events has increased in 2016. I would encourage anyone organising an event to discuss it with me first, so we can make sure that it is organised in a financially effective way which will satisfy the Charity Commission with whom we are registered.

We were missing two years of annual reports on the Charity Commission website and I am grateful to John Roberts for posting these so we have lost our two red flags. We also submit data to the diocese on giving and parish accounts and on attendance, and though

we have been late in putting some of these in I am grateful to those who have collected the necessary data and forwarded the reports (Revd Jane, John Roberts and myself).

EXPLANATION OF THE CHANGES BETWEEN 2015 and 2016

INCOME

Planned Giving

Sadly, Giving has decreased by about 10% in 2016. The reasons are not entirely clear as the numbers of planned givers remains unchanged. However, I suspect that people are more erratic in their attendance and do not always make up gaps in their financial support of the church. Furthermore, in many cases planned givers have not increased their contributions to allow for the 2.5% per annum increase in parish share that we are supposed to pay to the diocese. I urge those who have standing orders to review their giving and encourage more people to contribute by standing order. Planned Giving remains the main source of income.

Donations

The income generated by donations fell again in 2016. One-off donations make a lot of difference to our finances, as do legacies. Everyone is encouraged to read our legacy policy and think about including the church in their will. We can now receive donations on line and via text, as well as through the use of 'easy fundraising' which we need to promote.

Gift Aid and GASDS

We will be claiming Gift Aid and GASDS shortly, which remains an important part of income although it is reducing as our planned giving reduces. Please could everyone who is eligible by virtue of paying sufficient UK tax, sign a gift aid declaration and ALSO to let me know if you have moved as far as HMRC is concerned, or are no longer eligible due to a reduction in tax paid, or have changed your name.

Fees Received

We were fortunate that during 2016 fees received increased by 15%, largely because of the number of weddings. Wedding bookings are down for 2017 which is a concern for income.

Hall Hire

The best news of 2016 was that hall hire went up by 39%. We have spent money not only on improving the kitchen but making sure we are compliant with new rules about health and safety, electricity supply and fire. We need to make further investments in 2017 particularly with regards to decoration and to increase the use of the extension (improve access and heating), if our application to modify the terms of our planning permission is approved.

Investments and Reserves and Concerns for 2017

In 2017 we will start receiving income from the Tudor Trust which should help particularly with maintenance of St Bartholomew's churchyard. Interest otherwise remains similar. We carry about three months expenditure as a reserve and this is mostly in the current bank account (for which incidentally we are now charged £5 a month). I will be consulting the PCC on where to put this money which however needs to be accessible to cover such potential problem as: replacement of the heating system at St Bart's; holes in the church roof and other unexpected crises. Ideally, we would like more money (reserves) to pay for maintenance and unexpected repairs. One concern for cash flow in 2017 is the potential receipt of a Heritage Lottery grant for roof replacement at St Bartholomew's Church and indeed other grants for Open Door etc. The fact is that we have to pay VAT up front when it is NOT included in the grant and we have to claim VAT back, with of course a delay in receiving a refund.

EXPENDITURE

St Bartholomew's overheads

Maintenance and running costs at St Bartholomew's have increased by 14% - oil costs more (it can cost £100 a week to heat the church in winter), though we should soon be seeing the benefits of our new energy saving lighting system. We have spent a little more on churchyard maintenance, which was desperately needed, and are grateful for the work of Jon Oliver, Peter Robson, Archie Peat and others.

St Chad's overheads

Maintenance and running costs at St Chad's have increased by 81%, mostly due to the carrying out of essential work. Even so we have saved on certain items – e.g. not replacing the gas heaters in the main hall which have been condemned. In 2017 we will see the benefit of increasing the excess on our insurance at St Chad's, saving about £40 a month. Utility costs shot up at St Chad's as contracts had expired. We now have a broker seeking the best deals for us, which is making a big difference in our expenditure, particularly on heating gas.

Mission Giving

We increased our mission giving considerably during 2016, notably to Dawpool School (Family of Schools scheme) and Christian Aid.

Administration Expenses

The costs associated with parish administration – equipment, postage, software, stationery and telecommunication - have remained steady, though in 2017 we have had to negotiate a new photocopier lease which will lead to a modest increase in costs.

Major Project Works

With the support of a Wirral Council grant, we finished refurbishing the kitchen in 2016 by purchasing an oven. This is a huge improvement. In 2017 I suspect the major investments will be at St Bartholomew's church.

SUMMARY

2016 was a difficult year but we are really excited by the possibility of a further increase in the ability to hire out our excellent facilities. In 2017 I think we should have a planned giving campaign and a campaign on legacies based on the guidance issued by Chester diocese and the Church of England in their Giving for Life initiative in 2015. We look forward to working with a new Parish Administrator and also to increasing our compliance with Charity Commission recommendations.

