

CHRIST CHURCH EATON



'A welcoming church, willing to make sacrifices and room for others'

ANNUAL REVIEW OF 2018

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PART ONE – CHRIST CHURCH REPORTS

THE PARISH OF EATON CHRIST CHURCH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2018-2019

Clergy	The Rev'd Dr Patrick RICHMOND The Rev'd Shawn TOMLINSON (from 30 th June 2018)
Readers	Mr Alistair BOLT Mrs Bridget ARCHER Mr John HARRISON (Retired with Permission To Officiate)
Wardens	Mrs Vivien HUMBER Mrs Catherine JEFFRIES
Deanery Synod	Mr John HARRISON Mrs Vivien HUMBER Prof David SCOTT Mr Mike BROOKES (Until 29 th April 2018) Mr Tony GRUBB Mr Ian PARKES Prof David SCOTT Mrs Kathleen LADD (co-opted from 8 th April 2017, elected from 29 th April 2018) Mrs Susan MITCHELL (co-opted from 8 th April 2017, elected and secretary from 29 th April 2018) Mr Chris MITCHELL (elected from 29 th April 2018) Ms Caroline GIBBS (Secretary and member until 29 th April 2018)
PCC Treasurer	Mr David ARCHER

VICAR'S REPORT ON 2018

A lot has been achieved since my last report and, as usual, I have summarised some of the main points below. Please do read on to get more details. As always, I am immensely grateful for the variety of activities going on at Christ Church and in the Eaton group of parishes and to all those who have submitted reports for this annual review. Thank you also to Ruth, our new assistant administrator in the Office, who has patiently collated this report and allowed me to see the other reports before writing mine.

Summary

1. The Fund-raising group became a Friends group, officially launched at the end of January 2018. Our thanks go to David Scott, who has taken over as chair from Tony Grubb, and to Mark Jeffries, Mrs Tom Eaton, and David and Rachel Taylor, who have so kindly agreed to be patrons, and to all who have organised and supported the Friends events.
2. More flexible social space was created at the beginning of 2018 by making all the pews in the south aisle moveable.
3. The WelCome WC/storage/kitchen and increased social space has been a real benefit, offering refreshments and hospitality at services, concerts and events, and used notably for our Lent Lunches, the Ploughman's lunch at the Friends' Open Gardens event and all through the Angels Festival, the new Chat over a Cuppa group, run by Stephanie Brookes, and the Open Door services organised by Kathy Ladd. I am also very grateful to Sue Harris and all who keep the church clean and in order, given all that now goes on in it.
4. Mike Brookes, our Fabric Officer, has had another busy year. Significant repair work on the north aisle roof was completed. Repairs were also completed to the nave roof at the east end after storm damage. As the treasurer's report explains in more detail, the cost has been met by donations and Friends' fundraising. Thank you so much!
5. The stonework of the bell turret was extensively repaired at the end of 2016 but the redone plaster below it has been deteriorating. Our architect has recently reassured us that this resulted from water in the stone that had entered before the repairs.
6. The new CCTV system to help coordinate music and provide a security function proved useful when we suffered minor vandalism and we have installed an extra camera to cover the children's space.
7. New LED lighting has been installed in much of the nave and the aisles, along with a timer system, brightening the church, and, should the normal lighting

fail, we now have safety lighting.

8. We welcomed the Rev'd Shawn Tomlinson, our new, part-time curate, coming at the end of June with her family. Shawn has brought extra dimensions to our ministry, becoming a valued presence at Chat over a Cuppa, initiating a prayer group for the prison where she acts as a chaplain, taking funerals, attending the Mission Focus Group, as well as taking the lead when I have been away. Her Ordination as priest is booked for 29th June at 230pm.
9. Particular thanks are due to Matt Wright and to all who helped him with the consultation on and introduction of our new hymn books.
10. The ministry of Colin Way, Alistair Bolt, Bridget Archer and John Harrison has also continued as a great support.
11. Realising that our vision statement was largely fulfilled, and our room for others much improved, we began to consider a new vision and emphasis, building on our improved facilities and musical strengths.
12. Bridget Archer organised a prayerful and reflective away day on 5th May, at the Narthex of the St John's Cathedral, led by Canon Keith James. This, among other things, generated a vision for more prayer and a prayer space, improving the contact and communication between children and adults, as well as the practical challenge of parking near Christ Church!
13. Bridget and Alistair Bolt have been exploring using the north altar space for prayer and providing prayer resources there. Reflection and experimentation continue before we make any changes requiring a faculty.
14. I am also very grateful to Bridget for putting on some special evening compline services and for organising training for our prayer ministry after 10am services.
15. Parking is a challenge! We have improved our 'ministry of cones' and I am very grateful to the sidespeople who now steward the parking. We plan to improve the signage of the private parking space opposite the porch to clarify that it is available for disabled drivers and authorised users.
16. Vivien Humber and Catherine Jeffries have been a wonderful help, supported by the deputy wardens David Scott, Ruth Vaughan and John Harrison. Jess Pitt has stepped down as deputy warden with our thanks and Jeff Arden has kindly taken her place.
17. Though the statistics show variation, over the last five years there is a noticeable fall in the number of children attending our 10am services, mainly because children have grown up and not been replaced.

18. Welcoming and making room for children, young people and families therefore remains a priority. Shawn is now supervising the Sunday School rota and leaders, taking over from Geraldine Verschoor who has faithfully done it for years, and I continue hosting school visits and doing school assemblies, school services and school and toddler group visits.
19. The youth group for 12-14 year olds so kindly led by Geraldine Verschoor and Tanya Page has continued to benefit from a youth worker from Norwich Youth for Christ. We have used money raised at the Garden Party for this ministry.
20. Around 1076 people attended School services in Advent, a reduction from last year due to the closure of Stretton School.
21. Our worshipping community, defined as people who attend roughly once a month or more, or who would if they were not prevented by illness, infirmity or temporary absence, is around 216, similar to last year, despite removing some from the list and gratefully welcoming others.
22. Conscious that average attendance at evensong has been declining and that on several Sundays evensong was cancelled for various reasons, I am very grateful that we now have clergy and readers who can support evensong. We now try to avoid cancelling it where possible. Please consider supporting this service.
23. We took 15 baptisms, 12 weddings, and 26 funerals.
24. Funerals of congregation members included Mary Muff, Margaret Bulmer, Pat Funnell, Winsome Hewison and Keith Eastman.
25. Our monthly Services at Chiswick House and Hawthorns Nursing Home continued.
26. To aid "growth in discipleship" we ran several Lent and Advent courses,
27. We continue to be involved in a large variety of successful joint activities with St Andrew's Church, e.g. the Summer Fête, Holiday Club and Magazine, and I'm very grateful to Phil Rodd, Richard Holcombe and to all at St Andrew's.
28. Sophie Clarke retired from the Office in the Autumn, with our thanks and prayers. We appointed Ruth Thorp as her replacement and are very grateful to her.
29. I have continued on General and Diocesan Synods, on the Bishop's Council, and with involvement in Science and Faith matters but have retired as governor at the Clare School.
30. I am grateful to God, my family and to everyone supporting the church.

Worship

Jesus taught that the greatest commandment is that we love God with all our being. Worshipping together as a congregation is not the only way that we do this but it is an important part of it, so I hope it will be helpful to give more detail and thanks here. The Worship Committee, comprising Vicar, Wardens, Alistair Bolt, Bridget Archer, Matthew Wright and Caroline Gibbs, joined by Shawn during the year, plan and review our services and I am very grateful to them. Particular thanks are due to Matt for his ministry and to all who helped with the consultation on and introduction of our new hymn books.

We are also very grateful to Ivan Bailey, Douglas Durand and David Hares who have continued to help with services and sermons during the year.

I remain indebted to Richard Rivett for organising the many volunteers who read in our 10am service and at special occasions. Thank you also to Jeff Arden for organising the intercessors and to all the 10am sidespeople who have a key role, not least in welcoming newcomers. We are particularly grateful to Simon Back and Rowena Atkinson for their care for the evensong congregation. Maureen Sarl has retired as a sidesperson at evensong and I'm very grateful to her and to John Elbro who has recently taken on the role. David Edmonds organises rotas for the 8am service and I would like to thank him and his team for all his help and support. We said good bye to John and Kathryn Cook, who now go to church in Cringleford, with our thanks for their help. It has been very encouraging to say morning and evening prayer in church with Shawn and all are welcome.

