

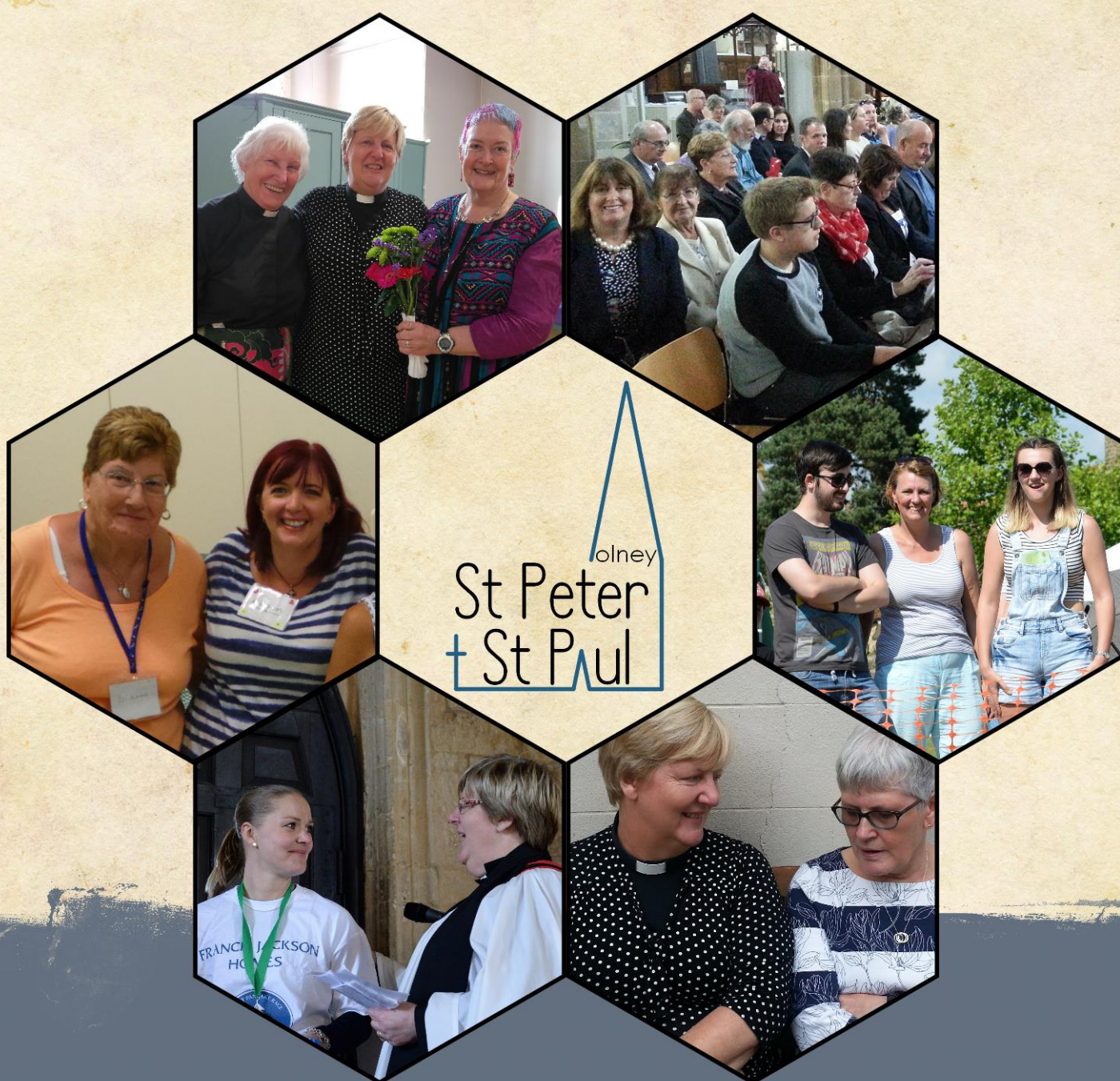
Annual Reports and Accounts

For the year ended

31 December 2017

Presented to the EAPCM on 21 October 2018

Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Church Street
Olney
Bucks
MK46 4AD

Rector (to September 2017)

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

Treasurer

To November 2017
Tim Pemberton
c/o Church Office
Church Street
Olney
Bucks
MK46 4AD

From November 2017
Stuart Ayling
c/o Church Office
Church Street
Olney
Bucks
MK46 4AD

From September 2018
Lisa Geary
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.

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

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Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

For the year ended 31 December 2017.

