



# St Peter + St Paul

olney

ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

PRESENTED TO THE APCM

23 APRIL 2017

In friendship together we resolve to worship God,  
serve the community, and share our faith in Jesus Christ.

**Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

Church Street  
Olney  
Bucks  
MK46 4AD

**Rector**

The Revd Claire Wood  
The Rectory  
9 Orchard Rise  
Olney  
MK46 5HB

**Treasurer**

Malcolm Jones  
c/o Church Office  
Church Street  
Olney  
Bucks  
MK46 4AD

**Principal Bankers**

Barclays Bank plc  
11 High Street  
Olney  
MK46 4ED

**Independent Examiner**

Jonathan Vowles FCA CTA DChA  
114 High Street  
Cranfield  
MK43 0DG

Find the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul on the internet at:

*<http://olney.church>*

Registered with the Charity Commission – Registration No. 1134039.



## Contents

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Structure, Governance and Management .....	3
Objectives and Activities.....	4
Church Attendance .....	4
Review of the Year 2016 .....	4
Financial Review.....	7
Reserves policy.....	7
Independent Examiner's Report .....	10
Statement of Financial Activities .....	11
Balance Sheet.....	12
Accounting Policies .....	13
Notes to the Accounts .....	15
Church and Parish Group Reports .....	22
APPENDIX.....	44
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parishioners.....	44
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting .....	45



## Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

For the year ended 31 December 2016.

### Administrative Information

St Peter and St Paul's Church is situated in Church Street, Olney, and is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

*The Church Office, St Peter and St Paul's Church, Church Street, Olney, MK46 4AD.*

Under the terms of section 3 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate. The PCC received formal confirmation that it was registered with the Charity Commission on 3rd February 2010.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2016 until the date this report was approved:

Rector	The Revd Claire Wood	
Curates	The Revd Coralie Mansfield	
	The Revd Tim Dawson	
LLM	Mr Andrew Geary	
	Mr David Richbell	
Churchwardens	Mr Tim Haskell	
	Mr Haydn Langley	
	Mrs Susan Bailey	
	Mr David Phillipson	
Assistant Warden	Mr Malcolm Jones	
PCC Secretary	Mrs Rebecca Rushton	
Treasurer	Mr Malcolm Jones	
Representatives on	Mr Mark Saunders	(from APCM 2014)
Deanery Synod	Mr Malcolm Jones	(from APCM 2014)
	Mr David Phillipson	(from APCM 2014)
	Mr Richard Colson	(from APCM 2015)
Elected Members	Mrs Coral Bex	(from APCM 2014)
	Mrs Sarah Daley	(from APCM 2015)
	Mrs Judy Gay	(from APCM 2015)
	Mr Chris Hobson	(to September 2016)
	Mrs Victoria Kermeen	(from APCM 2015)
	Mr Rod Parker	(from APCM 2014)
	Mrs Liz Sheaf	(from APCM 2014)

### Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Ordained deacons or priests who move on retirement are not eligible to register or stand for election.



Members of the PCC are aware of potential risks both financial and otherwise that might occur either in the Church or in the Church Hall. They have taken appropriate action to control and minimise these risks.

The only committee established by statute is the Standing Committee consisting of the Rector, Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer.

### Objectives and Activities

St Peter and St Paul's PCC are representatives of the church membership who have the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent and the churchwardens in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibility for the management of the Church Hall.

### Church Attendance

Average attendance - this is calculated from the registers of the Church, and includes Church Mice and Harvest services.

Service Attendance	Adults	Children	Total
Average weekly (including Sunday)	185	105	290
Total attendance October	740	423	1163

### Review of the Year 2016

The PCC met six times during 2016. This review provides an overview of the most significant activities overseen by the PCC.

The Church continues to be a point of focus and interest for the wider community, with pilgrims from many different countries. Testimony to these visits, apart from the visitor's book, are the frequent occasions members of the Church find a visiting group of visitors singing Amazing Grace. This year we were also blessed when the Shroving Service became a strong focus on Shrove Tuesday, bringing the balance of faith and pancakes to all.



Charter granted in 1316

In May we held a special service to celebrate the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the charter for our annual fair. This was marked also by the initiative to undertake and record acts of kindness. The challenge was to reach 700 – each act of kindness represented by a button placed in the clear bucket at the back of the Church. Several other organisations and voluntary groups have been participating and we await the 'count' in May 2017 to see how we fared in the celebration.

Our Church buildings are in constant use and it is often a challenge to squeeze anything extra into their availability. As listed buildings they have been given an added momentum, with various Mission projects alongside our regular services. We are grateful that these additional activities manage to run and keep a balance in terms of expenditure versus income. The operational costs of our buildings are solely dependent on our stewardship and regular giving by our members, our joint members, and friends from the town fundraising committee efforts through Dickens, Cherry Fair, Harvest Hog and the Pancake Race, as well as grant applications for specific large fabric maintenance



items. Without your gifts and support these buildings, neither the Church, nor the Church Hall, would not be able to function.

Our SoulTime mission programme continues to be an amazing gift to the community. With so many of our members working voluntarily and working with other churches and agencies we have been able to make a huge difference. As we look to 2017 there is now a real need to look at whether we can support our own community with perhaps a “drop-in” coffee styled community gathering on a Tuesday afternoon in the Church Hall. This is a project that will provide a weekly gathering place for conversations and sharing. If you feel that you might be able to help with this then please speak with the ministry team.

The year has seen a much wider outreach to the community with familiar favourites including the Holiday Bible Club, Palm Sunday procession concluding with a shared service at our Church, Shrivings Service, Lifepath and the SoulTime Mission Programme.

Music has been a blessing with several concerts this year by our choir, Olney Brass, our organists and our young people. Thanks must be given to all who support the Church in its musical provision - our director of music Lee Dunleavy, organists Alvise Pelligerini and Roger Palmer, and our organ scholars Michael Chamberlain and Matthew Lavender. Also thanks to Anne Ball and the Sunday morning band and to Chris Hobson and Sophie Wood for the Mix at Six.

The bells continue to be a joy and, besides regularly ringing for the 10am church services, have rung out at special services, including the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the market charter. Various visiting ringers have also had the opportunity to ring peals. We are looking forward to the new floor being fitted above the belfry.

As Christians we continue to share our faith and provide opportunities for others to do the same. We have this year held another Emmaus course, Easter and Advent courses alongside our home groups, and training programmes for curates, ordinands and authorised preachers.

Schools and young people continue to be a focus of our work and this year we have been part of the Easter and Christmas Cracked programmes led by Bridgebuilder Trust. We also worked with Scripture Union and the other churches in Olney to host Life Path, an event which saw 900 children learn about John Newton and his faith in Christ. Our own youth group, YAGs, went to Soul Survivor (a large Christian camp for students) and our Church Mice and SoulTime soup lunch attendees enjoyed an outing in the park.

We have hosted several social gatherings through the year including a lunch for new members of the Church, strawberry teas at the Rectory, and one or two other new smaller gatherings.

The ministry team continues to work hard and support our community in times of hardship, grief and in joy. We are very grateful for all that they do, including that which is frequently undeclared behind the scenes. To support the community we also established the pastorates, which was launched at the strawberry teas at the Rectory. There are 36 pastorate co-ordinators each praying and caring for a number of people in the Church.



**Strawberry Tea at the Rectory**

## **APCM Report covering 2016 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

Several groups have met together and others have enjoyed a shared coffee or tea. Our thanks to all who have taken on this role; it really is helping in the pastoral care of our Church.

During 2016 there were nine weddings, four wedding blessings and two renewals of vows, 15 baptisms and 21 funerals. Growth in the Church family has continued although several of our younger members have now moved to university. We consider our role in serving Christ in our community and in our lives and we have revisited and reviewed our early Mission Action Plan. It underpins the work we do and our call for each member to be part of God's family, building His kingdom in the name of Jesus Christ.

### **Gallery:**



## **Financial Review**

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £194,242 (2015: £127,052) which included a substantial legacy of £42,086 intended for Mission Education, and are detailed in the financial statements (see notes 1). Income from the use of the church hall was £9,322 (2015: £8,873).

After a substantial increase in regular giving in 2015, there was a small decline in 2016 to £80,968, including the gift aid tax refund. This regular giving did not however cover our regular church running costs of £106,067 for 2016 so that we were reliant on fundraising and additional donations to cover the shortfall and additional maintenance costs.

Expenditure is outlined in Note 2. The total of unrestricted expense items was £177,639 (2015: £149,012). It includes £128,364 (2015: £128,740) church running expenses, the largest single item being the parish share contribution to the diocese of £55,611 (2015: £56,625). The parish share largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. 2017 parish Share will be £59,337. Depreciation expense was £27,101 (2015: £20,828) and the sound system has now been fully depreciated over four years, the only remaining asset being depreciated relating to the refurbishment of the Church Hall. This has no effect on cash flow as the cash for the refurbishment was raised through fundraising and grants when the refurbishment was undertaken.

Church hall running costs were £10,345 (2015: £11,788). There were also several capital expenditure projects totalling £10,480. These included lighting improvements to move over to LED technology as part of our plan to reduce the overall carbon footprint for the Church Hall. A grant for the lighting of £5,000 was obtained from the Petsoe Wind Farm Fund and there was also a balance of £4,920 brought forward from 2015 as Designated Soul Time Capex.

The major Church fabric expense for the year was the replacement of the south doors at a cost of £5,408 which was paid out of designated fabric funds received from the Pancake Race proceeds. There is a programme of work budgeted for 2017 to include the first phase of stonework repairs on both Church and Church Hall in response to the quinquennial report, totalling £13,000 for which grants will be sought. This is in addition to the Church maintenance budget of £6,800 which is included in running expenses.

Grants were made in 2016 under our tithing of planned income in 2015 as this is generally paid in arrears. The charitable giving is based on approximately 10% of the receipts of the planned giving amount as stated in note 1(a) and there has been no implied link to other sources of income or separate fundraising. A proportion of this includes funds set aside in the prior year as a discretionary fund for the Rector to allocate on a local needs basis, to which we also receive grants from the local council. In 2017 approximately £5,250 will be available for distribution (10% of 2016 planned giving of £52,424).