Numbers

As I have said before, statistics ought to be handled cautiously; numbers vary for all sorts of reasons, and quantity and quality are distinct. Nonetheless, it is worth noting again that there has been a fall in children's attendance, mainly due to children growing up and not being replaced. As mentioned above, attendance at evensong has also been declining in the past few years so I am very grateful that we now have clergy and readers who can support evensong. We are trying to avoid cancelling it where possible.

The Worshipping Community

The Church of England's Statistics Department is now recording the "worshipping community", defined as people who attend roughly once a month or more, or who would if they were not prevented by illness, infirmity or temporary absence. During 2018 we think 18 adults and three children joined our worshipping community – welcome to you all, it is lovely to have you! We removed 14 adults and 12 children from the list having decided that they had clearly stopped attending. It now numbers around 216, similar overall to last year.

Numbers at Sunday Services: average attendances and totals

Year	8am Adults	10am Adults	10am U16s	Tots Adults	Tots U16s	Normal Evensong Adults
2010	16.54	82.38	13.17	-	-	18.52
2011	17.68	89.06	14.56	19.33	16.00	21.54
2012	15.52	85.92	11.88	16.56	9.78	17.57
2013	15.00	83.75	11.81	14.88	8.00	16.55
2014	16.42	79.33	10.31	13.64	7.91	17.78
2015	16.44	73.12	8.48	12.73	10.36	16.00
2016	16.67	80.88	6.73	12.73	10.27	17.28
2017	16.81	75.79	5.96	11.45	8.27	14.26
2018	17.54	77.82	6.82	8.30	5.60	12.16

Age Profile

We think we have 32 in our worshipping community aged 0-17 (less than a fifth of the community, smaller than the proportion in the population as a whole), 102 aged 18-69 (a little under half of the community) and 73 who are aged 70+ (around a third). Nationally, an 81 year old is *eight times* as likely to come to church as a 21 year old.

Baptisms

Our 15 baptisms gave us an opportunity to welcome many to the church and, thanks to help from our wardens and deputy wardens, I could accommodate many requests for baptisms at noon, which makes attendance by family and friends from far afield more feasible. We invite families to Tots Teatime Church and other all age services as follow up.

Confirmations

It was wonderful to prepare Matthew and Lydia Barker and Ionie Lyon for confirmation at the Cathedral in November, in a large service using the whole building.

Weddings

Thank you to all who verged, helped and sang at our 12 weddings in 2018. I am also very grateful to Ruth Vaughan and Jenny Holcombe for leading another well-received Mothers' Union Loving for Life course as part of our wedding preparation day this year.

Funerals

The church took 26 funerals in 2018, including those of pillars of the church Mary Muff, Margaret Bulmer, Winsome Hewison, Pat Funnell and Keith Eastman. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Garden of Remembrance continues to develop and be used, with thanks to Colin Way, Carrie Phoenix, Mike Brookes and the Office for their help.

Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals

Year	Baptisms	Confirmations	Weddings	Funerals
2010	13	0	15	26
2011	10	5 + 1 reaffirmation	13	20
2012	9	10	22	19
2013	16	4	10	22
2014	19	0	12	22
2015	17	2	2	28
2016	16	0	7	15
2017	10	0	13	20
2018	15	3	12	26

Special Services and Speakers

As part of our desire to grow as disciples, we welcomed many to numerous special services through the year, including Pentecost and the Ascension at St Andrew's, and their service marking the end of their year of Celebration in January 2019. We also had visiting preachers and speakers, including Bishop Graham to bless the Friends Angel Festival, Phil Rodd from St Andrew's, David Balfour from Mission Aviation Fellowship, and Eleanor Langan, the chaplain at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital.

Thank you also to John and Kathy Ladd who visited the Erlöserkirche - Haltern am See, Germany. There will be a return visit to us on the weekend of 2nd June 2019 when we can welcome our German friends.

I was honoured to lead a Seder Meal during Holy Week, with many thanks to those who made it such a good occasion. As usual, we offered an all-age service for the Baptism of Christ; a candlelit procession for Candlemas; an all-age Mothering Sunday service; dramatized passion readings on Palm Sunday and Good Friday; special communions for Maundy Thursday, Easter Day, Pentecost, a service of Thanksgiving for Marriage, in September; a Garden Service; a Harvest Festival; a Memorial service for the Departed in Advent; David Scott organised the service at the War memorial

on Remembrance Sunday, commemorating the centenary of the end of the Great War, joint with St Andrew's, with Maisie Hook playing the Last Post and Ian Parkes arranging for the traffic to stop at 11am and Roger and Vivien Humber providing the wonderful Eaton Remembers booklets; Christ the King, our Feast of Title, and the usual special services for Advent and Christmas, of which the Christingle service and Carol service had a particularly strong attendance. Thanks also go to Caroline Gibbs for leading the crib service again so successfully. Attendance at Easter increased slightly again, at 248 up from 245 in 2017.

Total Numbers at Special Christmas Services

Year	Advent Carols	Christingle	Christmas Carols	Midnight Communion	Christmas 8am	Christmas 10am
2010	107	114	282	125	21	138
2011	130	125	322	131	29	155
2012	91	179	340	122	23	152
2013	130	120	330	133	19	146
2014	117	153	285	147	28	132
2015	100	100	235	146	33	120
2016	98	139	249	136	21	123
2017	98	103	208	128	30	119
2018	98	133	340	66	24	118

Numbers at Crib Service and Nativity Play (often approximate)

Year	Adults	Children	Total
2010	280	170	450
2011	282	200	482
2012	300	200	500
2013	238	128	366
2014	231	102	333
2015	230	107	337
2016	213	108	321
2017	253	121	374
2018	240	120	360

“Young People”

As noted above, welcoming and making room for children and young people and their “growth in discipleship” remains a key challenge for the whole Church. As well

as our Joint Group Activities with St Andrew's, mentioned below, we continued Tots' Teatime Church, thanks to Jessica Pitt, Ruth Vaughan and the team. Shawn has kindly taken over from me in emailing parents every week in term time about the Sunday school sessions. We have begun discussing how to communicate and include children in our services more and communion before confirmation.

I am so grateful to Geraldine Verschoor and Tanya Page who have continued to support our youth group started in 2016 for 12-14 year olds. It has benefitted from input from Abi Walter-Browne, a youth worker from Norwich Youth for Christ and we continue to use some of the money raised at the Garden Party to finance this. Abi is also planning to help with the 2019 holiday club.

Assemblies and School Services and Visits

I continue to take assemblies at Town Close Prep and Pre-prep and Norwich High School for Girls Junior House, Colman Infant School, and Colman Junior School and at Stretton School, though this closed in the autumn of 2018. I have also led and been involved in services for Town Close Prep, Town Close Pre-prep and the Clare School, and welcomed visits to the Church by Colman Infant, Norwich High School, Town Close Prep and the Clare School. The Clare School has services for Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Carols, and the Beehive Nursery from Colman Road Hall visit. For the sixth year running, we presented Bibles to the leavers from Colman Junior School.

School service attendance in Advent in 2018 was 1076; reduced from 2017 due to Stretton school's closing.

Courses and Away Day

Courses are an excellent way of growing as disciples and I am very grateful to Colin Way and Alistair Bolt for offering Lent and Advent courses. I again used the Church of England's *Pilgrim* Course for my Lent and Advent courses, and have now led all of the eight courses available. We are now planning an away day for the parish at Belsey Bridge conference centre on 21st or 28th September.

Services at Residential and Nursing Homes

John Harrison and I took monthly communion services at Chiswick House and the Hawthorns Nursing Home. I am also grateful to those who sang carols with us at the Hawthorns and Chiswick House.

Chat over a Cuppa

Stephanie Brookes began a new group, *Chat over a cuppa*, meeting in church on Monday afternoons, affiliated to the national places of welcome scheme. It has slowly grown, meeting a real need and attracting people from the congregation and

some from beyond, and I am very grateful to those who make it happen and support it.

Dementia Friendliness

With Stephanie leading Chat over a Cuppa I am so grateful to Kathy Ladd who took over the lead on Dementia Friendliness, and organised monthly *Open Door* dementia friendly meetings with a short service and song, ably supported by her husband John and several other faithful and willing volunteers. Since take up has been small we are reviewing what is the best way to proceed.