Members of the Finance Team

Treasurer (Chris Turnbull); Accounts Partner 1 (John Roberts): support with QuickBooks and bank arrangements; data for gift aid and GASDS returns; Accounts partner 2 (Chris Rostock): liaising with Jean Heath and hall users, receives payments, invoices, orders routine supplies, records expenditure in QuickBooks, assists with monthly reconciliation; Parish Giving Officer (Chris Smale): records weekly giving, envelope scheme, annual giving return for diocese; Cashier/Depositor (Roger Dennison): banks all cash and cheques and completes records for the parish giving officer; Parish Administrator: roles overlap with Accounts Partner 2, to be reviewed once the new Parish Administrator is in post; Signatory (Roger Jackson): authorises many payments when Accounts Partner 2 is away, counts cash at 10.15am and often at 9.30am services; Hall Hire Officer (Jean Heath): handles requests for hall hire, sends out invoices, liaising with Parish Administrator/Accounts Partner 2; Rector: provides data on weddings and funerals, sets and receives charges, informs treasurer when other clergy have worked in parish; Payroll Officer (Patsy Brady): handles payroll system, administers pension scheme and gives accounting advice to treasurer; Deputy Treasurer (vacancy); Finance Committee Member (Malcolm Studholme): advises on safety, buildings, mechanical and engineering services particularly relating to St Bartholomew's.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

There has been a string of events: some were special occasions while others were church-related or community activities. These included:-

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • 19th March | Wirral Schools Concert Band |
| • 30th April | Spring Craft Fair |
| • 21st May | Irby Artists' Exhibition |
| • May to June | Bible Study: The Book of Nehemiah
(6 sessions) |
| • 14th June | Parish Outing to Wales |
| • 12th June | Queen's 90 th Birthday Celebration |
| • 17th July | Church Family Picnic |
| • 20th August | St. Beartholomew's Day |
| • 17th September | Tea & Toast with a Bring & Buy Sale |
| • 30th September | Harvest Supper |
| • September to November | Faith Pictures – 6 sessions |
| • 30th October | Evening of Remembrance and Thanks giving |
| • 31st October | Pumpkin Party |
| • 6th November | Service led by Dawpool Primary School |
| • 13th November | Remembrance Sunday |
| • 26th November | Christmas Fair |
| • 4th December | Christingle Service |
| • December | Advent Angels – 4 sessions |

ST CHAD'S

Church services have taken place nearly every Sunday and Wednesday at St Chad's throughout the year, and much more besides. The Hall has been used regularly by the Evening Mother's Union, Weight Watchers, Merry Widows, Irby Artists, Bats & Balls, SOSO, Exercise with Baby, Baby Sensory, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Several private functions have taken place throughout the year.



The New Building, as well as being used for some of the activities above, is used in term time on Sundays for Junior Church while the main service takes place. Planning permission is currently being sought by the PCC to widen the use of the building to non-church related activities.

During the Summer Close Down, some of the external paint work was repainted. The gutters and down-spouts were cleared thanks to Mike Rostock. Thanks, too, to Jon Oliver for keeping the lamps lit and to Archie Peat for getting the lawnmowers and grass trimmers serviced. Also, a massive thank you to the grass cutting team of Chris Turnbull, Mike Rostock, Will Hughes, Chris Smale & Peter Robson for seeing that the grass cutting was done throughout the summer months.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

During the year, the problem of rainwater entering the sanctuary worsened, the surface of some of the external stonework was found to be breaking off, in other places it was deteriorating where cement mortar had been used instead of lime mortar, a hole appeared in the chancel roof and the entire roof was found to be unstable and in need of replacement. On a positive note, a new Church Architect was appointed and good progress was made with an application for grant aid for the costs of the repairs and for the Open Door developments. The PCC was very grateful to Mr and Mrs Walker, of Thurstaston, who arranged for the necessary repair work to the hole in the chancel roof.



For the main work on the roof, the PCC agreed to apply for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Mr John Roberts was appointed as Building Development Manager (St Bartholomew's) with full responsibility for the building developments, to oversee the grant applications, the replacement and repair of the roof and the improvement of the church itself. An HLF grant would require heritage "activities", to attract people from the wider community, and a commitment to open the church for 40 days a year in addition to Sunday services.

Dr P Robson, Tower Captain, had asked whether a handrail could be installed to assist those using the spiral staircase in the bell tower. An offer by the bell ringers to pay the costs from their bell ringing fund was gratefully accepted. The architect recommended a rope support because of the narrowness of the staircase. More details of all these matters appear in the report on PCC Business.

Grounds Maintenance

The income from the Tudor legacy and the Morrell Trust, which are both restricted funds, should pay for a significant amount of professional maintenance of the churchyard. During his inspection, the Archdeacon decided that the trees could not be trimmed or removed until we had a report from an arboriculturist, but action will be required as some of the trees appear to be safety hazards.

The Irby, Thurstaston and Pensby Amenity Society (ITPAS) offered to install a bench on each side of the lich gate, but the conditions of the funding were that the benches would have to be on council land. They are seeking different funding for the project.

Roger and Joyce Dennison funded an upgrade of the lighting from tungsten to state of the art LEDs, in memory of Joyce's mother, Winifred. Jon Oliver installed the new lights.

Safety checks on the eyebolts and ladder ties on the tower were arranged with the same firm that tested them previously, as local firms were all either uninterested or much more costly.

The church activities, including the services, have involved a large number of our parishioners, to a larger or lesser extent, so we are all thankful for what others have done. Finally, but perhaps most importantly, we as a parish thank our Rector, Revd Jane Turner, for all her hard work and the support she gives us all.

Now we pray that our Lord gives us his blessing as we go forward into 2017.

Chris Perry (Church Warden)

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Rural Deanery of North Wirral has members from each of 14 parishes. Thurstaston parish has three representatives – Chris Smale and Malcolm Studholme and a vacancy. Representatives are appointed on a three year cycle (casual vacancies can be filled during the 3 years) which comes to an end in 2017, so there is an opportunity for people to offer to serve the church in this valuable roll.

It meets four times a year under the chairmanship of Rev Peter Froggatt of Christ Church Barnston, who is the Rural Dean, while the lay chair is Lesley Young. The secretary is Alan McGraa. It has a Mission and Standing Committee which discusses and manages deanery synod finance and discusses and plans the deanery meetings.