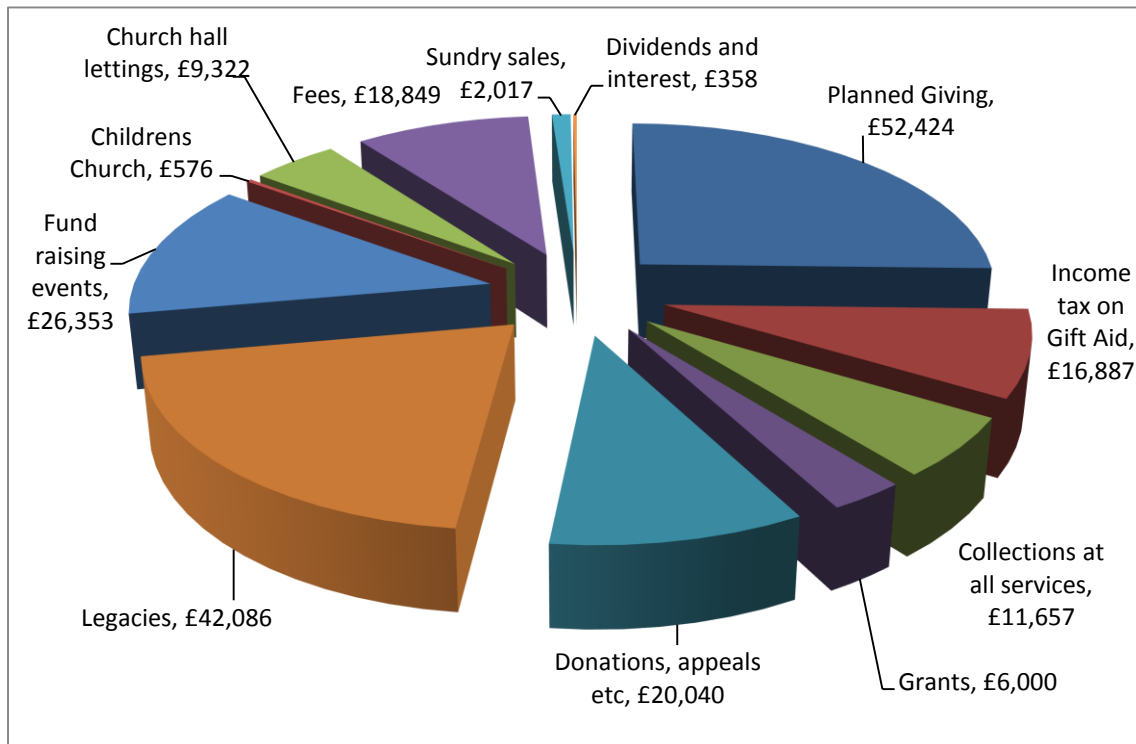
## **Reserves policy**

It is best practice to maintain unrestricted reserves at a level of 6 months unrestricted expenditure to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. If the designated funds are excluded, then the general funds balance of £4,175 (2015 £5,467) represents approximately 0.5 months unrestricted reserves, which is below current Diocesan advice. If designated funds are included, this increases to £96,106 and represents approximately 9 months unrestricted reserves spend.

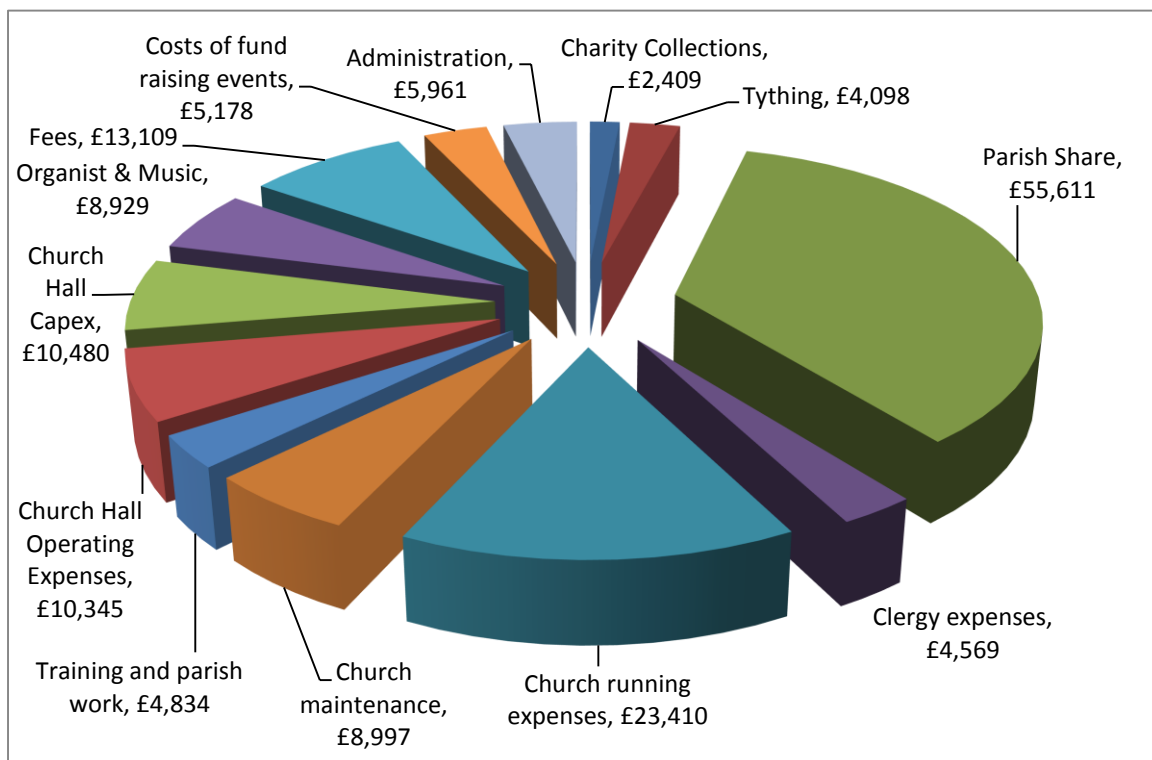


## APCM Report covering 2016 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Income can be illustrated in the chart below:



The following chart illustrates how cash expenditure was incurred during the year:



It can be seen that although the Church has substantial assets in buildings and endowments, cash balances are largely dedicated to mission and other work and our ongoing running costs of a little over £10,000 per month are not met from regular giving and need to be supplemented by fundraising events such as Cherry Fair, Dickens and Harvest Hog. Without this fundraising and the work of the Pancake Committee to raise funds for the fabric of the Church, we would not be able to meet our regular outgoings.

## **APCM Report covering 2016 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

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The most effective way parishioners can contribute to the costs of the Church is through the Stewardship Scheme administered by Ken Noon, which, for taxpayers, allows us to recoup tax paid on any donations at a rate of 20%. Regular monthly or weekly donations also make it easier to plan the cash flow of the Church and budget for any additional expenses.

As Treasurer I would like to extend my thanks to Ken Noon, Pat Pankhurst and Graham and Helen Dilley who manage aspects of our financial processes on a daily basis and provide the input which allows the PCC as trustees to oversee our finances.

Malcolm Jones

Treasurer

## **Independent Examiner's Report**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2016, which are set out on pages 11 to 21.

### ***Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner***

The Church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

### ***Basis of independent examiner's report***

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

### ***Independent examiner's statement***

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, or
  - 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.

Signed:

Jonathan Vowles FCA CTA DChA  
114 High Street  
Cranfield  
MK43 0DG

## Statement of Financial Activities

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2016						
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	
	Note	£	£	£	2016 £	2015 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Incoming resources from donors	1(a)	80,968	0	0	80,968	85,532
Other voluntary incoming resources	1(b)	82,728	12,327	0	95,055	38,577
Income from charitable trading	1(c)	30,188	0	0	30,188	18,639
Income from investments	1(d)	358	0	3,296	3,654	4,204
Total incoming resources		194,241	12,327	3,296	209,864	146,952
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>						
Grants made	2(a)	6,507	0	0	6,507	6,245
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	2(b)	148,869	5,408	0	154,276	139,781
Fund raising and publicity	2(c)	15,667	2,667	0	18,335	11,759
Church management and administration	2(d)	5,961	0	0	5,961	6,596
Governance costs	2(e)	635	0	0	635	600
Total expenditure		177,639	8,075	0	185,714	164,981
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>		16,603	4,252	3,296	24,150	(18,029)
Profits on investments						
- unrealised		0	0	11,305	11,305	4,914
Net movement in funds		16,603	4,252	14,600	35,455	(13,115)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY		175,602	31,018	174,577	381,197	394,312
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER</b>		192,205	35,270	189,177	416,652	381,197

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements.



## Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2016					
		2016		2015	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible	4	<b>84,549</b>		111,649	
Investment assets	4	<b>113,144</b>		101,840	
			<b>197,694</b>		213,489
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stock		<b>175</b>		175	
Debtors	6	<b>16,865</b>		15,987	
Prepayments	6	<b>500</b>		0	
Cash at bank and in hand	8	<b>205,824</b>		156,682	
Total current assets			<b>223,364</b>		172,844
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9		<b>4,406</b>		5,137
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>218,958</b>		167,707
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	5		<b>416,652</b>		381,196
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted	5		<b>192,205</b>		175,602
Restricted	5		<b>35,270</b>		31,019
Endowment	5		<b>189,177</b>		174,577
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER</b>			<b>416,652</b>		381,198

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 11 April 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Claire Wood  
*Chairman*

Malcolm Jones  
*Treasurer*

## **Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with the applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) together with the Updated Bulletin 1.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

### ***Funds***

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

### ***Incoming resources***

#### ***Voluntary income and capital sources***

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accountable for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Funds raised by the Cherry Fair, Dickens, Pancake Day and similar events are accounted for gross. Sales of books and magazines from the Church bookstall are accounted for gross.

#### ***Other income***

Rental income from the letting of Church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

#### ***Gains and losses on investments***

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

### ***Resources used***

#### ***Grants***

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

#### ***Activities directly relating to the work of the Church***

These are accounted for as they are incurred. Parish share is paid in the year it is due. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

***Fixed Assets***

*Consecrated property and movable Church furnishings*

Consecrated and beneficed property of any land is excluded from the accounts by *section 10 (2)(a)* of the Charities Act 2011. Moveable church furnishings held by the Rector and Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £2,000 or on the repair of movable Church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off.

*Fixed asset depreciation*

Equipment used within Church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 8 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,000 or less are written off when the Asset is acquired.

***Heritage Assets***

The PCC maintains the Church building which is a Grade I registered building and as stated above is excluded from the accounts by *section 10 (2)(a)* of the Charities Act 2011. It is also custodian to a number of heritage assets. In the Trustees' opinion, conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient reliability and any valuation is likely to involve costs that are likely to be onerous. Details of these assets are provided in Note 4 to the accounts.