The Eaton Parishes Group

As you will see later in the report, many of our activities are possible thanks to our Group relationship with St Andrew's Church. I remain hugely grateful to Phil Rodd, vicar of St Andrew's, and the congregation there for their faith, hope and love. I am also very grateful to those who planned, staffed and attended the summer Fête, raising money for youth and children's work. Our thanks also go to Rosemary Hanson who chairs the Group Council that helps the two parishes communicate and cooperate. Neil Rout, Lavinia Bailey and Ruth Vaughan organised another successful Summer Programme, reaching hundreds of people during August. (I spoke on the Problem of Evil and this year might mention that I went to Israel in January...) Thank you also to Vivien Humber, the editors and the Magazine team and to all who distribute the Parishes magazine, which so many in the parishes read and value, and to Shirley Meadows who oversees the distribution of Christmas and Easter cards in the parish.

The Office and Finances

I am very grateful for all the administrative work that takes place through the office. I continued as Lynn's line manager and am very grateful to her and to Sophie Clarke, who retired in the Autumn with our thanks and prayers and I am pleased that Sophie is now working for the Diocese's Spire Property Services. Phil, Lynn and I appointed Ruth Thorp as Sophie's replacement and we are very grateful for all that she brings to the role.

Youth and Children's Worker

I am extremely grateful to Andrea Woods, St Andrew's Children, Youth and Families worker for leading and organising strategic joint activities like the Good Friday Workshop and Summer Holiday Club, reported on later in this document, and to all who volunteer and do so much else for the children's work at both churches. Our prayers and blessings go with Andrea in her new, ordained ministry this Summer.

Other ministries and matters

I continue to appreciate the wider perspectives afforded by being on General Synod, Diocesan Synod and the Bishop's Council.

I have taught the Eastern Region Ministry Course modules on Medical Ethics again in 2018, training local ordinands and Reader candidates. I retired after two terms of office as a Governor at the Clare Special School but continued as a reviewer for the Journal Science and Christian Belief and to chair the Science and Faith in Norfolk Group, which put on three talks and the Cathedral lecture in the year. We continue to help plan for the visit of Dippy the Dinosaur to the Cathedral in 2020 and I preached in the Cathedral for the first time.

As always, I am immensely grateful to my wife and family, who encourage and put up with me in so many ways. Catherine deserves especial thanks for editing the Christ Church newsletter and running the Christ Church website, as well as formatting service sheets, posters and flyers and the Christmas and Easter cards. I also value her proof reading of emails and reports to the congregation.

Thank God for you all

Having written eleven annual reports, I am impressed each time by all the time and effort you all put into Christ's Church in our increasingly pressured and busy society. I am so grateful to all who serve on various committees, groups, teams and rotas. My thanks go to all those volunteering, without whom the Church could not function, and to those who have little free time and contribute financially. I look forward to consulting more with you all at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 29th, at 7.30pm following wine, nibbles, and other refreshments at 7.00pm. I do hope and pray you can come as we give thanks and look forward.

The Rev'd Dr Patrick Richmond - Vicar

CURATE'S REPORT

Dear Congregation,

It's been six months since my arrival at Christ Church.

Chris, the girls and I feel very much part of this most welcoming community.

The Rev'd Patrick Richmond our incumbent has been a very helpful and an inspirational teacher together with the Rev'd Colin Way.

My utmost thanks also goes to the Wardens, Choir, Congregation and The Parish Administration Team for their unfailing support as I have endeavoured to grow into my role as your deacon and curate.

I have had the privilege of so many firsts amongst you.

Taking Funerals of loved ones and baptisms of wonderful children and adults and not forgetting leading sung matins!!!

Thank you everyone for your help and for bearing with me as I preach from the pulpit, trying my hardest not to destroy it.

But on a more serious note, these six months have been wonderful and a very formative time, as I've learnt the joys of caring for a parish.

I'm so looking forward to this coming year.

With prayers

The Rev'd Shawn Tomlinson - Curate

REPORT OF PCC SECRETARY FOR 2018

Christ Church's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working co-operatively with the vicar to promote 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 building, Kinchen Hall and the Cottage.

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and tries to help people in the parish grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and in service to others. It maintains and develops the building and keeps it open to the public throughout the year.

The PCC met ten times in 2018. The average PCC attendance at meetings throughout the year was 10 out of 14 members (70%).

We are grateful to Vivien Humber and Catherine Jeffries for continuing in their role as Church Wardens in 2018. We also thank John Harrison, Jess Pitt, David Scott and Ruth Vaughan for continuing to help as Deputy Wardens when needed.

Caroline Gibbs stepped down as PCC Secretary in April, with our thanks for six years of service in this role. Sue Mitchell took over the role in June. Denise Back stood down from the PCC in May, with our thanks for her five years of service. We welcomed Chris Mitchell and Shawn Tomlinson as new members in May and July respectively.

There were 169 parishioners on the Electoral Roll for 2018, and a new Electoral Roll is being drawn up. The parish share has once again been paid in full. A budget has been prepared and the accounts for 2018 will have been approved by April. Terriers and inventories will be available for inspection at the APCM and reports from PCC committees and other groups are in this Parish Review.

The Treasurer submitted regular and detailed updates on the accounts to 2018 meetings and has been able to report that Christ Church finances are sound thanks

to good management. We need to continue to pay attention to regular giving, however, as income needs to meet our running costs and does not always do so.

Issues relating to the parish employees (office staff, cleaner, organist and verger) were considered at PCC meetings and decisions made on salary increases and contracts. The PCC discussed and approved fees for weddings and funerals including fees for organist and choir. The purchase of new hymn books was authorised.

As always, building alterations, repairs and refurbishment were frequent topics of discussion in meetings. Mike Brookes as Fabric Officer reported regularly on progress and we are grateful to him for overseeing the continued maintenance of the buildings.

The PCC has discussed and approved spending on: replacing all the high lights in the church with LEDs, installing emergency lighting and also more down lighters, installing an additional CCTV camera and CCTV signs, and replacing the faulty part of the sound system. External decoration was carried out at Kinchen Hall and it was agreed to renew the agreement with The Beehive who use the Hall on week days. Work continued on the repairs to the North Aisle roof including re-slatting, estimated to cost over £20,000, and thanks are due for the anonymous donations received towards this. The Friends of Christ Church was launched in January 2018 and made this its fundraising project. In early 2019 over £10,000 has been transferred to the Roof Fund for which we are grateful.

Spending on bibles for all school leavers from Colman Primary School was once again approved, funded from proceeds from the Parishes Garden Party.

Other issues dealt with included parking outside the church during services and events, minor vandalism in church and the removal of a holly tree.

Minutes and reports were regularly received from the Kinchen Hall Committee, the Donations Committee, Eaton Parishes' Group Council, the leadership team for Friends of Christ Church, the Magazine Team, the Worship Committee, the Youth and Children's Committee, Norwich South Deanery Synod and the Diocesan Synod; items raised were reviewed where appropriate. Monthly charities were approved for the retiring collection.

Apart from attending to the church fabric the PCC has found time to discuss strategy and mission, ministry and pastoral care. Thanks are due to Bridget Archer for organising an Away Day in May, allowing the PCC and other parishioners time to come together to reflect on the way forward in these matters. Thanks are due also to Shawn for leading a case study session on mission support and attending meetings in the wider parish aiming to take this forward in the coming year. Lastly,

Kathy Ladd is due thanks for her work in organising Dementia Friendly Church meetings in line with the strategy of being a welcoming church for all.

PCC minutes for each meeting are available on request. Thank you to all PCC members who have taken their turn to write a short report of meetings for the parish magazine each month.

27th January 2019

Sue Mitchell - PCC Secretary

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

I am pleased to report that no safeguarding incidents were reported to me in the last year, 2018, and the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults complies with the current requirements by the Diocese of Norwich. David Hughes at St Andrews completes the DBS checks and securely keeps records for both parishes. All volunteers who are working with children or who have positions of responsibility must undertake a training session every three years. Training has recently been made available on line and further advice can be found on the Norwich Diocesan website.

There is now a second first aid kit located in the kitchen cupboard above the sink unit, together with one in the choir vestry.

After seven years it is my intention to retire from this post at the APCM and I would like to thank all those who have cooperated with the form completions and training sessions. Please remember that Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility.