Deanery Synod receives reports from General Synod which has discussed, amongst a lot of other items: Renewal and Reform, the effect of benefit sanctions on the most vulnerable in Society. The July meeting was given over to "Shared Conversations". Also, reports from Diocesan Synod are received. The meetings of the Deanery Synod itself rotate around the various parishes in the deanery:

23 February 2016 at The Good Shepherd, Heswall.

The subject was "Jerusalem, Rome and Spain – Mission and Unity in the Deanery" led by the Rural Dean.

- First he reminded members that the Deanery was a part of the Synodical Government requirements.
- Secondly, all Churches should be in unity as Christians are united with Christ.
- Thirdly, that there can be unity in churches with different cultures/dress and language.

22 June 2016 at St Andrew's Hall, Bebington.

Revd. Andy Stinson (Diocesan Worshipper adviser) led a discussion around the following questions:-

- What place does worship have in our church?
- What is mission?
- Whose mission is it?
- What is worship? (The Westminster Catechism – What is the chief end of man? – It is to glorify God.) To glorify God from Wor(th)ship.
- What place does worship have in our mission?

22nd September 2016 at St. Michael and All Angels, Pensby

Cheryl Brown (RMW) from Wirral Care Foundation gave an excellent talk on their Dementia Project and about Dementia awareness. This led to planning some workshop sessions for members of Synod and churches within the Deanery for spring 2017.

A CPAS training event at Heswall on 28 September 2016 entitled "PCC Tonight" was organised and several members of our PCC attended and found it interesting and beneficial.

In October there was a Deanery Service to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Reader Ministry.

7th November was a lay forum meeting. The speaker was Martin Smith (Diocesan Adviser in Christian Giving and Pastoral Reorganisation)

Meetings for 2017 are planned for the following dates:

- 15 Feb (St Chad, Irby)
- 22 June (St Bridget, W Kirby)

26 September (St Nicholas, Greasby)
6 November (St Hildeburgh, Hoylake) Lay Forum

The Rural Dean is keen to promote cooperation between parishes and to ensure that meetings provide valuable opportunities for reflection, mutual support and sharing of good practice. To that end, the lay chair has said that Deanery Synod meetings are open to all parishioners, not just the elected representatives.

Chris Smale and Malcolm Studholme (Deanery Synod Representatives)

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

At the APCM in 2016, the roll contained 223 members from 149 households.

During the past year two new members have been added and 8 deleted. During the recent revision I added 6 new members who applied to join. The Electoral Roll now has 223 members from 145 households.

John Roberts (Electoral Roll Officer)

CHARITIES SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



LEPROSY MISSION

On behalf of the Leprosy Mission may I thank both congregations for your continued support. £270.91 was collected this year through your leprosy boxes and one off donations.

People affected by leprosy face a triple blow of disease, disability, and discrimination. Without a helping hand these people, so loved by God, can be reduced to begging in order to survive.

The good news is that, thanks to your generosity, the Leprosy Mission can offer people affected by leprosy gifts of reconstructive surgery, housing, a fresh water supply, sight saving surgery, housing, a fresh water supply, schooling for their children, job training, and help to start a business. This is everything needed to restore their dignity and enable them to be self-sufficient.

Please continue to give via your leprosy box, or if you prefer, a one off donation is equally acceptable.

Remember, leprosy is a dreadful but curable disease.

Pat Hulme



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Jean Heath (648 6015), Elaine Kavanagh (648 1721) and Barbara Kozar (648 3512) co-ordinate fund raising for the Society in the Parish.

The Coffee Morning held in March at Jean's home, was well attended and raised £630.85. We are indebted to the stallholders who work so hard to provide their attractive tables and also for their generous contributions.

The annual 'Thank You' Coffee morning in St Chad's in October, which is open to all but also aids box collection, raised £92.90 from donations and bring-and-buy items.

The total from House Boxes amounted to £939.29, a substantial increase on the previous year's total and due to our having welcomed several new box holders onto the register. However, we would still appeal to anyone who would like to keep a box in their home to get in touch and we will happily supply one.

The Christingle Service in early December at St Chad's raised a further £80.64 and was attended by a representative of the Society, who demonstrated with the help of some of the children, how much we as a Parish have raised over the past fifteen years. She also presented Jean with a long service award for her work as Honorary Local Secretary. Jean would like to take the opportunity to thank her Committee Members, Elaine and Barbara for their support and commitment over these years.

We wish to thank our Box Holders and all those who support events during the year to enable the Society to continue its wonderful work with vulnerable children and their families.

Jean Heath (648 6015)

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church meets at St Chad's during the service in term time, excluding family service days. At present there are two groups, Sparklers age 2½ to reception class and Starblazers school years 1 – 6. The wide age range in Starblazers has come about because at present there are not enough numbers to subdivide them, but year 6 childrens have the option to and usually do join Seniors a year early. I have found however, the key is to be flexible to the wishes of the individual.

We are using our home grown rolling three year programme (which we created using some material from Click resource books, other resource borrowed from Revd Jane or books from our own stock) and all the work we need is waiting in a folder for us to pick up and use.

In July we finished our summer term with a picnic in Royden Park. We had sunny weather, played games, enjoyed rides on the miniature trains, and lolly ices, topped off with good company.

During the summer holidays, St Bear-tholomew's Day was a challenge for the bears, they were blown about and rained on! A storm hit half way through and we had to move into the church. Luckily Revd Jane had an indoor treasure hunt up her sleeve, prepared as a plan B for last year when the weather forecast was bad.