*Expenditure on major restoration*

The cost of associated major repairs is reported in the Income and Expenditure Account in the year it is incurred. Further information is given in Note 2 to the accounts.

*Investments*

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

***Current Assets***

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

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

## Notes to the Accounts

**Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2016**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds	
				2016 £	2015 £
<b>1 INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
1a) Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving:					
Gift Aid	49,102			49,102	55,636
Income tax on Gift Aid	16,887			16,887	15,952
Non Gift Aid	3,322			3,322	
Collections at all services	11,657			11,657	13,944
	<u>80,968</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>80,968</u>	<u>85,532</u>
1b) Other voluntary incoming resources					
Grants received					
Petsoe Wind Farm Fund	5,000			5,000	0
Other Grants	1,000			1,000	0
Donations, appeals etc	20,040			20,040	8,471
Legacies	42,086			42,086	0
Fund raising events	14,026	12,327		26,353	29,614
Childrens Church	576			576	492
	<u>82,728</u>	<u>12,327</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>95,055</u>	<u>38,577</u>
1c) Income from charitable trading					
Parish Magazine					328
Church Hall lettings	9,322			9,322	8,873
Fees	18,849			18,849	7,175
Sundry sales	2,017			2,017	2,263
	<u>30,188</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30,188</u>	<u>18,639</u>
1d) Income from investments					
Dividends and interest	358		3,296	3,654	4,204
	<u>358</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,296</u>	<u>3,654</u>	<u>4,204</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>194,241</u>	<u>12,327</u>	<u>3,296</u>	<u>209,864</u>	<u>146,952</u>

# APCM Report covering 2016 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

## Notes to the Accounts

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds	
				2016 £	2015 £
<b>2 EXPENDITURE</b>					
2(a) Grants made					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
<i>Church overseas:</i>					
- missionary societies	439			439	1,257
- relief and development	3,121			3,121	1,936
<i>UK:</i>					
- missionary societies	878			878	3,052
- relief and development	2,069			2,069	0
	<b>6,507</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,507</b>	<b>6,245</b>
2(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
Parish Share	55,611			55,611	56,625
Clergy expenses	4,569			4,569	4,261
Church running expenses	23,410			23,410	22,164
Church maintenance	3,589	5,408		8,997	13,609
Training and parish work	4,834			4,834	2,597
Church Hall costs	20,825			20,825	11,788
Organist and music	8,929			8,929	8,510
Depreciation	27,101			27,101	20,828
	<b>148,869</b>	<b>5,408</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>154,276</b>	<b>140,382</b>
2(c) Fund raising and publicity					
Costs of fund raising events	15,621	2,667		18,288	10,576
Purchases for resale	47			47	1,183
	<b>15,667</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,335</b>	<b>11,759</b>
2(d) Church management and administration					
Administration	5,015			5,015	3,881
Printing and stationery	946			946	2,715
	<b>5,961</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>6,596</b>
2(e) Governance Costs					
Independent examination	635			635	0
	<b>635</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>0</b>
Total expenditure	<b>177,639</b>	<b>8,075</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>185,714</b>	<b>164,982</b>

**Notes to the Accounts**

	<b>2016</b>	2015
	<b>£</b>	£
<b>3 EXPENDITURE</b>		
Wages and Salaries	<b>3,667</b>	2,535
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The person paid a wage by the PCC was the part-time administrator.

**4 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC**

	<b>2016</b>	2015
	<b>£</b>	£
Fixed Assets Gross Book Value		
Gross Book Value at 01 January	<b>217,536</b>	217,536
Additions during the year	<b>0</b>	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross Book Value at 31 December	<b>217,536</b>	217,536
Depreciation		
Accumulated depreciation at 01 January	<b>105,886</b>	85,058
Depreciation charge for the year	<b>27,101</b>	20,828
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated depreciation at 31 December	<b>132,987</b>	105,886
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value at 31 December	<b>84,549</b>	111,650

No other fixtures and fittings or office equipment costing over £2,000 are held by the PCC.

**Heritage Assets**

***Church Hall***

The Church Hall was purchased in 1960 for £1,667 and is the only building owned by the PCC together with the Diocesan Trustees. The value in the accounts represents the net book value of the redevelopment costs undertaken in 2013, which is being depreciated over eight years in line with our depreciation policy. Its current value for insurance purposes is £630,520.

***Bells***

Originally an eight bell peal but following major restoration in 2008/2009, two new bells were added. The full ten bell peal is the finest and heaviest in N. Bucks. The oldest bell is dated 1599 and inscribed "God Save the Queen". The next oldest has "Robert Atton of Buckingham made mee, 1631". All the rest are similarly inscribed with a date and the maker's name. Some bear coins of the period in which they were made. Since their restoration and re-hanging the bells attract interest from ringers nationally.

***Clock***

The clock was made in 1887 by William Leeson of Coleshill in Birmingham and was installed in 1888 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria the previous year. The mechanism is a superb and important three train tower clock; the trains are the separate drives for the clock itself, the hour strike and 'Westminster' quarter chimes. It is of impressively substantial proportions, the flat steel bed on which all the mechanics sit being 10 feet in length. It has an escapement which is a 'double three legged' type by Grimthorpe which is the same as the escapement installed in the clock of the Palace of Westminster, Big Ben. The pendulum of 14 foot 6 inch long is also the same length as the one on Big Ben. In 1984 the mechanism was fitted with three electric automatic winding units,

one for each train, called Huygens continuous chain drives. This form of electrification does not intrude on the mechanism itself but lifts the weights once they reach a certain low point; it is the weights that still drive the three trains. The original dial, probably of cast iron, has been replaced by an accurate fibreglass replica.

### ***Organ***

Constructed by Binns in around 1900 it is reputed to be the best of its size (2 manual with pedals) ever erected by this famous organ builder. Of particular interest are its two glass doors, a memorial to Henry Gauntlet who died Feb 21 1876. He is considered "the Father of Modern Church Music" and started his career as organist at SS Peter & Paul where he stayed for 10 years. The organ was refurbished several years ago.

### ***Jacobean Pulpit***

Currently situated at the back of the Church and no longer used, it attracts considerable interest from visitors. It is thought to have been used by John Newton, although there is no firm evidence of this.

### ***John Newton's Tomb***

Newton died in 1807 but his remains and that of Mary, his wife, were re-interred in the Churchyard in 1893. The tomb is granite and a Grade II listed monument. It also attracts a large number of visitors, especially from America because of the famous hymns Newton wrote and his close connection to the Abolition of Slavery.

### ***Font***

There are two Fonts. One is Victorian, but the other is ancient (date unknown) and unusual as it is set on rollers and has a wooden top, which gives it considerable historical interest.

### ***Flagon and Chalices***

There is a flagon marked with IHS; a deep chalice inscribed "*The gyft of Thomas Nicol Gent to the Church of Oulney in Bucks. Nov 1 1726*"; and a chalice inscribed "*The Church of Oulney 1797*". In celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, Revd Val Reveley kindly commissioned and gave an additional silver chalice, designed to match our existing chalice, for use within the Church at Communion services. Inscribed on the bottom of the chalice is "*Given by Val Reveley*".

### ***Church Yard Gate Pillars***

The Church yard gate pillars are Grade II listed and currently fall within the control of Milton Keynes Borough Council, being an integral part of the maintained Church yard.

### ***Valuation of Heritage Assets***

The nature, provenance and current location of these Heritage Assets are recorded in the Church Terrier and Inventory. However, in the Trustees opinion conventional valuation lacks sufficient reliability and would involve considerable cost. For this reason they are not recognised as assets in the Church's Balance Sheet. Other than maintenance work and the major bells restoration project, there have been no transactions in heritage assets for many years.



## **Investments**

Investments comprise of a CBF Investment fund. There are 7,524.40 shares in the CBF's Investment fund as at 31 December 2016.

This holding is shown as an endowment type fund in these statements. The historical cost of the CBF Investment stands at £15,354 and its current value is £113,144 (2015 was £101,840).

	<b>2016</b>	2015
	<b>£</b>	£
CBF Investment fund	<b>113,144</b>	101,840
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>113,144</b>	101,840
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## **5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	<b>84,549</b>		<b>113,144</b>	<b>197,694</b>
Current assets	<b>107,656</b>	<b>35,270</b>	<b>76,033</b>	<b>218,959</b>
Liabilities			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund balance	<b>192,205</b>	<b>35,270</b>	<b>189,177</b>	<b>416,652</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Pancake Race funds of £28,229 show as restricted funds as it can only be used on fabric.

	<b>2016</b>	2015
	<b>£</b>	£
<b>6 DEBTORS</b>		
Income tax recoverable	<b>16,865</b>	15,892
Prepayments and accrued interest	<b>500</b>	0
Other		95
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>17,365</b>	15,987
	<hr/>	<hr/>

	<b>2016</b>	2015
	<b>£</b>	£
<b>7 FUND DETAILS</b>		
<b>Unrestricted funds</b> are as follows		
Non-designated Fixed Assets	<b>84,549</b>	101,840
Non-designated Cash and Liquid Assets	<b>4,175</b>	13,300
Designated Cash and Liquid Assets	<b>103,481</b>	59,437
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>192,205</b>	174,577
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## **Youth Fund**

At the start of 2010, following the contemporary service led by a guest musician and supported by members of the youth of St Peter and St Paul, a donation was received to support youth work in the parish. Balance at 31 December 2016 was £570.13.

***Discretionary Fund***

This fund was initially set up with funds from the Church's tithing and has been increased during the year through donations from a number of sources including private donations as well as Milton Keynes Council. The purpose is to alleviate hardship amongst the citizens of Olney. This winter has seen several local families and individuals call upon this fund for urgent help. Balance at 31 December 2016 was £4,394.

***Mission Opportunity Fund***

In 2010 the Church received a legacy of £198,680, which was allocated to a designated Mission Opportunity Fund, with the remit of supporting activities dedicated to promoting the growth of the Church. It is specifically not for general running costs. There have been subsequent donations to the fund.

In 2016 the Church received a legacy of £42,086 for Mission Education and this is held in the Mission Opportunity Fund together with grants towards our Canada Mission and previous balances, giving a balance at 31 December 2016 of £64,330.