Dee Scott - Safeguarding Officer for Christ Church

CHURCH WARDENS' ANNUAL REPORT

2018 was another busy and eventful year. Readers may be aware that, legally, we "have two masters ... the people and the bishop". Churchwardens have a duty to represent the laity and to co-operate with the vicar (to which we should add that we are also delighted to also be co-operating with our new curate, Shawn Tomlinson, who is a welcome additional resource in our very busy parish).

As churchwardens we are legally responsible for all the property and movable goods belonging to the church and its buildings, and are required to keep an up-to date inventory of valuables. Day to day maintenance of buildings and contents are usually the responsibility of churchwardens and in this area we are very fortunate to be so well supported by our Fabric Officer, Mike Brookes and his deputies, Chris Mitchell

and Ian Parkes, to whom we wish to record our grateful thanks. It goes without saying that - like most years - 2018 was not uneventful (it included the quinquennial review, carried out by our architect, David Lemon, to ensure the building is in good repair); Mike and his team coped admirably with a variety of tasks with their usual efficiency and good humour, which is greatly appreciated.

We are also fortunate to have four excellent Deputy Wardens - Ruth Vaughan, David Scott, John Harrison and Jeff Arden. Jeff joined the team in the autumn, adding to its strength and replacing Jess Pitt, who was a most efficient member of the team. Thanks are also due to our wonderful sidespeople, who ensure the smooth running of our services, and to Alistair MacDougall as lead and co-ordination of the team and the rota.

Thanks also to Robin Quine and the coffee rota team. Robin stood down as co-ordinator during 2018, having served the church very diligently, and we are grateful for his faithful service. Caroline Gibbs kindly agreed to take over from him. Due to this team we have been able to continue to serve excellent refreshments for church services and other events, as the social space in the South Aisle continues to help us expand our services, both to the congregation and the community, as we hoped it would.

Our thanks to Richard Rivett as organiser of the team keeping the outside of the church in such good order. The continuing diligent work of Sue Harris should also not go unrecorded, both as cleaner and verger for funerals.

The Terrier and Inventory will be updated for the APCM. Our church family saw a number of significant changes through the year and we were pleased to welcome new members as well as sadly saying goodbye to others, particularly Mary Muff, Margaret Bulmer and Keith Eastman, who served Christ Church so faithfully for very many years. Our thanks to all who make our church such a success, often quietly, behind the scenes, helping us to keep things on track for the smooth running of all the church's activities. It is a pleasure to serve the church in this way and to continue to have such support from the congregation.

Vivien Humber and Catherine Jeffries - Church Wardens

TREASURER'S REPORT

I'd like to start by saying, as in previous years, that it helps immensely to have a team of people helping with the finances at Christ Church – and I'd like to particularly thank Catherine Jeffries who manages our Gift Aid claims, the sidespeople who count and Gerald Cooke who banks our weekly collections, our office Administrator Lynn Glover and my fellow treasurer Richard Holcombe at St Andrew's for all their help. Finance at Christ Church continues to be a Team Affair

and my job as Treasurer would be unmanageable without the help of this excellent team.

As our Secretary has already mentioned “The PCC has considered the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and tries to help people in the parish grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and in service to others. It maintains and develops the building and keeps it open to the public throughout the year.” I hope to outline some of the financial initiatives we have undertaken to support these aims with some facts and figures which relate to 2018 – a very good year for Christ Church!

Our total Unrestricted Income for 2018 was £142,092 which compares well to the income in 2017 which was £125,391. Our income this year included a generous legacy of £15,000 from the estate of Mary Muff and two large anonymous donations of £5,000 each.

Our total Unrestricted Expenditure in 2018 was £130,532 which was slightly less than the equivalent figure in 2017 which was £136,052.

Our income, boosted by extraordinary extra items, meant that we more than matched our Total Unrestricted Expenditure in 2018 resulting in a surplus of £11,560 in the General Fund this year – which compared with a deficit of £10,662 in 2017, when we had major expenditure to repair our heating and to complete the kitchenette development.

This year due to a minor administrative misunderstanding we have paid 98% of our Parish Share which equated to £62,903. In 2019 we will make up this shortfall and plan to pay the full amount of £64,497 as we have done in previous years.

The Friends Committee has had a very busy and successful year in fundraising £6,664 from three large Fundraising Events including in March a Quiz’n’Chips, in June an Open Gardens Event and in November a Festival of Angels. Another £3,155 was raised from a mixture of Membership Fees and Donations. All in all I think you will agree that it has been a hugely successful year for the Friends Committee and we are very grateful as a PCC for all the work members of the committee have done and all that they’ve added to our church this year.

During 2018 we had several fundraising objectives for repairing and enhancing our buildings. One major area of fundraising was for repair of our Church Roof which resulted in the creation of a restricted fund with expenditure of £20,342 just for that repair alone – this was the chief recipient of Friends Fundraising which as mentioned has raised £10,350 during 2018 with the remainder of the funds - £10,000 given by two very generous anonymous donors which meant that we covered the whole Roof Repair expense with a small balance left for future roof repairs.

Another major project and expense this year has been the completion of an Emergency Lighting System which has been in the investigation stages for at least 2 years now and in 2018 moved to planning and execution in December and costing £7,039. In November this year we also upgraded our church lighting at a cost of £1,644 and we have installed CCTV, principally as an aid to our organist. On behalf of the PCC I'd like to thank Mike Brookes and Chris Mitchell who have acted as Project Managers in all these significant building enhancements. For 2019, your PCC has set a building budget of just under £13,000 to cover anticipated repairs associated with our quinquennial report and urgently needed improvements to our sound system.

As I'm sure you are aware our vision for Christ Church is to be 'A welcoming church, willing to make sacrifices and room for others'. During 2018 we have made some new initiatives in this area. In 2018 we have utilised our recently refurbished kitchen to host our weekly 'Chat over a Cuppa' service on Monday afternoons and Lent Lunches during the penitential season. We have also hosted a very successful Angels Festival in November 2018 where many schools and community groups drew, sculpted, carved or knitted an Angel in their own creative style and we hosted several hundred visitors to our church made more possible by the excellent kitchenette facilities we had invested in during 2017.

I would like to mention here that our Total Expenditure is not currently met by our Regular Giving and Gift Aid Receipts – instead we have balanced our books and returned a surplus this year due to legacies and large donations, and partly by rental income raised by the hire of Kinchen Hall. However, we cannot rely on extraordinary financial gifts, nor rental income, and hence I would like to encourage all of us to review our giving on a regular, perhaps annual basis, as it would be excellent to be in the position of meeting our outgoings each year with income from regular giving. This especially includes Standing Order and Gift Envelope forms of regular giving – this type of reliable giving means that as a PCC we can rely on a mostly steady and regular income to plan expenditure on your behalf.

I'd like to finish by thanking everyone who gives – those present today, those not at our APCM and our beloved friends who are no longer with us. It is with generosity that you all give - by standing order, envelopes, donations, legacies, and through Friends' events. It is through all this giving that we can maintain and enhance this beautiful building, and foremost to support our ministry to help people grow as disciples of Christ through the events we are able to hold here – our regular services and our midweek meetings and the communities we support. Thank you all very much.

David Archer - PCC Treasurer

MUSIC AND CHOIR REPORT

I keep lists. A little book with lists of organ voluntaries, lists of funerals, wedding lists from the office and old music lists. It's quite interesting when looking back and avoids too much repetition, although I'm sure no one's ever going to say 'you played that in June/last Epiphany/last time I was here'! I try to rotate seasonal hymns (put them as an opening hymn one year and an offertory hymn the next), alternate hymn tunes where there's a choice, and try not to repeat choir anthems too often, though the favourites have their annual slot!

Looking back at the lists from 2018 I can see that to say it's been busy is a huge understatement. It was the first full year with the newly-renovated organ and the year we introduced a new hymn book. Choir numbers remained steady and indeed were swelled by the arrival of a third Ros, Peter, John, David and Jane. Weekly Sunday attendance is usually between about 12 and 15 and we are very fortunate to be able to call on a number of deputies, those who perhaps can't or don't want to come regularly, plus welcome back students and singers from the congregation for special services and visits. The logistics for the Christmas Carol Service, providing music for, robing and manoeuvring 28 singers, was the stuff of nightmares, but it was undoubtedly the musical highlight of the year.

The low point of the year was my illness at the end of September, but I was overwhelmed by the support of the choir and congregation and the week I spent in the N&N was enlivened by visits from many friendly faces from Christ Church, plus numerous cards and emails. Thank you so much and especially to those who continue to help with lifts.