Junior Church leaders, helpers and their friends and families all helped to set up/clear away (remove very wet gazebos to be dried out in St Chad's hall, luckily available as it was closed for its annual refresh!) and provide stalls and refreshments. The local shops gave me a wonderful array of children's raffle prizes together with our own donations which meant every child won a prize. Delicious cakes were donated by church members. Mike Rostock kept us all safe from floating/plunging teddies and Richard Turner judged the skill of our brave bears who launched off the tower to parachute down towards a marker. The three nearest to the marker received prizes.

At the end of October Revd Jane held a Pumpkin Party at St Chad's as an alternative to Halloween Night. It was a fun event involving pumpkin carving, crafts and tasty treats complete with glow sticks and a fire to melt our marshmallow smores on.

During the year the children and leaders set about creating a display in the windows to follow the seasons changing, the children produced snowy scenes for the winter, blossom on the tree and flowers for spring, apples appeared on the tree which changed from green to red in the summer. For harvest a fabulous red tractor drove across the middle window accompanied by bails of wheat and crows.

The two services the children take part in, joined by the Seniors, are the 'Book Giving Service' and the 'Christmas Production'.

The Book Giving was themed around being aware God is always there for us and was entitled "God with us 24/7". I was inspired by rainbows and God's promise and also from a service I went to in New Zealand which included people sharing their experiences of when God had been evident in their week.

Sparklers led percussion enthusiastically. Starblazers read out their "Questions for God" and Seniors, leaders and a member of the congregation gave us their experiences of God in their lives. They were very personal moments and it was very brave of everyone, it was a very wonderful powerful part of the service.

Interactive prayers involved making rainbow mobiles, giving our problems to God and then washing them away with our pebbles and placing our prayers for others on the world map.

Sarah Robson sang a beautiful song combined with a repetition prayer designed to focus us on God's presence, before the children and seniors all received their books and the seniors shield was awarded.

The Christmas Production was produced by the collaboration of all the leaders (I had no part in it) and they did a fantastic job. We saw and heard the story of the nativity through all the children and seniors. It was a lovely service enjoyed by all and I know there was a lot of preparation and hard work by many, thanks to all the leaders and helpers who made it such an engaging service.

Many thanks to the Junior Church leaders and helpers (and their friends and families) and the parents from the PCC, without whom nothing would get done and who have given their time so generously. Thanks to Reverend Jane for her enthusiasm, organising skills, advice and support and thanks to everyone who meets together with me whenever I have to plan anything, and who have supported me and shared the load.

God Bless,

Julie DeBoorder

SENIORS

Our group of Seniors continues to meet once a month, and I think we have now mastered the toaster, as we have not set off the smoke alarm for at least twelve months. Numbers vary, but we have had between six and ten young people at most of the sessions. A particular highlight of the year was the group's involvement in planning and leading the family service on Mothering Sunday. This took place during Reverend Jane's sabbatical, but Bishop Peter, who also took part in the service, was very complimentary about the Seniors. They also played a very significant role, as is now customary, in the Nativity play.

One or two members of the group have also joined Christian youth groups which meet, usually, on Sunday evenings. This has helped them to feel that they belong to a much larger Christian family and has given them some different perspectives on their faith.

Janet Trigg, Julie DeBoorder and Chris Smale share the leadership of the group and have continued to be very impressed with the thoughtfulness, curiosity about faith matters and spiritual sensitivity of the young people.

Janet Trigg



WELLSPRING

Wellspring is a monthly Prayer Group (open to anyone in the parish) which was launched in May 2011. We meet in the Rectory on the third Monday of each month from 8-9pm. It is good to have people from across the congregations coming together to pray, with each month approximately 5 to 6 people attending – more would always be welcome! We pray for individual members of our congregations and for events and issues within the life of the parish.

Revd Jane Turner and the other members of the group



BELLRINGERS' REPORT

During 2016 there have been important changes in the Bell Tower at Thurstaston. Last year we asked the PCC to look into providing a handrail for the spiral staircase. A number of our ringers have been struggling to get into the ringing chamber and a handrail would greatly improve this (none of us are getting any younger). Taylor's Bellfoundry came for an inspection and recommended a handrail in the staircase and a handrail for the second open staircase what leads from the ringing chamber into the belfry.

The two rails will be fitted in February 2017 and access will be improved and much safer. The bell ringers have undertaken to fund this work from the fees that they receive when ringing for weddings and I am very grateful to them all for their support.

There were two quarter peals rung during the year. The first on 10th August 2016 (Kent Treble Bob Minor) was rung by a Chester Guild band to commemorate the life of the Duke of Westminster. The second on 3rd December 2016 (Plain Bob Doubles) was rung by a Wirral band to remember Chris Eden who died in 2014. Looking ahead, a Wirral band will ringing a quarter peal in February 2017 (Cambridge Surprise Minor) following the death of Tony Power – a well-known local ringer who used to ring at West Kirby.

Our annual 'Christmas meal' was held in the village at Zeera on 3rd February. This was attended by 12 ringers and we enjoyed an excellent meal with good company. We currently have 16 ringers – we gained three recruits this year, two of whom are new to ringing and one who has returned to ringing after a long break. All are progressing well in their learning. We would always welcome new people who wish to learn to ring.

We continue to have an enthusiastic group who practice and develop their ringing every Wednesday evening from 7 to 8pm and ring for Sunday service. A number of us meet socially after the ringing on Wednesdays in the local pub, and others meet up on the Sunday at Church farm for coffee. We also join other ringers in Wirral and throughout the Diocese at ringing events including meetings held at our home tower.