***SoulTime Fund***

This fund receives donations towards our SoulTime work and proceeds of SoulTime charitable trading and holds a balance at 31 December 2016 of £10,857.

***Children's Fund***

This fund receives donations and contributions from our children's work, including Church Mice and balance at 31 December 2016 was £2,087.

***Church Hall Fund***

This fund receives income from Church Hall lettings and other donations and pays the operating expenses of the Church Hall. Balance at 31 December 2016 was £8,166.

***Designated Fabric Fund***

This Fabric Fund has the primary purpose of the purchase and acquisition of items to support the physical comfort and wellbeing of parishioners whilst worshipping within St Peter and St Paul, Olney and the ongoing care, repair and maintenance of the Church buildings and contents.

		2016	2015
		£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b> are as follows			
Special Fund	Special projects as declared by the PCC	<b>7,041</b>	12,449
Pancake Committee		<b>28,229</b>	18,570
Fixed Assets			
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		<b>35,270</b>	31,019
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The restricted reserves comprise funds donated for a particular purpose. Predominantly these were held within a Fabric fund, in prior years, but also include special projects as designated by the PCC. The special projects have previously included the Organ Fund and the Bells Appeal.

***The Pancake Committee Funds***

The Pancake Committee is a sub-committee of the PCC, whose purpose and objective is to organise the town's historic pancake race and associated community events, and in so doing raise and disburse funds for the maintenance and fabric of the Church. The PCC supports the work of the

## **APCM Report covering 2016 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

committee, both through membership and fundraising and through the provision of insurance to underwrite the event. The Pancake Committee raises money for church fabric and responds to the needs of the PCC for funds in order to maintain and repair the fabric and maintenance of the Church as Trustees. It specifically does not support the Church general running costs and expenditure.

### **Endowment Funds**

This consists of a single permanent endowment, the capital of which cannot normally be distributed. The value of this capital stands at £113,144 (2015: £101,840.) The income generated by the capital in the fund must initially be used against repair and maintenance of the chancel. Should the chancel be in good order the income may be used only for the repair and maintenance of the rest of the Church. The accumulated income in the fund is held in the CBF Church of England deposit account and at the year-end amounted to £76,033.

The total value of the Chancel Fund is therefore £189,177 (2015: 176,487).

### **8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current Account	<b>82,389</b>	47,222
Bells Appeal Account	<b>3,591</b>	3,590
Fee Account	<b>13,143</b>	12,458
Pancake Committee Current Account	<b>284</b>	12,194
Pancake Committee Reserve Account	<b>27,915</b>	6,345
Pancake Committee Deposit Account	<b>31</b>	31
CBF Church of England Deposit Accounts	<b>78,298</b>	74,647
Church Flowers Cash in Hand	<b>173</b>	197
	<b>205,824</b>	156,684

### **9 LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Creditors for goods and services	<b>1,885</b>	1,184
Fees due to Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance	<b>51</b>	1,296
Accruals	<b>2,409</b>	1,176
Other tax and social security	<b>61</b>	61
	<b>4,406</b>	3,717

## Church and Parish Group Reports

### Planned Giving Report 2016

Ken Noon - Planned Giving Officer

#### Summary of Giving

##### GIFT AID

Weekly Envelopes	(21)	4,629	
Direct to Bank	(1)	600	
Bankers Orders	(76)	<u>43,685</u>	48,914

##### OTHER GIVING

Weekly Envelopes	(2)	22	
Bankers Orders	(6)	1,378	
Direct from Salary	(1)	<u>1,250</u>	2,650

TAX RECOVERABLE		<u>12,229</u>	
		<u><b>63,793</b></u>	

##### ADDITIONAL GIFT AID DONATIONS

Cash Collections (10,355)	8,000	(Allowable)
Visitor envelopes	7,420	
Church Hall	1,000	
Votive Stand	320	
Christmas Flowers	100	
Christmas Card	115	
Sound System	700	
Mission Fund	566	
Canada Fund	<u>325</u>	18,546

TAX RECOVERABLE	<u>4,636</u>	
	<u><b>23,182</b></u>	

The Government "Gift Aid Scheme" enables us to reclaim tax of £16,865 for the year, a valuable addition to our income.

### Churchwardens Report for 2016

As elected officers of the Church, churchwardens are here to fulfil a longstanding role, one of the oldest in the land. Our duties are varied and we are responsible for supporting our priests in their role, as well as ensuring that the Church family with its many congregations, the Church local mission, legal obligations and financial aspects are addressed. As such, it is our privilege to serve and to act in this role here at St Peter and St Paul in Olney.

#### Services

Churchwardens are required to ensure that each of our many services runs smoothly, checking that all the roles on the day and the duties behind the scenes are fully covered and completed. At each service, we are always alert to those who have volunteered, making sure that the duty is fulfilled and

stepping in where necessary. Wardens or assistant wardens now attend all services and this has made a significant difference to the coherence of the support and background activities. As all the churchwardens are in employment we are indebted to those who assist with these duties and ensure that all goes well. These are roles that are often not recognised week by week, but are fulfilled by dedicated volunteers in the background. As our Church continues to grow, we rely more heavily on these volunteers and we hope that you will not only join us in our grateful thanks but also may wish to be part of the heart of our Church support.

### ***Friends***

As a Church, we have recognised that we need to look at the creation of a more formal *Friends of St Peter and St Paul Church* to guide and oversee selected external and fund-raising activities. This continues to be a long term priority.

### ***Fabric***

As a church, alongside our wider mission priorities, we are entrusted with the preservation and upkeep of a listed building rich in history. In looking after the fabric of the church, we strive to safeguard our heritage.

**South Doors:** Constructed and Installed.

**Porch and North Door:** Two designs for full height north doors were approved by the PCC and will be voted on by congregation, prior to submission to DAC.

**Sound attenuation floor above the bells:** Faculty approved. Work to be completed during 2017.

**Churchyard:** The condition of the perimeter walls is still giving cause for concern. Approaches to MKC (who have full responsibility for these walls) have yielded no solution. Therefore the Church solicitors have been asked to formalise our concerns. The churchyard itself has been tidied up and is well maintained by OTC.

**Lighting:** Low energy lighting has been fully installed in the Church Hall with funding from the Wind Farm. We are waiting installation of a new floodlight to replace the faulty one on the west side of the Church

**Quinquennial:** Completed for both Church and Church Hall, together with a full electrical survey. Remedial and capital repairs will continue over the next five years. To manage the extensive work needed, a phased approach is planned; potential contractors identified and applications for grants for the work can be applied for as required.

**Spring Clean:** Thorough clear out by a dedicated team of volunteers in 2016. Thank you to all.

**Heating Boilers:** Sporadic problems and the need to review the present system and renew over next five years

**General Maintenance and Remedial work for both Church and Church Hall:** This continues and is informed by Health and Safety issues, annual servicing requirements and the need to address ongoing issues, such as the Church roof, the Church Hall roof, electrical requirements and general wear and tear.

**Security and Alarms:** We continue to address these issues in line with the requirements of insurance agents, awareness of thefts across the country and the diocese and the need to adequately protect our assets.

***Budgeted Maintenance Plan***

We continue to have a plan of deferred and routine maintenance work, including the priority works recommended in the Quinquennial report. We are currently creating and updating all annual maintenance plans and consolidating the centralised records and diarised activity.

***Buildings and Contents Insurance***

We continue to work closely with Ecclesiastical Insurance to maintain adequate cover on both the Church and the Church Hall buildings and contents and to rectify any issues highlighted by them during their routine inspection and risk assessment. The Wardens wish to extend their thanks to Rod Parker for his diligence in working with Ecclesiastical on all matters of insurance and Health and Safety.

***Church Hall***

The Church Hall continues to be frequently used, both by the Church, as part of our Mission, and by the wider community, with the Church office continuing to receive new expressions of interest from individuals and groups wishing to hire the hall.

Olney Nursery is still our main hirer of the Hall and, in 2015, renewed their rental contract with the PCC for a further three-year period.

***2016 and Looking forward***

Sadly, the Church Hall has been abused, and it suffered a burglary in January 2016. Despite the interruptions caused by such a trauma, the Church is indebted to the local community and volunteer helpers who rallied round to get the Hall up and running again within 24 hours of this unfortunate experience. We are also grateful for the generosity and support of Church members and the wider community who have helped us financially to emerge from this event and whose donations are helping to restore the damage caused to the hall to the previously high standards that we have enjoyed since the re-ordering in 2013.

Work is planned to conclude the development of our Sensory Garden, and the project to upgrade the bay window blinds to ensure easier functionality was successfully completed during 2016



**Church Hall damage**

And finally...

This year's report would not be complete without mentioning the tireless work carried out by all members of the warden team, including our assistant wardens. We all volunteer in our warden duties to serve God and, as each five year cycle sees a member of the warden team stand down after their service period, we seek new members to the team, both as full and assistant wardens.

Your Church wardens:

*Tim Haskell, Haydn Langley, Susan Bailey and David Phillipson*

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**Deanery Synod Report**

*David Phillipson*

There were three full meetings of the Newport Deanery Synod during the year, in March at North Crawley, in June at Olney and in November at Haversham. In addition there was a special synod meeting in December for the PCC Treasurers to ratify the proposed Deanery Share. Olney was

represented at all four meetings and during the year Mark Saunders, Malcolm Jones, Richard Colson and David Phillipson served as our elected members. Revd Claire Wood was the Area Dean for the whole of the year.

On the Oxford Diocesan Synod Revd Claire Wood continued to represent the Deanery in the House of Clergy and David Phillipson represented the Deanery in the House of Laity.

At the June meeting the previous treasurer Warwick Clarke from Emberton announced that he wished to step down from the role and Roger Hull from Olney was appointed Deanery Treasurer in his place.

At the November meeting Andrew Geary announced that he would be standing down as Lay Chair for personal reasons and Andrew is thanked for his personal commitment to this role in 2016 and before.

I think it is true to say that representation on the Deanery Synod is not regarded as a particularly attractive role and with only three normal meetings per year it is a role that needs filling *“but not by me thank you.”* The Church at both a national and deanery level faces a further period of unprecedented change. At a National level the subject of gay marriage threatens a dangerous schism which will strike at the very core of our beliefs and at the Deanery level the forecast of thousands of new houses and families will stretch our limited resources and prompt calls for a fundamental rethink as to how we approach worship and mission. It is in the light of these significant challenges that representation on the Deanery Synod should be viewed with the opportunity of having your voice heard. If there is the opportunity for you to represent the wider Church I urge you to volunteer.