The new hymn books seem to be going well - the range of hymns to choose from has increased considerably, the words haven't been altered and there's a choice of book size for the congregation. We've been able to recycle the numerous extra hymn sheets previously used to supplement the old books and at the time of writing we're working out how to finally dispose of the remaining books. Some of the choir music copies went to a church in Blackpool to retire! Members of the choir led a Hymnathon, singing a verse of every hymn in the green books to raise money for the new, red books. We got to number 400 on 'Norfolk Day' in July (finishing just as that awful heatwave broke in a tremendous thunderstorm) before completing the task in October.

There was choir representation at a number of funerals during the year and full stalls for the wedding of a former Head Chorister, Daisy Scott (still sometimes to be seen singing or playing 'cello), in April. The Scotts hosted us for a meal in their wonderful garden early in July, our Christmas meal was at the Marsh Harrier and we had wine, cake and tea, though not necessarily all at the same time, before services

and to celebrate birthdays. Shawn joined us as our curate during the summer, quickly settling in, and accompanied us on our visit to sing at St Benet's Abbey. The Bishop arrives on a wherry for this service but arrived by more mundane transport for the Angel Festival in November and we were honoured to have him with us on his final weekend of duties before retirement.

Thank you to the choir for their hard work and good humour throughout the year; the deputy organists for covering my holidays, and to everyone who appreciates and supports the music at Christ Church. It's not often an easy job, but I feel honoured to be part of a great team with excellent resources, making music to enhance and complement our worship.

February 2019

Matt Wright

TOTS TEATIME CHURCH – TTC

Tots Teatime Church has been taking place since May 2011, on the second Sunday of each month at 3.30pm for fellowship, craft and worship and we continue to be delighted to welcome many families. We've met each month throughout the year, in March we joined the morning all age service for Mothering Sunday and in December the Christingle. This year we've shared the following bible stories, Jesus is baptised, The two builders, Ruth, Pentecost, The lost sheep, Jesus and the children, David the shepherd boy, The mustard seed, The good Samaritan and the Holy Family.

Following the November TTC we once again organised a Posada when we sent Mary, Joseph and the donkey on their journey to Bethlehem and our families offered them hospitality on their way before arriving at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

This year the number of families attending each month was between one and six but we regularly welcomed at least four and shared fellowship with up to twelve children and their parents. We love watching the children grow in confidence and engaging with the different aspects of our worship.

Peggy Steib, who was a key member of the team from the beginning, felt it was time to call it a day during the year and we would like to thank her for all the support and wise words she gave to us all. We were delighted to welcome Carol Morgan to the team and I am very grateful to Jess Pitt, Chris Peachell, Dee Scott, Caroline Malone, Beccy Calcutt-Saunders and the Vicar for their continuing enthusiasm and encouragement. A particular thank you to Caroline for all her wonderful craft ideas which enhance our story. Thank you also for the delicious cakes and continuing prayers, they are greatly appreciated.

We are always looking to expand our team so please feel free to join us on the second Sunday at 3.30pm and share in this special time of worship; you won't be disappointed.

Ruth Vaughan

PASTORAL CARE AT CHRIST CHURCH

As part of our pastoral role Christ Church traditionally takes gifts to parishioners who are frail or housebound, unwell or lonely and to residents of local care homes and hostels. Some readers of the Review will be well aware of this work but it may be new and of interest to others.

At Easter, Harvest and Christmas we ask church members for the name of anyone who might welcome such a gift and that those who deliver them to let us know of any change in circumstances or requests for a pastoral visit.

At Easter, Spring flowers are delivered to parishioners.

At Harvest, gifts of flowering plants are taken to local residents, whilst produce (similar to items requested by the Foodbank) is taken to those living in Archway, which supports young women, single parents and vulnerable families, Leeway, which offers safe and secure accommodation for women or children looking to flee an abusive relationship and YMCA My Place, which offers 40 self-contained flats for young men and women as well as a support package designed to help them move forward into independent living.

In early autumn hyacinth bulbs are planted and nurtured for distribution to parishioners and local care homes at Christmas.

Also, at Christmas, St Andrew's and Christ Church make an appeal (which always receives a generous response) for appropriate Christmas gifts for those living at Archway, Leeway and YMCA My Place. These are greatly appreciated by the residents.

Pastoral Care has an important role to play in expressing our concern for others. What we are able to do is only possible because of the generosity of many parishioners. 2018 has been no exception.

My thanks to Anna MacDougall and Jacky Sutcliffe, who continue to bring their enthusiasm and energy to the work of the Team and to all in the church community who support us in donations and by helping to distribute gifts. I am also grateful to the team at St Andrew's with whom we work so happily over the Christmas distribution of gifts to the local hostels.

Vivien Humber - The Pastoral Care Team

CHARITABLE GIVING 2018

The Donations Committee met in August 2018, primarily to discuss which charities to recommend to the PCC for the retiring collections for charities for the next few months. The aim is to keep a balance between local, national and international concerns and to support mainly Christian charities. Christ Church has traditionally supported five or six priority charities every year. Currently these are Bible Society, Church Army, Families House (now Break Family Centre), Magdalene Group, Scripture Union and Tearfund. On the recommendation of the committee, the PCC authorised retiring collections for the following charities during the year (totals collected included):

January - Magdalene Group* £155 (plus £25.75 of reclaimable tax))
February - MAF £220 (plus £32.25)
March - Bishop's Lent Project - £130 (including £64 from the Seder Meal)
Mothering Sunday collection for Mothers' Union - £110 (plus £15.55)
April - Mercy Ships £260 (plus £40)
May - Matthew Project £150 (plus £20)
June - Tearfund* £80 (plus £10)
July - Mission to Seafarers £110 (plus £10)
August - Church Army* £95 (plus £12.50)
September - Leeway £160 (plus £20.75)
Harvest Festival - Water Aid £160 (plus £23.50)
October - Scripture Union* £75.00 (plus £6.25)
DEC Indonesia Tsunami Appeal - £110
November - Hebron House £130 (plus £10)
December - Barnabas £132 (plus £25)

* Priority charities supported every year

In addition, the total of the collections from our Christmas services (Carol, Crib, Midnight and Christmas Day) was £2,146, divided equally between Break Family Centre and the Church Housing Trust, resulting in donations of £1,073 to each charity.

As can be seen from the totals collected, the congregation at Christ Church continues to be very generous, donating a total of £2,077 to charities over the year, (more than £3,877 with the Christmas collections) plus a possible further £251 in reclaimed tax. When taxpayers fill out their details on the gift aid envelopes, the charities are able to reclaim the tax paid on this money which adds 25% to donations.

Other charitable giving from Christ Church includes £700 from church funds each year for our CMS Mission Partners the Seeds in Kenya. The May coffee morning and

the Autumn Fayre, run jointly with St Andrews, raised extra funds for the Seeds and also for the Kirks in Chile.

The Lent lunches in 2018, also run jointly with St Andrew's, raised £559 for Tearfund and £682 for the Bishop's Lent Appeal (local church mission in Simbai, New Guinea). Also, jointly with St Andrew's, funds are raised for the Leprosy Mission through collecting boxes. Vivien Humber has continued Peter Kinchen's practice of sending our collection of used postage stamps to Leprosy Mission – please keep bringing them in. Jacky Sutcliffe has taken on Peter's task of taking unwanted spectacles to the opticians in Eaton – they send them on to where they can have a second useful life – do put any unwanted spectacles in the box in church – there are people in developing countries who might be glad of them.

In the second week in May a stalwart team collected door to door for Christian Aid and raised £947. Thanks to all of them and to Cathy Head for organising it. A box for donations of food to the Norwich Food Bank is always at the back of the church and is needed as much as ever. Thanks to Anna MacDougall and Jacky Sutcliffe for organising this.

The Donations Committee would be glad to welcome new members. We have at most two meetings a year and members take turns to mount a display in church and write for the parish magazine about the Charity of the Month. Do let us know if you might be interested.

(Committee members: Caroline Gibbs, John Harrison, Chris Peachell, Norman Sidebottom)

Caroline Gibbs – Donations Committee

FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

28th January saw the official launch of the Friends of Christ Church, Eaton, supported by its Patrons, Robin Eaton, Rachel Hore, Mark Jeffries and David Taylor. A new guide to the church was published at the launch. This is given to all those joining the Friends and is also available to church visitors. We are greatly encouraged by the number of people who have already chosen to be our Friends. The Friends also have an email address (FriendsofCCE@gmail.com) and can be found on Christ Church's website.