If you are interested in seeing what we do or want to learn more about ringing then please come along on a Wednesday or talk to me in Church.

Peter Robson



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast meets on Saturday mornings, at 8.45am on alternate months. We meet at Aroma Cafe in Irby, thereby supporting a much valued local business and attendance varies between eight and 13 gentlemen. The Men's Breakfast provides an informal setting for members of the Church to chat and share in fellowship, while enjoying a hearty breakfast and good company. I would personally like to thank everyone who has attended the Men's Breakfast in the past twelve months for their support and valued company.

Matthew James

CHURCH RELATED ORGANISATIONS



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

EMU JANUARY – DECEMBER 2016

Our branch of EMU (Evening Mothers' Union) meets monthly during the school term at St Chad's, usually on the last Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm. We would love to welcome new members. Please come along and give it a try. We have a varied programme to suit all tastes.

During 2016, we held a Tea & Toast morning in September which raised £78.00, which were sent to the Worldwide Fund. Other meetings included 'Bowling' at Bromborough, an Oil Painting demonstration, two different craft evenings, a talk about a Nepal charity, Decoupage, Summer Meal out at The Anchor and an evening helping to prepare leaves for the St Chad's Church 50th anniversary banner.

Please visit www.mothersunion.org/ or www.mothersunionchester.org.uk to find out more about the work of Mothers' Union

Chris Rostock – Branch Secretary

1ST THURSTASTON GUIDES ANNUAL REPORT 2016

We have enjoyed another year as joint leaders of 1st Thurstaston Guides and have enjoyed many and varied activities through the year.



- **Challenge badges:** We have undertaken many challenges and our Guides have achieved great things!
 - Two amazing Guides have completed their Baden Powell Challenge Award – well done to them! The Baden Powell Challenge award is the highest award a Guide can achieve. Although it was sad to say goodbye to them at a farewell meal at Pizza Express.
 - We now have three more Guides well on their way to completing their Baden Powell Challenge Award in the coming year. We also have a young leader in training with us who decided to stay after being with us for her Duke of Edinburgh award.
 - The Guides have demonstrated their love of chocolate when they completed the chocolate badge, and have also balanced this out by completing the agility badge.
- **Special Interest Nights:** We have had some fun special interest nights over the last year including:
 - Go For It – Space: inspired by astronaut Tim Peake
 - Celebrating the Queens 90th Birthday
 - Chocolate challenge evening involving Maltesers and After Eights!
 - Chippy coin walk
 - Trampolining including a trip to Spring City in Liverpool
 - Trip to the Yog Bar in Hoylake and games of rounders on the beach.
 - Evening walk to Thors rock
 - Outdoor games night in Thurstaston Country Park
 - Weekend day trip out to Manley Mere
- **Community Events and Fundraising:** We have had some fun organising community and fund raising events
 - Taken part in a District Thinking Day event
 - Children in Need charity event
 - Helping out at St. Chad's Christmas Fair

As well as attending Church Parades during the year, including the Remembrance Day service at St Bartholomew's Church.

All in all, we have had another wonderful year and managed to involve the girls in a wide range of activities. Some of the guides who had to leave us this year have gone on to remain in guiding and joined the senior section as well as becoming young leaders with other units which is fantastic. We wish all the guides who have now left us all the best for the future.

Ellie Randall, Gaynor Vaughan, Sarah Barr, Lily Foster and the Guides!

3rd Irby Brownies

We are really pleased to have re-opened with St Chad's our home on a Monday night. Lynn is an experienced leader and Gemma is a new leader in training. We also have two young leaders.

Despite only starting in September, we have had lots of fun completing two interest badges, going on trips to Tesco, The Potting Shed and Christmas Cracker as well as doing plenty of games and crafting activities. We also had lots of fun making all the Christingles for the service at St Chad's.

Next year we hope to continue our adventures – we already have several trips planned including a residential trip and a camping trip. We also really hope to gain more adult leaders so that we are able to increase the number of Brownies in the unit.

Gemma Willerton and Lynn McCoy

2nd IRBY RAINBOWS January to December 2016

Once again, our unit is full and we've extended our capacity to twenty girls. The waiting list is also long!

The girls have enjoyed a range of craft activities, some of our activities have led to the girls acquiring Girl Guiding interest badges. We have also carried out some fundraising for Children in Need.

One of our leaders went off on maternity leave, and one was off due to surgery. We would like to thank other leaders who stepped in to help.

Our aim for 2017 is to continue to have fun and enjoy friendship and make new guiding friends! We are also going to look to purchasing a flag for Church Parade.

Thanks to St Chad's for the use of the Church Hall. We'd also like to thank the girls and parents for their continuing support.

Karen Fearn (Unit Leader 2nd Irby Rainbows)



TOTS & TINIES

Each Thursday morning during Term Time, Tots & Tinies meet at St Chad's Hall, Irby from 9.30am-11.30am. The playgroup welcomes parents and carers with babies and children up to pre-school age. There is a charge of £1.50 per child and accompanying adult, with a supplement of 50p for each extra child.

Each week the children are provided with a snack of fresh fruit, toast and a drink. Adults are invited to help themselves to tea/coffee, biscuits & toast. This provision is funded from the cover charge.

Parents and carers are invited to supervise their own children in this friendly group environment. The children freely interact with one another whilst using a wide variety of activities. These include a reading corner, crafts, large/small play toys, jigsaws – all of which encourage fine and large motor skills and social skills.