## **Health and Safety**

*Rod Parker*  
*Health & Safety Chairman*

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The Health and Safety (H&S) Committee worked closely with the Fabric Committee throughout the year as many of the H&S risks that were identified needed the Fabric Committee to be involved in correcting them once approved by the PCC. It has been a team effort and this will continue in the coming years.

Some of the key issues in 2016 have been:

1. A professional Emergency Fire Training Course was completed in January and certificates issued to participants to comply with legislation. This course encompassed both the Church and the Church Hall and will be regularly reviewed and updated. A key issue the course identified is the need to provide clear and efficient fire exits and procedures together with safe fire assembly points. Both have been completed for the Church and nearing urgent completion for the Church Hall.
2. A full H&S review was carried out on the Church and is of course an ongoing process. There is a *Health and Safety Concerns* book available in Church for the congregation to freely use, highlighting any H&S issues they may have. All concerns identified have been, or are being, actioned and monitored by the H&S Committee in liaison with the Fabric Committee, the local authority and Diocese.



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## **APCM Report covering 2016 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

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3. The same applies to the Church Hall and full details for both are available on PCC minutes or by asking any H&S committee member.
4. H&S is of high priority currently, not just for us as a growing Church, but nationally, and requires a great deal of hard work and commitment to ensure we fully comply with the complex legislation and safety needs. I would like to record my personal thanks for the skill, effort and teamwork that ensures this is being done.

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### **Fabric Committee**

*Susan Bailey*

Our aim is to provide a warm, comfortable and safe environment to *worship God, serve the community, and share our faith in Jesus Christ*. This has had its challenges over 2016, but the indomitable team have ensured that over the year, the boiler has kept going, the Church yard compost piles cleared (with green bin in place), new south door installed, a thorough spring clean including organ loft, remedial repairs carried out in both the Church and Church Hall, Quinquennials completed and Health and Safety issues addressed. Thank you to this great team. Also as Susan Hughes stands down (she has been a wonderful and dedicated secretary) we are seeking a new member. Could it be you?

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### **Services and Special Events**

*Revd Claire Wood*

We are blessed as a Church with the opportunity to celebrate in many ways. At the heart of our services is Christ, and whenever we gather in His name we are able to worship in freedom and love. Behind the scenes many people make this possible: our wardens, vergers, welcome and sides people team, intercessors, readers, acolytes, musicians and choir to name a few, each serving and making our time together one of shared ministry.

This year, besides the wonderful celebrations of Easter and Christmas, there have been several special services, including a service to mark the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the charter to hold the Cherry Fair and another for our Confirmation candidates. In addition we have had many social events including the Harvest Hog, strawberry teas and BBQs. Huge thanks to all who are involved and make our Church a vibrant community and share the blessings of Christ with all.

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### **Music**

*Lee Dunleavy*

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#### *Choir*

The choir currently has five juniors, six sopranos, six altos, four tenors, and five basses, totalling twenty-six singers. Our services have seen a good attendance from the choir particularly on the fourth Sunday for Choral Evensong, as they “stretch their wings” musically and the morning service when there is an Introit and Motet during the Communion, and whilst attendance is lower during the remaining Sundays of the month, the Choir is very much appreciated as they help lead and encourage congregational singing. The choir have given two concerts in this year – their annual summer concert, which is given in aid of Church funds, and Fauré’s Requiem performed in aid of the British Legion. They have also sung Sunday services at Peterborough Cathedral. We continue to plan ahead with hymns and music, enabling the choir to prepare in advance for service.

*Music library and copyright*

The music library has been completely overhauled, and hanging folders provided for the filing cabinet, enabling easy access to the scores. The majority of this year's music budget was spent on a set of Anthem Books which include one hundred works suitable for parish choirs. These have been used at almost every choral service so far this year, so are already proving their worth. The choir also have booklets of choir harmonies for communion hymns in Mission Praise, and of alternative tunes where those provided in Mission Praise are obsolete. The three leaders of Choir, Band, and Mix at Six, are now reporting their CLLI returns direct; particular thanks to them as this is a large job, especially where instrumental parts are made, and therefore need to be recorded separately.

*Organ and organists*

We continue to rejoice in a functional rota system of organists, and Michael Chamberlain is now regularly playing for the majority of fourth Sunday morning services. This has enabled Alvis Pellegrini to cover the first Sunday morning, and Roger Palmer continues to cover the third Sunday morning. The organ remains in a reasonable state following its "cooking" eighteen months ago. Since that time it has become noticeably less reliable, and we must continue to remember that damage was done, and that in time work will be required.

*Band*

From Anne Ball: "There isn't much change from last year: band is carrying on very much as usual with 'core' families (Ball, Colson, Geary, Heron and Jones) supplying most of the players. We've lost Corrie Colson and Josh Dodd to university this time but they've both joined us over Christmas for the crib services. We have gained a couple of flutes and don't seem to be getting any extra younger players in at the moment so could do to keep our ears open on that one".

*Mix at Six*

During the last year several of our worship band members have departed for university and Chris Hobson and Sophie Wood have provided the music. We are seeking further musicians to join the worship group as they help to lead this service. If you feel you might be called to share in leading the worship then please contact Haydn Langley.

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**Pancake Day Report for 2016**

*Haydn Langley*

*Chairman Pancake Race Committee 2016*

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Howling winds preceded the Shrove Tuesday and the pancake race, but the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> February proved to be a lovely day. This was to be the 69<sup>th</sup> annual race since it was restarted in 1948, and the 67<sup>th</sup> in competition with the town of Liberal, Kansas.

We started the day with something new, a breakfast cooked by celebrity chef Leslie Waters. Leslie has become a regular at the pancake race, and for the first time cooked breakfast for those lucky enough to get a ticket. The event was so well received that we were asked about breakfast for the following year.

The children's races started at 10am, with 159 in attendance from all the Olney schools. Our VIP guests took turns starting the races which were enjoyed by the runners as well as the starters. Despite tears after a fall, resilience won through as a fallen runner returned to the start and ran again to restore honour. The main race was started at 11:55 by church warden Susan Bailey. A very



**Revd Janet Lawrence after the race**

fast race ensued, with victory going to Lianne Fisher in 55.02 seconds. Well done to all the ladies that took part.

BBC's Blue Peter attended the day, filming the children's races and interviewing four very excited youngsters. (I recall seeing a number of parents enamoured by Barney from Blue Peter, no doubt trying to get a coveted Blue Peter badge.) They did a feature on the pancake race, which is good exposure for Olney and the race.

After the race and the sponsor's prize giving, the runners went into St Peter and St Paul Church for the annual Shrivings Service. We had cameras filming the winner knocking on the door to gain entry, as well as filming the Church prize-giving and interviewing Revd Claire Wood – giving testament to the growing recognition of the service on the day. The guest speaker this year was Revd Canon Andrew Blyth of Holy Trinity Church in Aylesbury. He gave a

thought-provoking address about good actions and how common rituals became enshrined in religious ritual, and of our relationship with God.

In the afternoon a pancake flipping competition took place at Olney Middle School. This event was in competition with a school from Liberal, Kansas, who completed their flips last week. The whole school attended the event in the school hall, where rapturous shrieks, cheers and applause greeted the competitors as they did their best to win the coveted Golden Pan award. In the end the Liberal team flipped most pancakes in two minutes, but the total "flips" of the day went to Olney, with 23,000 against 4,000. This was a fantastic event, and thanks must go to the headmaster, Mr Glenn Young and his staff and pupils for being such good sports and showing such fervour.

In the evening there was the usual link up with Liberal in Kansas to compare times and check results. At this event it was confirmed that Olney beat Liberal again this year, narrowing the gap in the international competition

The race committee would like to thank all the sponsors without whom this event would not take place. Furthermore, a grateful thank you for everyone who made 2016 such a successful year, including those who bought raffle tickets but didn't win.

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## **Dickens of a Christmas**

*Tim Haskell*

Responsibility for organising the Church's element of this Olney-wide event was again taken on in 2016 by Pat Pankhurst, supported by Gill Parker and a team of willing and able helpers, to whom we owe a debt of thanks for their hard work in organising us all in this important fund-raising event in the Church's calendar. 2016 saw a net profit increase of 19.6% over 2015, resulting in a net profit of £4,025.42.

2016 was another very busy Dickens event in the Hall, with the building overflowing with people wishing to listen to the singing events by local schools. The BBQ and mulled wine stalls reported record results and even sold out early! The Committee would like to thank all of the stall holders and helpers, without whose support the Church Hall events would not have happened.

## **Cherry Fair**

*Tim Haskell*

The Cherry Fair Committee, as a sub-committee of the PCC, oversees the organisation and running of this significant fund-raising event in the Church's calendar.

Under the guidance of Pat Pankhurst, who stepped in to carry the Committee forwards in 2014 and to whom we owe a huge vote of thanks for her dedication and management, 2016 saw an uplifting Cherry Fair that celebrated the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Granting of a Charter to hold a Fair by King Edward II to Ralph Basset of Drayton, which resulted in one of our best fund-raising results in recent history. We also owe great thanks to Pat's husband, Ashley, who both acts as Treasurer for the Cherry Fair as well as mopping Pat's fevered brow after a lengthy Cherry Fair Committee meeting!

With considerably better weather than in 2015 and, with its new date earlier in June, the Cherry Fair was well supported by visitors from our wider community, stall holders and volunteer helpers alike, who all contributed towards improved fund-raising results. 2016 saw a net profit increase of 69.5% over 2015, resulting in a net profit of £5,032.77.



**Karate demonstration at the Cherry Fair**

### *Looking forward*

In 2017 the Cherry Fair will take place in the Glebe Field on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June and we are looking for helpers to assist with setting up, running and taking down the event. Please speak to Pat Pankhurst, Tim Haskell or Haydn Langley to see how you can get involved.

## **Communications**

*Haydn Langley*

Social media continues to play a pivotal role in Church communications. With more people online, the use of Facebook has meant many more people are aware of Church services, activities and fund raisers. It has also proven to be a valuable resource when there are changes to planned events or meetings at very short notice, reaching many people in an instant.

The website continues to play a role, but does not get the same traffic as Facebook. It serves well as a relatively static resource advertising information about the Church, regular services, who we are, and what we do. Services are updated weekly, and weekly and monthly sheets are available for

those who cannot make it into the Church to collect a copy. The website has received good feedback, with visitors using it to find out when the Church is holding services.