Its terms of reference are to "raise money to support projects related to the fabric of the church building (e.g windows, organ renovation, bell tower) that have been approved by the PCC. Money raised will be paid into a new, separate Friends fund and may not be used for general running costs and would help towards the cost of the preservation of the fabric of Christ Church, repairs and the replacement of major

items. Membership of the Friends would be open to anyone who would like to join and who was prepared to support the objectives."

The fundraising project for the year was to raise money to help pay for the repair of the badly leaking north aisle roof, estimated to cost over £20,000, and the Friends have been able to raise £4,250 specifically towards this.

Three major social and fundraising events were held during the year, and the Friends also had a presence at the Parishes' Summer Fayre in June. The fundraising events were:

A Quiz and Chips evening at Kinchen Hall on 10th March. The evening was sold out and a very enjoyable time was had by all.

Gardens Open on 16th June: this was the culmination of three successful Gardens Open (the first two were held in 2013 and 2015) to raise funds for church repairs. On a wonderfully sunny day 17 lovely and varied gardens were opened to the public; many of them also offered refreshments and plant sales. There were ploughman's lunches, with musical accompaniment, in the church, and the Friends were delighted to welcome the Mayor and the Sheriff of Norwich, and their consorts, to join us.

A Festival of Angels between 23rd-25th November. The church was filled with more than 500 angels of all shapes and sizes, types and descriptions entered by people of all ages, from pre-school to care home residents and local groups. Over the three days of the Festival many people came along to see and vote for them, to hear the music, to buy angel crafts and to sample angelic refreshments. The crowning moment was the short service on Saturday when the Bishop of Norwich, the Right Reverend Graham James, led an angel-themed service – his last before his farewell at the Cathedral.

We already have plans for 2019!

Management Team members, 2018:

David Scott (Chair)	Bridget Archer	Vivien Humber (Secretary)
Catherine Jeffries	Paul Lancaster	Carrie Phoenix
Michelle Woodall	Rosalind Wright	Ruth Vaughan.

The Team is grateful to Paul Lancaster who was appointed Membership Secretary and to Michelle Woodall and Ruth Vaughan, both of whom stood down during the year, having contributed greatly to the delivery of the Team's programme.

David Scott - Chair of the Management Team, Friends of Christ Church, Eaton

FABRIC REPORTS

Church

The remaining pews to the south aisle have been taken out to enlarge the social space.

The holly tree to the east end of the site has been removed. This was necessary to safeguard the foundations, incoming services and drains.

The north aisle roof has been replaced with new slates and lead work.

Replacement LED lighting has been installed to the nave and south aisle.

A further CCTV camera has been added. The system has already proved useful in recording vandalism inside the church.

A new Quinquennial architect's Inspection was undertaken in May. At time of writing the report is still awaited.

Emergency lighting has now been fitted to the nave with illuminated signs at relevant exits to the building.

Gale damage to the main roof ridge required new moulds to be made to replicate the ridge tiles. The majority of the costs were covered under an insurance claim.

Colman Road Cottage

Electrical testing undertaken and remedial work was carried out.

The inside of the house has been completely redecorated in preparation for new tenants. The previous occupants had been there since the upgrade in 2010.

Kinchen Hall

The Parish Hall has been renamed in memory of Peter Kinchen.

Pebble dash work to the east elevation has been postponed to allow Beehives to provide a new external door.

The Beehive are currently exploring grant applications to convert the external storage areas into additional usable space.

Condensation remains a problem in the Hall and various remedies are being pursued.

Mike Brookes - Fabric Officer

NORWICH FOOD BANK

Foodbank is still needed now as much as it was when we first started taking Christ Church's donations to the warehouse many years ago.

Just after Christmas I was passing one of the Food Distribution Centres in Norwich as the door was open and, having always wondered what the end result of our collection was like, I went inside. It was a large, disused church. It was set out with many tables and chairs where anyone in the community could go. It was very warm and had subdued lighting with strings of twinkling lights. As soon as I went in I was welcomed by the lady in charge and was offered a cup of tea and cake for 50p or free if I could not afford to pay.

I told her why I was there and she explained (what Anna and I already knew) that recipients had to have a voucher with a referral from a doctor or social services, to receive a free box of our donations. She also showed me several trays of “out of date” foods (sprouts, bagged salad, potatoes and bread) all having been supplied by some of the large supermarkets. Some of these could be taken away with their box of dried foods.

This really does confirm that our collecting is worthwhile.

Jacky Sutcliffe

Jacky has described how our donations are distributed in Norwich and how they go directly to those who need them. Christ Church donates around three to four bags of food and toiletries a week. Our response to the 2018 Christmas appeal was 32 bags.

The Foodbank is very grateful for our regular contributions and they send us a Certificate of Appreciation every few months. You will find the most recent one on the collection box. From the time we started giving, over six years ago, our congregation has given enough food to feed 586 people for three days.

Thank you to everyone who has given time, thought, items, money and prayer for this outreach to our neighbours.

Anna MacDougall

PART TWO – REPORTS COVERING JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH ST ANDREW’S CHURCH

GROUP COUNCIL - The Parishes' Group Council Joint St Andrew's with Christ Church

***Mission Statement:** the Group Ministry of St Andrew and Christ Church seeks to Collaborate, Co-operate and Communicate in the Eaton Community*

The Diocese established a Group Ministry for the Parishes of St Andrew's and Christ Church in 2007. Its Group Council is the vehicle by which they 'consult together on any matter of common concern". It has no decision-making power and acts in a consultative and advisory role to the two PCCs. The criteria for shared activity is whether activities are best done together or separately and one of its roles is to facilitate two-way communication from the Council to the PCCs and congregations and from the PCCs and congregations to the Council. In his 2010 Review the Bishop of Norwich confirmed that the Group Ministry should, firstly, facilitate what the people involved wanted to do to benefit and develop church mission in Eaton and, secondly, serve the future development of both churches. Each Parish has five elected representatives on Group Council, together with the two Vicars.

Ongoing activities within the Group Ministry include:-

- communications such as the parishes' magazine, Christmas and Easter cards
- supporting Mission Partners, through prayer and fund-raising events
- joint children and youth activities, including the Easter Workshop and Summer Holiday Club
- events such as the Garden Party/Summer Fair & Garden Service, Remembrance Day and Lent Lunches
- the Parishes' Office
- Groups, including the Mothers Union and the Julian Group.

These subjects feature regularly on the agenda of Group Council quarterly meetings and the minutes of its meetings are circulated to both PCCs for report and/or response.

The Seder Meal took place on 26th March 2018 at St Andrew's church hall. The meal is held every other year during Holy Week and was led by Patrick Richmond, Vicar of Christ Church. It was fully booked, with a waiting list. People who had not attended before had been encouraged to come along and it was agreed that this invitation should be repeated in future. It was also agreed that Monday, 6th April 2020 would be put in the churches' calendar for the next Seder Meal.

2018 was the second year in which a joint parishes' team organised the annual summer fundraising event for children and youth work in Eaton (in 2018 it took place on 10th June in the Hall, car park and church at St Andrew's). The team was led

by Caroline Gibbs, with John Thurman and Brian Mitchell, with invaluable support from a number of others. This was an enjoyable occasion when £3,140 was raised, although less than in previous years when the event was in the vicarage garden. It has subsequently been agreed that there will be a Vicarage Garden Party next year, on Saturday 8th June 2019.

2018 also saw the joint parishes' Remembrance Service on Sunday, 11th November. The year is significant, marking as it does the end of World War One, following four years when there has been a particular focus on that War. Between 400-450 people attended the service at the War Memorial on Newmarket Road and, bearing in mind the significance of the anniversary, the churches secured partial closure of Newmarket Road and the complete cessation of traffic for the two-minute silence, which added greatly to the solemnity of the occasion. We are grateful to David Scott for continuing to organise these Services and for the clergy from the two parishes who lead them.

Other joint activities, including Mission Support, children and youth work, the Office and the magazine, are covered in other reports. 2018 was also a significant year for St Andrew's, with a number of events taking place during its "Year of Celebration", also reported elsewhere, in which its sister church, Christ Church, participated. There will be a closing joint service at the end of January 2019. Parishes' Easter and Christmas cards, with attractive front covers and using local themes, were printed and distributed as usual.