The group is co-ordinated by Allison Youds and Elaine Jones. A sing song/music session follows snack time and a story finishes each session.

Parent volunteer helpers put equipment out and away at the end of each session.

Tots & Tinies welcomes on average 30 children and parents/carers each week. It should be noted the safety and supervision of each child is the sole responsibility of the child's attending parent/carer at all times.

We celebrate special occasions throughout the year. These include a Christmas party, an Easter egg hunt, a Teddy's Bear picnic and individual birthdays each week.

Numbers continue to grow and it has been lovely to welcome baby brothers and sisters. Please contact Elaine Jones on 648 1400 if you are interested in any aspect of Tots & Tinies.

Elaine Jones and Allison Youds

SAFEGUARDING

The parish recently appointed a new Safeguarding Coordinator, Mrs K Timmins, who attended a PCC meeting on 3rd April 2017. She has reviewed the current arrangements, including the Safeguarding Policy, and her proposals will be discussed by the PCC in the near future. A copy of the draft revised Safeguarding Policy will be available for inspection at the Annual Meeting or on request from the Rector or the Parish Office.

Under a new regulation (Church Representation Rules, Rule 9, paragraph 2A), the annual report must include a statement as to whether the council (the PCC) has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). This came into force on 1st October 2016. It includes the following provisions:

1. A duty on all clergy in ministry, licensed readers and lay workers, churchwardens and PCCs to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on these matters
2. A requirement that when a person from another Church is invited to perform in a parish church, the incumbent must be satisfied that that person is of good standing
3. A requirement that all those with authority to officiate must have participated in safeguarding training, approved by the bishop
4. Other provisions relating to clergy, licensed readers and lay workers who have been suspended

The PCC complies completely with these provisions.

30 April 2017

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ending 31 December 2016

Receipts & Payments account

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2016	TOTAL 2015
Receipts					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving St Bartholomew	£ 20,690			£ 20,690	£ 21,244
St Chad	£ 16,952			£ 16,952	£ 18,500
Other Collections St Bartholomew	£ 2,992			£ 2,992	£ 4,004
St Chad	£ 1,772			£ 1,772	£ 2,312
Occasional					£ 844
<i>Donations</i>					
Wallbox	£ 54			£ 54	£ 187
Recurring Donations Easy Fundraising	£ 187			£ 187	£ 500
Text Donations	£ 104			£ 104	£ -
Non recurring Donations (See note 1)	£ 3,222			£ 3,222	£ 8,209
<i>Grants</i>		£ 750		£ 750	£ -
<i>Legacies</i>		£ 797		£ 797	£ 25,000
<i>Tax recovered from 2015 account year</i>	£ 11,651			£ 11,651	£ 12,249
<i>Activities for Generating Funds (See note 2)</i>	£ 1,653			£ 1,653	£ 1,174
<i>Church Activities (See note 3)</i>	£ 19,258			£ 19,258	£ 17,067
<i>Income from Investments (See note 4)</i>	£ 3,938	£ 305	£ 136	£ 4,379	£ 4,361
<i>Refunds Given</i>					
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 82,473	£ 1,852	£ 136	£ 84,461	£ 115,650
Payments					
<i>Cost of generating voluntary income (See note 5)</i>	£ 689			£ 689	£ 2,455
<i>Mission Giving (See note 6)</i>	£ 1,284	£ 50		£ 1,334	£ 89
<i>Church Activities (See note 7)</i>	£ 77,379			£ 77,379	£ 72,645
<i>Major Works (See note 8)</i>	£ 2,710			£ 2,710	£ 7,948
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 82,062	£ 50		£ 82,112	£ 83,137
Excess of Receipts over Payments	£ 411	£ 1,802	£ 136	£ 2,349	£ 32,513
Transfers between funds					
(Tudor Trust)	-£ 25,000	£ 25,136	-£ 136	£ 0	
(Open door and Ismay Funds)	£ 2,697	-£ 2,697		£ -	
Other recognised gains and losses	£ -	-£ 416	£ 864	£ 449	
TOTAL TRANSFERS	-£ 22,303	£ 22,023	£ 728	£ 449	
<i>(Add Excess of Receipts over Payments)</i>	-£ 21,892	£ 23,826	£ 864	£ 2,798	
Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan	£ 48,727	£ 65,113	£ 8,591	£ 122,431	
Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec	£ 26,835	£ 88,939	£ 9,456	£ 125,229	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2016	TOTAL 2015
Assets					
Cash in hand and undeposited funds	£ 10			£ 10	£ 34
<i>CAF Current Account</i>	£ 26,465			£ 26,465	£ 23,387
<i>CAF Gold Account</i>	£ 228			£ 228	£ 25,174
<i>Lloyds Current Account</i>	£ 132			£ 132	£ 132
Investment Assets (See note 9)					
<i>Morrell Trust</i>			£ 6,273	£ 6,273	£ 5,748
<i>Ismay Charity</i> *			£ 3,183	£ 3,183	£ 2,843
<i>Tudor Trust</i>		£ 24,584		£ 24,584	£ -
<i>Open Door</i>		£ 60,422		£ 60,422	£ 61,335
<i>Reserve Fund (incl. interest from Ismay Charity)</i>		£ 3,932		£ 3,932	£ 3,778
TOTAL	£ 26,835	£ 88,939	£ 9,456	£ 125,229	£ 122,431
Other Monetary Assets					
<i>Gift Aid and GASDS claimable</i>	£ 9,894			£ 9,894	£ 12,344
<i>Hall Hire fees not received at year end</i>	£ 581			£ 581	£ -
TOTAL	£ 10,475			£ 10,475	£ 12,344