Regular publication of posters for the various events created exposure for the Church as these have been placed on the notice board in the Market Place as well as in the Church.

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## **Schools**

*Revd Claire Wood*

We are blessed with three local schools and several nursery preschool groups. This year we have been blessed again with many visits and services from each school as they address the questions of faith as part of their curriculum. We have also held several services including Harvest and Christmas Carols, and also several concerts.

We continue to visit the schools and provide assemblies, and at the end of the year created a new 'schools' team to assist with this programme. Particular thanks go to Revd Janet Lawrence who now takes regular assemblies at our schools. In addition to this we have hosted and supported the annual Easter and Christmas Cracked sessions, briefing Middle School children in year 5 about the real meaning behind these special times in the year. Further, as part of the Scripture Union and Bridgebuilder Lifepath event, we hosted and supported more than 900 children as they came to the Church and learnt more about John Newton and his Christian faith. Thank you to all who helped, especially John Newton aka Andrew Wood.

### **Assemblies (Revd Janet Lawrence)**

A small team (which we are hoping to expand), has been going into our Olney Infant and Olney Middle schools to take assemblies twice a term.

It's great fun to find ways of telling the children the Christian story in ways that are relevant and memorable for them. We often go around the festivals and can bring a different dimension to the subject from the teachers. We take Christ into those schools to children and teachers – many of whom do not regularly go to worship.

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## **Baptisms**

*Revd Claire Wood*

Baptism enquiries have remained steady and Gill Parker, as baptism co-ordinator, has been a blessing, supporting the families who come forward whilst dealing with the various aspects of administration.

The baptism team are a group who have also made a huge difference. They welcome and support the families as they meet for baptism preparation and attend their service, a role in which each of us has a part. Today in our society it is not easy to bring up children with faith, and the families and new Christians really do need our support. Please pray for them, support them, attend the Baptism services, and welcome the families and share in the joy of Christ's growing family.

Thank you to the baptism preparation and administration team. If you feel that you are able to be part of the baptism team, and can help support and nurture our new members and their families, then please contact Gill Parker or Revd Claire Wood.

**Weddings**

*Revd Claire Wood*

The combined numbers of weddings, renewal of vows and marriage blessings have remained fairly static. Yet it is uplifting to see that for many it is the blessing of God which is important, and sharing it with friends in Church. The wedding preparation classes continue to be very popular and a large number of our wedding couples have chosen to remain part of the Church family, attending services, events and of course the wedding reunion supper.



**Becky's wedding blessing**

Rita Childs as our wedding co-ordinator continues to be crucial to the smooth running and planning of the weddings. Alongside her is the wonderful wedding preparation team of vergers and organists who work with the ministry team, and as a Church family we are deeply indebted to them. Thanks to all concerned. If you would like to be part of the wedding team, then please contact Rita Childs or Revd Claire Wood.

**Funerals**

*Revd Claire Wood*

Once more we have seen many funerals, several of which were for long standing members of our Church family. These occasions are always a time of emotion and sadness, yet they provide us a tremendous opportunity to walk with the families and friends who are mourning and to share the gospel of Christ with love and faith. Thank you to the ministry team and our vergers and organists who work so hard to ensure that the families and friends of those who die are cared for and know the love of Christ.

On several occasions we have held small services of thanksgiving for those who have been unable to travel to the services of their friends and families.

**Pastorates**

*Revd Claire Wood*

During 2016 the Pastorate groups were created in response to a realisation that our Church was growing larger. These groups are founded in prayer and extend the love of Jesus in the pastoral care of our Church family.



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## APCM Report covering 2016 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

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We have 36 Pastoral group co-ordinators, each providing oversight of a small group, getting to know the individuals assigned to their care; some have had coffee mornings, others social gatherings, and yet others have had one-to-one visits. During the forthcoming year the co-ordinators are planning to meet twice, once in the spring and then again in the autumn, to assess how things are going and what else might be done. If you would like to know more about the Pastorate groups then please contact Rebecca Rushton.

### The Bell Ringers

*Liz Sheaf*

We have had a busy year in 2016. We now have two new adult ringers and two new young ringers who have been practising regularly on a Tuesday evening and have now joined our Monday evening practice.



Liz ringing!

We have had 10 weddings/blessings that required the bells this year - slightly down on the previous year with three peal attempts and two visits from touring bands. Additional ringing during the year also included St George's day, ringing for the service celebrating the 700 year anniversary for the Market Charter and also ringing at the Cherry Fair, the latter being a big hit with visitors with visits to the tower going on well beyond the closing of the fair. Visitors were once again able to go up to the top of the tower and see the bells and also have a go at ringing.

The simulator is being used more now by training groups within the diocese and more training sessions are being arranged for the coming year.

The planned work on the new floor above the bells was delayed in 2016 due to illness, and is due to commence in late spring 2017 with a work committee already set up.

### Charities

*Richard Colson*

The Charity Committee is a PCC supported committee that meets each year to review applications for funding received from members of the church family for charities that they support. These are in addition to the permanently supported charities of the church; Christian Aid, Childrens' Society and the Rector's Discretionary Fund. In 2016 the five nominated charities were The Olney Newton Link, Church Mission Society, Leprosy Mission, Bridgebuilders Trust and Advantage Africa. By using the PCC-agreed funding formula the following distribution was achieved and approved by the PCC out of the available funds: Bridgebuilders Trust 30%, Advantage Africa 20%, Olney Newton Link 20%, Church Mission Society and Leprosy Mission 15% each. As a condition of the awarded monies each charity is asked to provide a display at the back of church for one month. This is to allow the wider church family to gain a better understanding of the charity's work and where our money is used. All of us on the Charity Committee take a keen interest in the work of the charities and look forward to our yearly meeting when we are able to review the applications and make our recommendations.



**Training Placements**

*Revd Claire Wood*

Revd Coralie Mansfield and Revd Tim Dawson are completing their curacy training with us. Revd Tim Dawson has completed his formal training and is now seeking a permanent role. We have also hosted several informal visits from individuals who are seeking clarity on their own call to ministry. Thank you for making each of them so welcome and providing them with the support to continue on their vocational exploration and training.

**Knitty Stitches**

*Gill Noon*

Knitty Stitches have enjoyed another good year. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 1.00pm at the Church Hall.

We started our year with our charity work making 65 *Twiddle Muffs* for Milton Keynes Hospital. (These are knitted muffs with an array of decorations stitched to them – the idea is that dementia patients who might be tempted to fiddle or pull out their lines and tubes inserted for medicines will rather play with the bits and pieces on the muff. Apparently it works well). We also made blankets for SANDS (Stillbirth and neonatal death charity) and items for the Christmas Shoebox appeal.

Knitty Stitches had a stall at Pancake Day, selling a variety of goods in the Church Hall. The next event was a stall at Dickens of a Christmas and was a wonderful success, making £608.10 profit.



**Knitty Stitches - a social gathering and knitting**

We are busy, but our meetings are not all work. We have tea and biscuits and lots of chat and laughs; the fellowship is wonderful. We have very experienced knitters, new knitters and returning knitters (haven't knitted for 40 years, now making lovely items) and also Annie teaching knitting. If you would like to join us you would be very welcome. Please contact either Gill Noon on 01234 240187 or Annie Jeavons on 01234 711419.

**Young Adults Group (YAGS)**

*Revd Claire Wood*

YAGs meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday term time 7-9pm in the Church Hall for secondary school aged young people. This group has really grown following the changes implemented in 2016. Each

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## **APCM Report covering 2016 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

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week they meet and share in reflections, games and other activities exploring the reality of Christ and the demands of our modern world.

During the summer several of the young people also attended a Christian Summer camp – Soul Survivor – a gathering that hosts more than 10,000 teenagers for a week.

The leadership team for this group has grown and we are now blessed with several leaders who share a passion for seeing the love of Christ shared with young people. Please continue to pray for this group and its leaders. If you would like to know more then please contact Revd Claire Wood.

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### **Moment on Monday**

*Basil Margrave*

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**Where and When:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 11am in the Church.

This service continues to be well attended, with a loyal group of supporters who assist those who are less able to make the services on their own, or who prefer the quiet moments this service can provide. Every month we gather for a service with Holy Communion, followed by a time to meet one another in fellowship.

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### **Church Mice**

*Coralie Mansfield*

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**Where and When:** Thursdays at 10.30am – 11.30am in the Church for children under 5 and their parents or carers.

Church Mice continues to grow, attracting new families almost week by week. These parents do not necessarily attend every week but nonetheless are included in our register. It has been gratifying to hear that most people start coming through the personal recommendations from other mums. Several are not local to Olney but travel in from surrounding villages, and as far as Milton Keynes.

On occasion we have in excess of 60 parents and children at any one session, which is hard work but very positive in terms of wider community outreach and mission.

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### **Vacuum Cleaning and Dusting**

*June Ward*

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It's Pancake Day. I've been to Church – the Shroving Service. I've just walked home in the rain, though for the race itself the weather this year was okay, fine in fact. Those with a better memory than mine have reminded me that it rained a lot last year.

Whilst waiting for the service to start I passed a little of the time with the Church office secretary who mentioned that it was coming up to the time to submit reports on Church cleaning which I'm quite happy now to be doing. We shared a light-hearted moment recalling how last year I'd compared her with someone in my life I'd found quite scary! Little wonder I agreed to submit this report.

I was a girl never known to shy away from domestic chores. My grandparents and aunts always supposed I would, in some way, earn my living as a domestic servant or cleaner, but I tricked them all by becoming instead a copy typist in the civil service. (One of my great aunts was in charge of the

domestic running of St. James' Palace and as such earned herself a seat in Westminster Abbey for the coronation.)

As well as whizzing through the Church approximately once a month with the vacuum I am also one of the dusting/polishing team. I had, for a time, given this up as the team were oversubscribed but I'm now happily reinstated on that rota.

Mostly, duty days are carried out on Fridays but Thursday – Saturday mornings are okay as long as one checks the Church monthly calendar to ensure you don't clash with a bride coming down the aisle. Whatever may be going on, be it cleaning, flower arranging or posy making (soon to happen) you can be sure to find it friendly and sociable. (Even brass polishing can be satisfying when you look at the gleaming result.)

My thanks to the others on the teams who share the pleasures of being a part of the fact that visitors to our Church continue to pass comments that relate to the 'sparkle' which wouldn't be there without our combined efforts in *friendship together*.