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 2017 until the date this report was approved:

Rector	The Revd Claire Wood	(to September 2017)
Curates	The Revd Coralie Mansfield	(to September 2017)
	The Revd Tim Dawson	(to March 2017)
LLM	Mr Andrew Geary	
	Mr David Richbell	
Churchwardens	Mr Tim Haskell	(to APCM 2017)
	Mr Haydn Langley	
	Mrs Susan Bailey	
	Mr David Phillipson	
	Mr Kevin Wiseman	(from APCM 2017)
Assistant Wardens	Mr Malcolm Jones	
	Mr Roger Hull	
	Mr Tim Haskell	(from APCM 2017)
PCC Secretary	Mrs Rebecca Rushton	
Treasurer	Mr Malcolm Jones	(to APCM 2017)
	Mr Tim Pemberton	(from APCM 2017 to November 2017)
	Mr Stuart Ayling	(from November 2017)
Representatives on Deanery Synod	Mr Mark Saunders	(to APCM 2017)
	Mr Malcolm Jones	(from APCM 2015)
	Mr David Phillipson	(from APCM 2015)
	Mr Richard Colson	(from APCM 2015)
Elected Members	Mrs Coral Bex	(to APCM 2017)
	Mrs Laraine Coney	(from APCM 2017)
	Mrs Sarah Daley	(to November 2017)
	Mrs Sally Gallimore	(from APCM 2017)
	Mrs Judy Gay	(from APCM 2015)
	Mrs Victoria Kermeen	(from APCM 2015)
	Mrs Sarah Page	(from APCM 2017)
	Mr Rod Parker	(to APCM 2017)
	Mrs Lindsey Pemberton	(APCM 2017 to November 2017)
	Ms Teresa Riley	(from APCM 2017)
	Mrs Liz Sheaf	(to APCM 2017)

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. They also have 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)	181	45	226
Total attendance October 2017	842	318	1160

*It should be noted there were school service cancellations due to the snow.

Review of the Year 2017

The PCC met five times during 2017. This review provides an overview of the most significant activities overseen by the PCC.

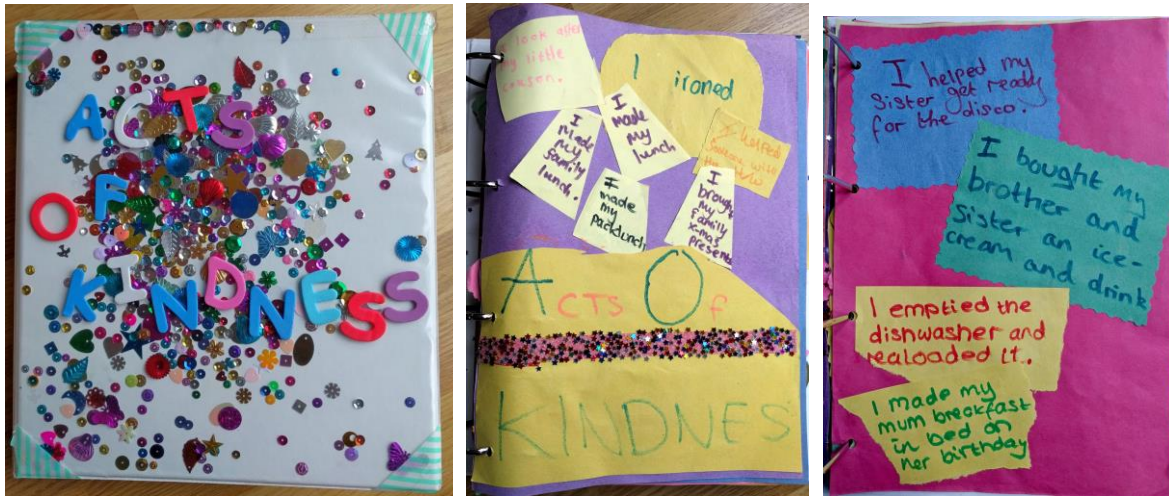
The Church continues to welcome visitors from many different countries, and the doors are always open to our local community. A brief look in the visitor's book tells a tale of pilgrimages to our church from far and wide, as well as nearer home. Every year we also welcome many people to our "special" services such as the Shroving service, Easter services and Christmas services.

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 and the Pancake Race, as well as grant applications for specific large fabric maintenance items. Without the gifts and support from you, our parishioners, neither the Church nor the Church Hall would be able to function.

In 2016 we launched the 700 Acts of Kindness challenge to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the granting of a charter to Olney to hold an annual fair. Each act of kindness was represented by a button placed in the clear bucket at the back of the Church – and the target was achieved! The

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challenge was also taken up by the 1st Olney Guides, and they put together a folder of their Acts of Kindness. This was presented to churchwarden Haydn Langley at one of their meetings. One of the guides also presented a full jar of pennies, with every penny representing an act of kindness. This was a wonderful gesture taken on by others outside the immediate family of the church.