Members were very sorry to learn of the death of Pat Funnell, a founder member of Group Council

in 2007 and its chair in 2008 and 2009. We were pleased that Marilyn Evans and David Archer joined the Council this year.

My thanks to all members, whether continuing, retired or new to the Group - for their enthusiasm and support. Vivien Humber continues to provide support as Secretary.

Rosemary Hanson - Chair, Group Council

PARISHES MAGAZINE TEAM ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

The magazine is an important part of the two Parishes' communications package, providing an accessible Christian message to its broadly-based readership. The aim is to offer subscribers with articles on subjects of interest ranging from church to community matters, as well as information on the goods and services offered by advertisers.

The Parishes' Magazine Team supports the team of editors and the advertising secretary by reviewing contents, production, circulation and revenues with them at the two meetings each year. The Vicars are ex officio members.

I would like to thank all members of the Team for their enthusiasm and commitment. We are very grateful to Lavinia Bailey, who stood down as an editor at the end of 2018, but who continues to provide invaluable back-up, wisdom and knowledge and to host our twice-yearly meetings. Thanks are also due to all contributors, especially those who write on a regular basis.

The magazine could not function without its advertising secretary and we are grateful to Christine Mortimer who works so ably with the advertisers and printers. We are also most grateful for the sterling work of those unsung heroes, the magazine distributors and the Office staff, working with the distributors.

Finally, the magazine continues to generate a surplus, which is used to support the work of the two churches. We continue to be grateful to Richard Holcombe for his work on the magazine accounts.

Vivien Humber - Magazine Team Chairman

EATON PARISHES OFFICE

“Every success story is a tale of constant adaptation, revision and change” - Richard Branson.

I would certainly endorse this statement in relation to the church office. As I reflect on previous years' reports, it is clear to see that change has been a constant theme. Some changes/new initiatives have come out of necessity and others from a desire to serve the church in the most efficient way possible. The office staff meet regularly with the Vicars where issues are considered before any changes are implemented.

Some of the changes/new initiatives for 2018 were GDPR, the closure of the Eaton Barclays Bank branch and the departure of Soph Clarke (who deserves a paragraph of her own). All of you, I am sure, were affected by GDPR and this took an enormous amount of the office's time. It was necessary, firstly to research the legislation; then implement a procedure in accordance with requirements and, finally, set up a system to ensure that the information was stored in a secure manner. The closure of our local bank caused us to look at the logistics of our banking practices and consider other options available to us. After an extensive period of recruitment, Ruth joined us on 10th September 2018 to replace Soph Clarke. Ruth has worked hard to establish herself in the role at the busiest time of the church year. The office still has a way to go and Ruth shares my passion to implement new, and refine old, procedures.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Soph who spent much of her two years with us implementing new initiatives and procedures. Her energy, flair, sensitivity and sense of humour were a huge asset to the office.

Many thanks to those who contributed to the work of the office in any way during 2018. We look forward to serving you through 2019.

Lynn Glover – Administration and Finance Officer

EATON EVENING MOTHERS UNION

2018 saw the continuation of our interesting and varied monthly meetings, which are well attended. Topics ranged from Music Mirrors, a talk by a recent Sheriff of Norwich, the Quilt of Kindness and the Naughty '90s. We were fortunate to be led in our Advent Reflection by the Rev'd Susanna Gunner, the Bishop's Chaplain.

The branch continues to support many of the Mothers Union's wider work programme, including:-

- supporting couples as they prepare for marriage;
- fundraising, principally directed to Away From It All holidays (we have a fundraising Garden Party lunch planned for 20th July 2019);
- offering practical support for the parish toddler group and Messy Church by making cakes, teas and coffees;
- providing Christmas gifts for prisoners' children through the Angel Tree.
- We continue to offer practical help for refugees coming to Norfolk from Syria.
- Like other branches, we are on the rota for monthly midday prayers at Norwich Cathedral.

We were pleased to be present at the annual MU service at Norwich Cathedral in October, joining hundreds of members across the Diocese to meet with and hear Lynne Tembey, retiring as Worldwide President after six years, having travelled widely and promote the MU across the world. Her faith and commitment to Christ shone through in all that she did.

Sadly 2018 saw the deaths of faithful Branch members, Mary Muff, Pat Funnell and Molly Richards and we said farewell to Shirley Sturgeon, who left Eaton MU to be closer to her family in Salisbury.

Our thanks to both vicars, Patrick and Phil, for their support and also to Ivan Bailey and Douglas Durand, who regularly take Holy Communion at 10am on the 3rd Thursday of the month, when a collection is taken to support the MU overseas fund worldwide.

The 2019 programme can be found in the information area in St. Andrews' and Christ Church. Visitors and new members are always welcome at our meetings and events.

Branch vision for the future:

- to continue to work for all that Mother's Union represents supporting families and marriage.
- to provide inspiration for members in the year ahead.

Vivien Humber - Branch Leader

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES (CYF) REPORT 2018

But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.' Luke 18:16
As I look back on 2018 and see what an amazing year of celebration we have had with our children and young people and families, I also look back on the last eight years. This is my last report before I move on to pastures new and I have to say that God has done amazing things.

I have seen children and young people declaring their belief in the risen Lord and sharing a desire to grow in that faith. I have seen the difference prayer makes in the lives of families who would not admit to a living faith at all, but when life gets tough, they find comfort in the praying church that is there for them.

It is a real privilege to share in a small way the lives of so many. Looking back on the past year I have been encouraged to see how readily children and young people embrace their natural spirituality and engage with the Gospel. In assemblies and Sunday club and holiday clubs our children and young people, given the opportunity are really willing to talk about faith and how it relates to their lives. Please pray for them as they move forward in their walk with Jesus.

The year-round programme has run for two years now connecting with children through more regular activity days as well as being able to direct them to other events at the Cathedral and other organisations.

My thanks go to the Church council for their ongoing support of CYF work and to the joint youth and children committee who support our activities at Easter and in the summer.

None of this work could happen without the amazing team of volunteers who give up their time in many different ways to support this work, ensuring that all those we come into contact with have the opportunity to come and see Jesus for themselves.

More volunteers are needed across this work so do pray about how you could play your part and come and have a chat with me.

Please do take time to pray for the process of appointing my replacement, that the right person would be found so that the work with Children and Families here in Eaton might go from strength to strength. Thank you.

Joint Events with Christ Church

1. Easter Fun day

On the 31st March 2018 18 children from the parishes of Eaton gathered together for a morning of craft activities followed by an interactive service.

2. 'Desert Detectives' Holiday Club

Was it the mighty God Sword or the Mighty God's Word that the intrepid detectives were searching for in the desert?

This play on words formed the basis of the Holiday Club for five mornings at the end of July/beginning of August. Andrea helped the children on their journey of discovery about the whole Bible in five mornings! So it was a whistle-stop tour picking out some of the main themes and people – Joseph, God's law and Moses, the Fall of the Walls of Jericho, Jeremiah the prophet and then the Gospels and Jesus. The church was transformed into a desert camp, with three gazebos erected to mark the campsite. Twenty-two children from 5 to 11 years of age took part, keen to earn points for their group (the Disciples were the youngest children, the Kings were the 7-8 year olds and the Prophets were the oldest group), because "Points Mean Prizes!!" They watched the drama (Patrick Richmond and Rosemary Morgan made excellent if eccentric detectives!), sang the songs, enthusiastically took part in activities and craft and audibly egged their team on in the daily "challenge" (such as eating three cream crackers without any water to drink!)

Les Moore had devised games all somehow connecting with the relevant Bible passages for the day (knocking down the cardboard boxed walls of Jericho, for instance, with bean bags), and working off their energy levels with team volleyball games.

In the hall Liz Bibby and her team encouraged the children with daily craft activities such as getting them to make a Bible box, decorate T-shirts to wear, get messy with clay to make pots, and make swords and shields (from cardboard, I hasten to add!)

Interestingly, unlike some years, almost all of the children were booked in for the whole week which made getting to know them and developing discussions and relationships much easier.

On the last day parents and carers were invited to come along at 11.30 am for a very short service when the children showed what they had learned during the week. And, thankfully, the dotty detectives did manage to find the “treasure” – the Mighty God’s Word.

This was followed by lunch together provided by Cathy Rodd and her team.