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**Tea/Refreshments**

*Liz Sheaf*

Refreshments continue to be available after every 10am service. All donations are paid into the Church funds and, although this not recorded as a separate amount, it usually averages approximately £10 per week.

An afternoon buffet of sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and juice was also laid on for the Confirmation service with a confirmation cake donated by Susan Heron.

Refreshments were also laid on for the service to commemorate Sister Helena's 40 years of priesthood.

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**Happy Fishers**

*Janet Lawrence*

We are a small group who enjoy meeting together on Monday evenings during term time at 7.30pm to share bible readings and discussion.

During the last year we finished looking at the gospel of Mark, looked at the names of God in The Bible, and begun a series on the book of Revelation (which we all said we found difficult). The combination of a well written guide and our own input makes for a pleasant evening in an informal atmosphere to encourage each other's faith. You would be welcome to join us.

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**Listening Ear**

*Thelma Shacklady*

The Listening Ear service continues to operate each week after the 10.00am Service. Although it is not used every week, the importance of having someone available for support, prayer and/or encouragement cannot be emphasized enough. It is an integral part of the church network, together with the prayer chain and other elements of our church life which offer a safe place and confidentiality.

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## **APCM Report covering 2016 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

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In addition to the weekly session, there is also a mobile phone (number 07934 141025) on which contact can be made, should an enquirer wish to have a conversation with a member of the team during the week. Perhaps this is not widely known, and I encourage members of the congregation to publicise this fact. It can be a relief at a time of stress or isolation to pick up the phone and either have a conversation then, or arrange a meeting.

The Listening Ear is available for anyone, and I trust that it will continue to be of benefit for those who use it.

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### **The Olney Flower Arrangers**

*Ann Minney*

The Olney Church Flower Arrangers are a group of ladies who love flowers, and decorating our beautiful Church gives us great pleasure. Unfortunately we are all ladies, but men would be most welcome. We are all ages, and range from highly skilled to beginners.

The highlights of last year were preparing flowers for the Easter Cross and arranging flowers for the brides at their weddings. We are looking forward to Easter, Weddings and Christmas.

If anyone would like to join our happy band, please contact Ann Minney on 240907. You will be most welcome.



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### **Christian Aid**

*Sally and Malcolm Jones*

Christian Aid was the first charity to establish a house-to-house collection, which takes place during Christian Aid Week, the second week of May. Most of our fundraising takes place during this week and our records of collections in Olney go back more than 25 continuous years.

The focus for 2016 was the effect of environmental changes in Bangladesh where rising water levels mean that rivers are now a source of danger rather than a valuable resource. More than 20 collectors raised £2,223.14 from the house-to-house envelopes and their continuing efforts and witness are greatly appreciated. A donation from our Church tithing of £585.44 resulted in a grand total of £2,808.58 remitted to Christian Aid from Olney.

In 2017 Christian Aid Week runs from 14th to 20th May and this year we are celebrating 60 years of Christian Aid with a focus on refugees - Christian Aid was originally set up to help refugees in Europe after the Second World War. Not all of Olney was included in our house-to-house collection in 2016, so more collectors are always needed. If you would like to join us this year, please contact Sally or Malcolm Jones.

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### **Preaching Group**

*Revd Claire Wood*

Our amazing group of authorised preachers have continued to develop and take a wider part in the services within our Church. Several have already preached at our early morning services and are now preaching at the mid-morning services in 2016. We are already encouraging new members to come

and join this group and look at how we develop this ministry within our Church. If you would like to know more about this, then please speak with Revd Claire Wood.

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**Children's Society**

*Nicole Colson*

Although I did not officially take on the role of Box Coordinator until January 2017, I was pleased to be involved with the Christingle service held on Sunday 27th November 2016.

The Christingle service is held in aid of the Children's Society, the national charity run by the Church of England. Part of the charity's work involves funding local projects which help children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable.

Holding the Christingle service at the beginning of advent, 2016, seemed to work particularly well. Revd Claire Wood and Will Trevitt led the service to a full Church, and £234.73 was raised. The service concluded with candles being lit outdoors and the carol *Ding Dong Merrily on High* sung, with enough attendees able to line the circumference of the Church. Although we had dry weather, complications arose with candles not remaining lit and difficulties in keeping everyone singing at the same time! This has led to the decision to remain inside the Church for future Christingle services. As the beginning of Advent proved popular the 2017 service will keep to this date.

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**SoulTime Programme – Community Mission**

*Revd Claire Wood*

The SoulTime mission programme continues to be at the heart of our community, in which we serve as Disciples of Christ, joining with others from different churches and agencies to make a positive difference in our community.

This year we have seen the programme expand to include *SoulTime Lunches* held after Church Mice on Thursdays and *SoulTime Pizza and Prayer* held once a month. The focus of each SoulTime activity is held in prayer and sustained through Christian volunteers and leaders, and our Church family echoes with the joy of new friendships and disciples.

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**SoulTime Café**

*Revd Claire Wood*

**Where and When:** Thursdays during school term time, 3.30pm-6.00pm in the Church Hall.

The SoulTime café is open to the public and has proven to be a very popular venue with our town community. It continues to offer a great placement for the secondary students who volunteer, with nearly 30 young people currently on the team rotas. The training programme the children receive provides them with skills that are of huge benefit when they enter the work environment. Each member is provided with an oversight of food hygiene, dealing with the public, money handling, and teamwork. This experience has already proven to be of great benefit with team members, several of whom have been successful with applications for part time jobs. Others use this experience as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme.

In December Bishop Steven Croft visited the café and was soon part of the team, taking orders, making drinks, serving and learning more about why the students and adult volunteers believe it is important.



Bishop Steven Croft helping in the cafe

Thank you to all who have prayed for this venture and the adult volunteers who make it all possible. If you would like to know more about the Café then please contact Alison Langley for further information.

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### SoulTime Memory Club

*Alison Langley*

**Where and When:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, 1.30pm-3.00pm in the Church Hall.

The SoulTime Memory Club continues to operate extremely successfully. Membership growth has prospered both in volunteer and client numbers, and our trained leadership team numbers continue to increase. Each month a theme is chosen to discuss or interact upon in a creative way, which is designed to entertain and support those who are suffering with memory degeneration in its various forms. Themes may relate to a particular event in the calendar, or perhaps something that the members have particularly requested, or just something for a bit of enjoyment and upliftment. Themes have included Christmas, school days, influential people and fun quizzes. Simple movement exercises that can be done whilst sitting are taught with the view to keeping joints and muscles supple and to improve balance. The emphasis is always on fun, sharing ideas and memories, and also looking to the future with a view to easing worries or creating opportunities to deal with potential problems or difficulties that members may encounter. Of course, no gathering is complete without coffee or tea and some biscuits to accompany it!

The free club provides a place of safety, community and friendship and works closely with the nurse for the elderly from Cobbs Garden Surgery. The interaction of the members and volunteers has been a winning combination, resulting in many new faces joining us, and the continual return of existing members. The club is proving to be a valued element and resource in the local care provision for our community.

The number of people suffering with memory degeneration continues to grow and this club is a wonderful facility within our town which makes a very real difference to our community. If you would like to know more about the Memory Club or if you think you know someone who would

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## **APCM Report covering 2016 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

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benefit from joining it, or have some expertise or good ideas to share with us, please contact Revd Claire Wood.

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### **SoulTime Breakfast**

*Revd Claire Wood*

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**Where and When:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, 8.00am-10.00am in the Church Hall.

The best-kept secret - monthly breakfasts held in our Church Hall have proved to be a great success. A flexible arrangement of table service and self-service has provided a good platform for our community to come together. We do our best to provide for a variety of diets, including vegetarians and those who need a gluten free diet. The word has now reached into the community and we have several regulars from the Thursday Citizen lunch group. Their reaction: "It is fantastic, and why don't more people come?"

We do not charge for the breakfasts, but those who attend are free to donate towards the breakfast running costs. The early team has now expanded and I hope and pray that this gathering continues to provide a safe haven on a Saturday morning for all who attend. If you have not had the chance to attend our breakfast events, then please mark it in your diary. Thank you to all who have prayed for this venture and the adult volunteers who make it all possible. If you would like to know more about the café then please contact Revd Claire Wood for further information.

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### **SoulTime Soup Lunch**

*Coralie Mansfield*

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The SoulTime Soup Lunch continues to grow – with around 30 being fed on a regular basis. Our volunteer cook has recently successfully completed her basic food handling and hygiene certificate, which means we are maintaining current regulation requirements for our food provision.

Extra volunteers are also regularly helping out with refreshments and clearing away after lunch sessions. Costs for soup are covered by donations on a voluntary basis, which are recorded in the attendance finance book.

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### **SoulTime SPOT (Supporting Parents of Teenagers)**

*Revd Claire Wood*

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We have had a break from this course but are looking to restart again towards the end of 2017.

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### **SoulTime Sensory Garden**

*Revd Claire Wood*

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The work on the garden has progressed slowly. We now have much of the infrastructure in place and the paving laid. The next steps to install wall features, drop benches, potting bench, water butt and small storage shed are in hand. If you would like to know more then please contact Ruth Ayling.



**Charity begins at home.** Olney Church Hall on Christmas Eve was a hubbub of activity with gifts being wrapped, food being sorted into boxes, trees being decorated and the veg being peeled for the Christmas Day Lunch. 14 Santa sacks were stuffed full of gifts and the Rector Claire Wood (despite the hectic time of year for her) took on the role of Santa and delivered them to families around Olney along with food parcels.

Christmas Day in the Church Hall we brought together over 20 people - they ranged from single people, couples and a young family. The ages ranged from 5 to over 90. We also delivered 7 meals-on-wheels to people who were housebound. Each guest of the lunch left with a gift and also a doggy-bag of turkey sandwiches and Christmas cake for their tea! Nothing goes to waste. The leftover food was delivered to the MK Food Bank.

With amazing support this year from the local Co-op in Olney we have far exceeded our previous year's totals in money donations. A special thank you must go to Paul, the manager, and employee Karen Smith for nominating us to be one of their local causes this year, and for holding a raffle which raised £1,200. The money is used for a discretionary fund which helps those in need during the year with nowhere else to turn.



Co-op making a difference

None of this would be possible without all the donations we receive – whether money or food and gifts. We are so grateful to all of you who donated this year. Plus a massive thank you to everyone that volunteered their time to help us – from taking the time to promote our cause and collecting items to coming to help us wrap gifts and peel the veg... to those who also gave their time on Christmas Day - we really do appreciate this time. It is great to be part of a community that wants to work together to make it better for those less fortunate.