Liabilities (See note 12)

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by Rev E Jane Turner (PCC Chairperson)
and Mr Christopher Perry (Churchwarden)

Notes to the accounts

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2016	TOTAL 2015
1. Non recurring Donations					£ 8,209
<i>Garden Party Donation from organisers</i>	£ 395			£ 395	£ -
<i>Pumpkin Party Donation from Organisers</i>	£ 17			£ 17	£ -
<i>Spring Wind Band Concert Donation from organisers</i>	£ 500			£ 500	£ -
<i>St Beartholomews' Day Donation from organisers</i>	£ 72			£ 72	£ -
<i>Annual Parish Outing</i>	£ 181			£ 181	£ -
<i>Donation from Wednesday Coffee Group</i>	£ 100			£ 100	£ -
<i>Santa comes to Irby</i>	£ 51			£ 51	
<i>Other non-gift aided donations</i>	£ 484			£ 484	£ -
<i>Gift aided donations</i>	£ 1,423			£ 1,423	£ -
Total	£ 3,222			£ 3,222	£ 8,209
2. Generating Funds					
<i>Harvest Supper</i>	£ 291			£ 291	£ -
<i>Christmas Fair</i>	£ 1,009			£ 1,009	£ 1,009
<i>Spring Fair (Craft)</i>	£ 353			£ 353	£ 59
<i>Calendar Sales</i>					£ 106
Total	£ 1,653			£ 1,653	£ 1,174
3. Main Church Activities					
<i>St Bartholomews' Church</i>					
<i>Fees Received</i>	£ 5,064			£ 5,064	£ 4,621
<i>Contributions to Heating</i>	£ 598			£ 598	£ 467
<i>Marriage Preparation</i>	£ -			£ -	£ -
<i>St Chad's Church</i>					
<i>Hall Hire</i>	£ 11,459			£ 11,459	£ 10,738
<i>Extension Usage Contribution</i>					£ -
<i>Both churches</i>					
<i>Tots and Tinies</i>	£ 856			£ 856	£ -
<i>Magazine Income</i>	£ 436			£ 436	£ 815
<i>Adverts</i>	£ 250			£ 250	£ -
<i>Sales (incl Christmas Cards)</i>	£ 206			£ 206	£ -
<i>Other Income</i>	£ 25			£ 25	£ 426
<i>Refunds of power expenditure</i>	£ 364			£ 364	£ -
Total	£ 19,258			£ 19,258	£ 17,067
4. Income from Investments					
<i>Bank Interest</i>	£ 53	£ 305		£ 359	£ 384
<i>Morrell Trust</i>	£ 267			£ 267	£ 249
<i>Ismay Charity</i>			£ 136	£ 136	£ 128
<i>Shaw Trust</i>	£ 3,618			£ 3,618	£ 3,600
Total	£ 3,938	£ 305	£ 136	£ 4,379	£ 4,361
5. Costs of Generating Voluntary Income					
<i>Planned Giving Envelope Systems</i>	£ 349			£ 349	£ 1,781
<i>Craft Fair</i>	£ 70			£ 70	£ -
<i>Christmas Cards</i>				£ -	£ -
<i>Harvest Supper</i>	£ 153			£ 153	£ -
<i>Christmas Fair</i>	£ 117			£ 117	£ -
<i>Other Activities</i>	£ -			£ -	£ 674
Total	£ 689			£ 689	£ 2,445
6. Mission Giving					
<i>Diocesan Family of Schools</i>	£ 750			£ 750	£ -
<i>Friends of Chester Cathedral</i>	£ 25			£ 25	£ 25
<i>Ismay Charity Donation</i>		£ 50		£ 50	£ -
<i>Christian Aid</i>	£ 467			£ 467	£ -
<i>Belltower fund</i>	£ 42			£ 42	£ 64
Total	£ 1,284	£ 50		£ 1,334	£ 89