Andrea Woods - St Andrew’s Children, Young People and Families’ Worker

YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S COMMITTEE (Joint Christ Church and St Andrew’s)

The purpose of this committee is to coordinate and extend the work of the church to take the Gospel to more of the young people of Eaton. Membership comprises both the vicars, along with helpers and supporters from the youth and children’s programmes of both churches: Caroline Gibbs, David Hughes, Vivien Humber and Andrea Woods. During the last year we also welcomed the Rev’d Shawn Tomlinson, curate at Christ Church, to the committee.

Two meetings were held in the year: the first to review the year-round programme of events, and to spend some time looking at the detail of the major joint activities (Easter Fun Day, the Garden Party, and the summer Holiday Club); the second to feed in to St Andrew’s recruitment process for a replacement for Andrea Woods, who is due to leave her employment at St Andrew’s in June 2019, and to plan for the 2019 Holiday Club without her.

There were also discussions about Safeguarding training and the changes in regulations and expectations that are laid upon us. It is vital that all officers in both churches (whether or not their roles directly bring them into contact with children and/or vulnerable adults), along with those directly involved with children and/or vulnerable adults, undertake the correct level of safeguarding training laid on by the diocese. If in any doubt, please contact David Hughes at St Andrew’s, or Caroline Gibbs at Christ Church for further information.

Our thanks go to all those who help support our vital work with young people and children in any way. In particular, a special vote of thanks is owed to Andrea, for all her hard work in leading and coordinating this joint work these past nine years. She leaves a great legacy here, and we wish her well as she is ordained deacon and leaves us for pastures new.

Phil Rodd and Patrick Richmond - Joint Chairs

NORWICH SOUTH DEANERY SYNOD

The April Synod meeting was held at St Thomas' Church. Two new deanery clergy were welcomed: the Rev'd Di Rowlandson, associate priest at Earlham and the Rev'd Richard James at Holy Trinity.

The main topic was aimed at describing the different Mission Events being organised around the Deanery. The Rev'd Andy Woodman gave an update on developments at St Mary's Earlham where plans for its modernisation were being arranged. Phil described some of the events being organised for our Year of Celebration including the new Community Cafe. Patrick Richmond also described the similar Christ Church 'Chat over a cuppa'.

Johnny Glauert, lay chair, then announced the forthcoming elections to Diocesan Synod. Norwich South was allowed four clergy representatives and three lay representatives.

The Deanery Ascension Day service was held at St Andrew's on the 10th May with 66 people attending.

On Saturday 12th May about a dozen members of Synod went on a prayer pilgrimage around the deanery area led by Bishop Jonathan, who began by praying in Eaton Park with all the regular runners waiting to start their run!

The October meeting at Bowthorpe Ecumenical Church was led by the Rev'd Joanna Payne and the Bowthorpe minister, the Rev'd Mark Elvin. Four prayer stations were organised facilitating prayer in different styles. The meeting finished with a Holy Communion service.

Chris Smith - Member of Deanery Synod

NORWICH DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

The Diocesan Synod consists of the bishops, archdeacons and elected laity and clergy. We met the usual three times in March, June and October and: -

- Heard a presentation from Jonathan Richardson, Children, Youth and Families officer about developing a diocesan strategy, as part of a bid to the National Strategic Development Fund, proposing establishing multigenerational (i.e. Families and all ages) centres around the diocese.
- Heard a presentation from Bishop Jonathan about the Anglican Methodist Covenant, an agreement aiming at recognising Methodist orders, given that Methodism did not maintain the historic role of Bishops passed on by the laying on of hands. The proposal is that the Methodist President would receive consecration as a bishop by laying on of hands, thus reconnecting Methodists to

the historic episcopate. In time, this would mean all Methodist ordinations were so connected by laying on of hands. Such a gradual approach recognised the sensitivities of those who did not think their Methodist ordination lacked anything but meant that Methodist ministers would, for some time, be considered priests in the Church of England without necessarily having been ordained in the traditional way. Bishop Graham had his reservations about this way of doing things, apparently preferring a service of reconciliation with mutual laying on of hands, signifying that both Church of England Priests and Methodist ministers were receiving something from each other. A couple of speeches from the floor followed, noting the richness of Methodist theology and the cultural differences among our various traditions.

- Heard the Rev'd Canon Madeline Light of Norwich East Deanery give a presentation on managing change resulting from introducing a growth plan with explicit aims and sometimes unexpected results.
- Heard Andrew Gray, a member of General Synod explaining his Private Member's Motion at General Synod, which is proposing a national strategy to help the homeless and rough sleepers. We also received a report on the July General Synod which noted the update on the large project *Living in Love and Faith*, which is reviewing the Church's teaching on Christian identity, human sexuality and marriage.
- Heard about the Deanery of St Benet at Waxham and Tunstead and the challenges faced by the deanery of Burnham and Walsingham, as part of a series of presentations from deaneries in the diocese.
- Dealt with the annual reports of the diocesan bodies and committees, including the accounts. There were opportunities to question the chairs of the main diocesan committees, the reappointment of the diocesan auditors was agreed, and Synod voted to accept the Diocesan Budget for 2019.
- Heard a presentation and asked questions about the diocesan education strategy and the increasing importance of the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT).
- Heard an update on the collection of benefice and parish share, *The Responsibility is Ours* (TRiO) which continued to generate record receipts after the previous period of deficit.
- In October, newly elected members heard Bishop Graham's farewell address to the Synod and about the process of finding his replacement, with interviews due on 11-12th March 2019.

- The October Synod also received and asked questions about a presentation on mental health and dementia initiatives in the diocese.

Patrick Richmond - Member of the House of Clergy, on Diocesan and General Synod

OVERSEAS MISSION SUPPORT

Our Mission Partners have continued serving with the Church Mission Society throughout another year:

The Rev'd Dr Dick and Dr Caroline Seed in Nairobi, Kenya, and then in Cape Town, South Africa from August 2019.

Dick and Caroline's work is in theological education. Until August, Dick was consulting, co-ordinating and researching, teaching and writing material for higher theological education, with a focus on African Instituted Churches. Caroline was teaching Biblical and theological subjects at the Presbyterian University of East Africa (PUEA) near Nairobi. From August, they were working together on the Theological Education Development Services (TEDS) project, training lecturers. Caroline teaches lecturers how to teach the Bible, supervises post graduate research and provides academic and practical mentoring for potential theological trainers. As the Director of TEDS, Dick provides consultation on Biblical curriculum development.

They had a difficult move from Nairobi to Cape Town. However, they have moved into their new TEDS office in George Whitefield College and into the flat they already had in Cape Town.

In addition to interacting with the students, they have already taken three courses in Kenya in October. Dick delivered a paper on the impact of secularisation in Christian Higher Education in Africa at a conference in South Africa.

They returned to the UK for a short home leave in December 2018 / January 2019 and we enjoyed a visit from them in January 2019.

The Rev'd. Daniel and Mrs Ellelein Kirk in Valparaiso, Chile.

Daniel and Ellelein's work is in church planting, training lay leaders, teaching, preaching and running youth groups. The church in Valparaiso, which they planted, is growing slowly.

Daniel has been training new apprentices and planning for a new church plant in Playa Ancha in the Valparaiso area. Ellelein has been discipling other pastors' wives and giving talks at a local school on communication (with a Biblical emphasis), for mostly non-Christian 11 year olds. She is also writing for the Gospel Coalition Latin America and a Spanish-speaking website.

In May they decided that this would be their last year in Chile. They have been in the Valparaiso area for 13 years, and done all that the local church authorities had asked of them. Returning to the UK would be good for their boys' education - David would arrive in time to take his GCSEs, and Joshua will start secondary school in September 2019.

The Chilean Church leaders have chosen the existing curate of their Valparaiso church to be the new vicar, and one of Daniels's apprentices, Gabriel Farra, will become the new curate and will begin by putting together a team to church plant in Playa Ancha. Daniel and Ellelein are pleased the church is in the hands of these men, whom they have trained.

Mission Focus Meeting

The change to an evening Mission Focus Meeting (the new name for Mission Support Group) from the summer of 2018 to the end of the year, resulted in two new ladies coming each month. After discussion with all those attending, we agreed not to continue meeting in the Church Hall on the 4th Tuesday. Instead, next year we will try a lunch time meeting in our homes.

Finally, the Mission Focus Team says

“Thank you for your support at the spring coffee morning which raised £590 and the Autumn Fayre which raised £1,230 towards our Mission Partners' expenses.”

Jane Carey - Leader, Mission Support Group