We would like to give a special thank you to Pastures Farm for their wonderful turkey joints; Olney Butchers for helping with the pork and ham joints; Harvest for their veg; and Olney Deli and Tea



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## **APCM Report covering 2016 - Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul, Olney**

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Rooms for their kind gifts and cheese board. We had tins and packets collected not only in Olney Parish Church but thanks to Fitter Life (a local fitness club) who collected items at their classes. We had food parcels and boxes of gifts left on our doorstep and such generous money donations, all of which help our continuing work within the community throughout year.

Our appeal may only be small but if we can make the Christmas of one person, one family, or a handful of people, I believe it is worth doing. Roll on 2017 - please support us, every little helps and as we keep growing we are reaching more and more families and folk that need our help.

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### **Beyond Alpha**

*David Richbell*

The Beyond Alpha house group meets on the last Thursday of each month at various members' houses. Although the group originated from the Alpha Course which ran in 2014, several other people have joined the group, and regular attendance is usually around six to eight people. So there is room for more. We meet between 7.30pm and 9pm or so and vary our programme between topical discussion (eg Forgiveness, Human Sexuality, Assisted dying) and Bible study. Another attraction is the tea and cake!

We are happy to welcome new members so please contact David on 01234 241 700 if you are interested.

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### **Safeguarding**

*Richard Colson*

As a growing church we at St Peter and St Paul have seen more groups set up working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, amongst others. A *Disclosure and Barring Service* (DBS) check is required for every volunteer working with each group. It is a legal and church requirement and failure to complete the checks leaves us, as a PCC, at risk. Thanks to the excellent records held by Pat in the Church Office these DBS checks can be completed relatively easily; the applicants complete the paperwork, I verify the documentation required to prove their identity and the forms are sent off for the checks to be completed and a certificate issued to the applicants.

As well as completing DBS verifications, safeguarding also means ensuring that we as a church are complying with the latest best practice and procedures for dealing with young people and vulnerable adults. During 2016 I have linked in with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Stephen Barber, and other statutory authorities to ensure that we are up to date with our policies and compliant in what we do. I am pleased to report that we are in a good position moving forward. In late 2016 Stephen retired and was replaced by John Nixon. I am sure he will provide advice and support if needed in the future.

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### **Office Report**

*Pat Pankhurst*

Do not ever come on a Friday! Why? It's weekly sheet day, at the end of the month it's the monthly sheet, cutting and folding are the order of the day and in between other things, it can get very fraught – and it's not just me, it's Gill as well. Then there are all the service sheets, things like baptisms, Remembrance Sunday, Pancake Race which we have now made generic, except we have

to ensure that we have enough copies. Others we need to check attendances from the Service Register and print accordingly.

So why is the Office Administrator seen in October buying bags of chocolates? If you come to the Crib Services and are there on Christmas Day you will know why. It's a question of guessing, and for the last six years it's worked out just right (thank goodness).

Trips to Costco for biscuits, juice, bin sacks, J cloths and also for Soultime Café, chocolate fingers, Oreos, waffle etc. Off to Staples (well it was) for A4 and A3 paper, receipt books, ledger books for the vestry, laminating pouches etc., it's all part of the out-of-office activities that see me off across into Milton Keynes. You guessed it; you can guarantee someone wants something when I have just been to either one of these.

So what do I (we) do in between? Liaising with our regular users of the Church Hall and making block bookings, invoicing, banking monies. Logging out and in of the *ad hoc* bookings and payment and then banking. Reporting back to the treasurer each month on payments made into the accounts.

Online banking has saved a lot of cheque writing and most of the bills and wages are paid either by this method or standing order. An A4 file is filled every quarter with invoices or payments so it's a morning of paying each week practically.

Church visitors are many; its booking them in, some are now old friends as they visit every year or every other year. It's a joy to see them or hear them sing Amazing Grace in the church.

Christmas is usually a time for the cleaners, flower arrangers etc., to get the church ready for our Christmas services. If we are lucky one of the young people will be playing the organ and we can hear carols being sung.

Even in the office, we have our moments of reflections. We have said goodbye to people we have got to know over the years, and this year is no exception.

Thank you to Gill Parker. She comes in most Fridays and just gets on with things. We have worked together for a number of years and she also covers me for holidays. Another thank you goes to Ruth; she appears every Friday morning and proof reads everything for us. She then goes off to dust/polish the choir stalls, comes back up and is then off again to make Gill and me a drink. She will fold and count service sheets and monthly sheets, and we cannot thank her enough. Every little bit helps.

If you can spare time when we are folding or want to help with the preparation etc., for any of our events, please talk to me in the office.

I am fortunate to have a fantastic team of people to work with; where else could you work and have the view that I have?



Nativity figures by the Knitty Stitchers



Confirmation group with Bishop Alan



Lifepath



Wedding couples

## APPENDIX

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parishioners

On Sunday 24 April 2016 in Church at 10.45am.

1. **Opening Prayers** led by Claire.
2. **Welcome.** Claire welcomed everyone to the Parishioners meeting.
3. **Attendance and Apologies for Absence.** There were 60 members of the parish present. Apologies were received from Coralie Mansfield, Richard Colson, Tim Haskell, Pat Pankhurst, Coral Bex, Malcolm and Sally Jones.
4. **Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26 April 2015.** Minutes having been circulated before the meeting were proposed by Susan Bailey and seconded by Gill Parker. The minutes were approved and signed.
5. **Election of Churchwardens.** Nominations for the following people were carried: Tim Haskell – Senior Warden, with Deputies Haydn Langley, Susan Bailey and David Phillipson. Assistant Churchwardens Malcolm Jones and Roger Hull will remain in post.
6. **Appointment of Tellers.** Haydn Langley, Susan Bailey and David Phillipson were appointed unanimously.

## Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **To approve the Minutes of the APCM Meeting held on 26th April 2015.** The Minutes, having been circulated before the meeting, were approved, carried unanimously and signed by Revd Claire Wood.
2. **Matters arising.** None.
3. **Electoral Roll Officers Verbal Report.** Ann Thomas was pleased to report that there were now 233 members on roll, including 28 new members. Thanks were expressed to Claire for her significant contribution to the growth in numbers.
4. **Annual Report, Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements of The Parochial Church Council.** The Treasurer, Guy Marchant, reported that it had been a busy year and he expressed special thanks to Catherine Zamojski for her meticulous work in helping to re-organise the accounting system. This new system will aid ease of use and clarity for the future.

There had been a slight deficit in the Restricted Funds as a result of fewer gifts and legacies being made but with regard to the Unrestricted Funds it was encouraging to see income up by 30% as a result of increased planned giving together with fund raising.

The income from the Church Hall was slightly down this year but it was hoped that this might increase in the next financial year. Grants are being investigated.

### ***Outlook for 2016***

New income is being made available as a result of the church breakfasts and it is hoped that the weather for this year's Cherry Fair will be more favourable than the previous two years.

### ***Matters arising***

Brian Lintern asked why there was a reduction in the income from the Church Hall and Claire explained that during the year the nursery contract had been reduced as a result of the afternoon nursery sessions being discontinued. Hire charges have been re-negotiated and the Hall is still busy with bookings.

Brian Lintern then asked if the Church Hall and Church finances could be handled and shown separately in future but the Treasurer explained why this would not be possible.

Grateful thanks were expressed to Guy Marchant and his team for the meticulous work that they carry out. Guy is now stepping down and Malcolm Jones will be taking over with the assistance of Jo Jones.

The adoption of the annual accounts was proposed by Haydn Langley and seconded by Susan Bailey.

5. **Reports**

### ***Churchwardens***

- a) Basil Margrave was unaware that there had been an issue with the organ. It was explained that climatic control through a careful blend of heating and moisture was currently being tried. Substantial expenditure may be necessary if the problem cannot be solved in other ways.
- b) Brian Lintern asked for a breakdown of the attendees in the various church groups and the growing congregations. Claire provided this information and reported that 320 people were now part of our church family.
- c) Elizabeth Knight drew people's attention to the fact that the number of bell ringers had become severely depleted in recent times and urged members to consider putting themselves forward to learn. Anyone showing interest was asked to liaise with Liz Sheaf.

***Deanery Synod***

On the subject of Deanery Pastoral re-organisation, Elizabeth Knight asked for clarification over the phrase *Olney was working more closely with Emberton*. Claire explained that Olney was helping Emberton with the provision of preachers and other support, as well as helping other parishes throughout the Deanery when the need arose. Hanslope have chosen not to take part in this arrangement.

***Church and Parish Groups***

Claire expressed her grateful thanks to everyone who is involved in any way in the smooth running of the church and its groups.

6. **Election of PCC Members.** The appointment of Thomas Kingsley Jones was proposed by Liz Sheaf, seconded by Susan Bailey and carried unanimously.
7. **Deanery Synod representatives.** No election this year.
8. **Election of Sidespeople.** A list of those persons prepared to serve was read out by Haydn Langley who then proposed their election. Rebecca Rushton seconded this and it was carried unanimously.
9. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.** Guy Marchant proposed that Jonathan Vowles be asked to continue and David Phillipson seconded. This was carried unanimously.
10. **Rector's Report.** Claire explained some of the initiatives for the upcoming Week of Prayer and reminded us that prayer is at the centre of our Church life. She wants to see the Church continue to grow in the coming year and is pleased that some of the wedding couples are now joining the Church congregation and in some cases bringing their talents and expertise to give practical help. She reminded us that we are all called to serve and this should be a joy. We should be welcoming, open and encouraging.  
  
She is currently in the process of setting up "Pastorates" – a series of smaller groups, with a leader, who will keep in touch with each other and provide support and love.  
  
Claire informed the meeting of plans to twin Olney Parish with the parish of St George's in London, Ontario and these links will be developing over the coming months.
11. **Any Other Business and Date of the next APCM**  
  
Susan Bailey expressed thanks to Pat Pankhurst, Rebecca Rushton, Gill Parker, Guy Marchant, Claire and Andrew Wood and June Ward for their work on our behalf and presented them with flowers and chocolates.  
  
Claire expressed her grateful thanks to the Ministry Team for their support.  
  
The date of the next meeting will be 23 April 2017.
12. **Closing Prayers** were led by Revd Claire Wood.



# Annual Parochial Church Meeting

To be held in Church

on

23 April 2017

after the 10am service

*Please bring this with you to the meeting*