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2016	TOTAL 2015
7. Church Activities					
Parish Share	£ 36,759			£ 36,759	£ 36,266
Deanery Synod Fees	£ 30			£ 30	£ -
Salaries					
<i>Caretaker</i>	£ 394			£ 394	£ 404
<i>Cleaners</i>	£ 2,264			£ 2,264	£ 2,665
<i>Parish Clerk</i>	£ 3,186			£ 3,186	£ 2,880
Pastoral Expenses					
<i>Rector's Expenses *</i>	£ 1,462			£ 1,462	£ 1,591
<i>Rector's Office Expenses</i>	£ 441			£ 441	£ 744
<i>Rectory Expenses</i>	£ 2,595			£ 2,595	£ 2,345
Mission Costs					
<i>Rector's mission expenses</i>	£ 369			£ 369	£ -
<i>Assisting Clergy Fees & Expenses</i>	£ 3,348			£ 3,348	£ 2,444
<i>Organist's Fees</i>	£ 1,950			£ 1,950	£ 1,740
<i>Service Costs (worship materials) incl advertising</i>	£ 114			£ 114	£ 265
<i>Website</i>	£ 228			£ 228	£ 215
<i>Youth</i>	£ 90			£ 90	£ 216
<i>Tots & Tinies</i>	£ 86			£ 86	£ 186
<i>Misc Mission Costs</i>	£ 278			£ 278	£ 224
Running Costs Not Church Specific				£ -	
St Bartholomew Overheads					
<i>Church Insurance</i>	£ 4,243			£ 4,243	£ 4,310
<i>C26: Church Licences</i>	£ 72			£ 72	£ 321
<i>C23: Church Building Maintenance</i>	£ 2,024			£ 2,024	£ 183
<i>C19: Churchyard Upkeep</i>	£ 907			£ 907	£ 742
<i>C24: Church Organ Expenses</i>	£ 210			£ 210	£ 315
<i>C21: Church Electricity</i>	£ 660			£ 660	£ 485
<i>C22: Church Heating Oil</i>	£ 1,296			£ 1,296	£ 2,103
St Chad's Overheads					
<i>Hall Insurance</i>	£ 1,673			£ 1,673	£ 1,826
<i>Hall Licences</i>	£ 251			£ 251	£ -
<i>Hall Building Maintenance</i>	£ 2,768			£ 2,768	£ 2,547
<i>Hall Grounds Maintenance</i>	£ 644			£ 644	£ 186
<i>Hall Electricity</i>	£ 1,701			£ 1,701	£ 1,126
<i>Hall Gas</i>	£ 2,100			£ 2,100	£ 1,944
<i>Hall Water</i>	£ 477			£ 477	£ 424
<i>Magazine Costs Production Expenses</i>	£ 154			£ 154	£ 178
<i>Other Trading Expenses</i>	£ 323			£ 323	
Admin Expenses					
<i>Office equipment</i>	£ 1,476			£ 1,476	£ 1,236
<i>Office Postage</i>	£ 54			£ 54	£ 53
<i>Office Software</i>	£ 360			£ 360	£ 446
<i>Office Stationery</i>	£ 1,728			£ 1,728	£ 1,381
<i>Office Phone & Internet</i>	£ 637			£ 637	£ 624
<i>Bank Charges</i>	£ 30			£ 30	£ 30
Total	£ 77,379	£ -	£ -	£ 77,379	£ 72,645
8. Major Works					
<i>E1: St Chads Kitchen work</i>	£ 1,510			£ 1,510	£ 7,948
<i>E2: Church Stonework Repairs</i>				£ -	£ -
<i>E3: Architect's Fees/Open Door Feasibility Study</i>	£ 1,200			£ 1,200	£ -
Total	£ 2,710	£ -	£ -	£ 2,710	£ 7,948

9. Investments

The investments relate to 4 funds: (Endowment Funds Morrell and Ismay; restricted General Reserve)

(i) The Morrell Trust is invested with the CBF Church of England Investments, split between the Fixed Interest Securities Fund and the Global Equity Income Fund. Income is paid to the PCC for upkeep of St Bartholomew's church and churchyard.

(ii) The Ismay Charity is invested with the CBF Church of England Global Equity Income Fund with the balance held in the bank account for distribution at the discretion of the incumbent, or for eventual reinvestment.

(iii) The Tudor Trust. This is invested with CBF (CCLA) C of E income investments the Property Fund; the UK Equity Fund and the Global Equity Income Fund.

(iv) The St Bartholomew's reserve fund which contains open door money and Ismay Charity Income and a small general reserve fund and is invested in CBF C of E Deposit Fund.

The Eileen Shaw Trust is an Endowment Trust producing income for General Church Use and is investing in C of E Global Equity, Property, UK Equity, Investment and Fixed Funds. The fund value (owned by the Diocese of Chester) is £87,667

10. Fixed Assets - Tangible

This comprises furniture and gardening equipment at both Churches, together with office equipment at St. Chad's. All equipment is depreciated over 4 years on a straight line basis.

11. St Chad's Building

St Chad's building is 50 years old and was built using donations. The first extension was built using funds from the sale of land on which Village Court was built. The new extension was built over 10 years ago. Its insurance value is £903,558.

12. Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2016	TOTAL 2015
<i>Retained wedding and funeral fees</i>				£ 700	£ 1,394
<i>Hall Hire paid in advance</i>				£ 540	£ 2,209
<i>Magazine subs paid in advance</i>				£ 10	
<i>PAYE</i>				£ 17	-£ 8
<i>Quinquennial Provision</i>					
<i>Sundry creditors</i>				£ 16	£ -
<i>Outside Collections</i>					
<i>Unpaid Parish Share (2011)</i>				£ 10,422	£ 10,422
<i>Unpaid Parish Share (2013)</i>				£ 12,600	£ 12,600
<i>Unpaid Parish Share (2014)</i>				£ 15,000	£ 15,000
<i>Unpaid Parish Share (2015)</i>				£ 20,666	£ 20,666
<i>Unpaid Parish Share (2016)</i>				£ 24,506	
<i>Organist's Fees Outstanding</i>				£ 595	
<i>Accounts Payable</i>				£ 90	£ 1,707
Total				£ 85,162	£ 63,990

13. PCC member payments

One PCC member Jon Oliver was paid £504 because of his employment as Verger. The Rector's expenses during the year were: General: £441 Travel: £1462

14. Accounts

This financial statement has been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. This differs from previous accounting in that only monetary transactions are included with reference to the current financial year. Therefore the Gift Aid refers to money received in 2016 for the 2015 financial and tax year whereas the predicted HMRC Gift Aid return is shown for the 105 figures. Also no reference is made to Stock held or debtors. We aim to hold 3 months of unrestricted charitable expenditure as reserves in unrestricted funds

15. Reserves Policy

We have no Quinquennial provision. We aim to carry 3 months of turnover as reserve i.e. approximately £25000

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST
BARTHOLOMEW, THURSTASTON
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

I report on the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Thurstaston for the year ended 31 December 2016 which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for the year ended 31 December 2016 under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner. An examination includes a review of 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 represent 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 proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Whelen BEng (Hons) FCCA