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 continue to make a difference. The Soulttime Café has been through a difficult period with adult supervision, so if anyone feels they have the time and the ability to take part and contribute to this wonderful programme, please contact the Church Office or a warden. This year we also saw the official opening of the Soulttime Sensory Garden. This is a wonderful space of peace and calm, and our thanks are extended to all who came together to make this possible.

Within the community we have continued to show our support with events such as the combined churches Palm Sunday service and Holiday Bible Club. The Pancake Race and Shroving service always bring in large numbers and are welcomed. Schools and young people continued to be a focus, 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 take part in Lifepath.

Music is always a blessing in our church, and there were 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 Alvis Pelligerini and Roger Palmer, and our organ scholars Michael Chamberlain and Matthew Lavender. Also thanks to Anne Ball and the Sunday morning band. The Mix at Six "band" consisted of Sophie Wood and sometimes assisted by Chris Hobson, but ended when Sophie moved away in September. Music for the Mix at Six services is now provided through video.

The bells are regularly rung for the 10am church services and special services, and are both familiar and welcoming. This year work commenced on fitting the new floor above the belfry which meant there were no visiting ringers and there were a reduced number of peals. However the ringers continued to ring for our services.

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. We celebrated with Sister Helena (Revd Dr Helena Barrett) who had her 40th anniversary of ordination at a special service in January. However this year was especially

challenging as we said goodbye to so many who have been at the forefront of our spiritual growth and leadership. We said farewell to Sister Helena Barrett and Sister Alison Joy Whybrow who moved up to Scotland. In March Revd Tim Dawson ended his curacy when he took up a post in Kettering, and Revd Coralie Mansfield ended her curacy taking up a post in our neighbouring SCAN parish. Perhaps the biggest blow of all came when Revd Claire Wood announced she would be leaving our parish to take up the role of Archdeacon of Loughborough. This was especially difficult as Claire and her family had become such an integrated part of our community and our church, it was impossible to imagine Olney and St Peter and St Paul without them.

Words cannot express the thanks required to the remaining Ministry Team who rallied together to pick up the services and keep the spiritual wellbeing of the larger church family together, from Revd Thelma Shacklady and Revd Janet Lawrence, to the LLMs and the authorised preachers. Going through an interregnum is never easy, but we are thankful that Claire put structures in place to allow our church to “weather the storm.”

During 2017 there were nine weddings, one wedding blessings and two renewals of vows, 14 baptisms, 14 funerals, five cremations and two internment of ashes. Through the interregnum we have seen a small decline in numbers at the services. We continually consider our role in serving Christ in our community and in our lives and we remember the call for each member to be part of God’s family, building His kingdom in the name of Jesus Christ.

A core part of our lives as a church and as Christians is that of mission. We strive to spread God’s word not only in our community, but also farther afield whenever possible. Bearing witness to this objective in 2017 was Mission Canada.

Mission Canada

During July and August of 2017, members of the church and the local youth (drawn from YAGs and the Soultime Café) undertook a nineteen day mission trip to London, Ontario, Canada. This was funded through grants and fund raising. Delegates paid for their own flights, with accommodation and food coming from the monies raised.

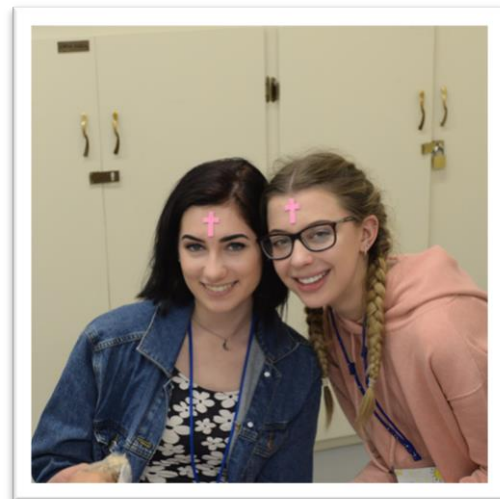
Fund raising took on various forms, and included a Rector Kidnap, where Claire was kidnapped for a few hours (and forced to read the book of Leviticus out loud) until a ransom was paid; a Hungarian evening and meal; a BBQ with music by Backwoods Creek; and various teas, cakes sales and stalls at the Cherry Fair.



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One of the first questions asked about the trip is “Why Canada?” London, Ontario is a city, like so many others, with a broad cross-section of people in different socio-economic groups. The city has an area called “East of Adelaide.” To quote from the Urban Dictionary: *East of Adelaide. An area of London, Ontario where one can witness three stabbings, six drive by shootings, two drug deals, and buy a prostitute, all in one afternoon. Advisable to wear a bulletproof vest if going EOA.* While we didn’t quite see this, the area we were in certainly did fit the lower end of the economic spectrum, where broken homes and alcohol addiction were the norm. Added to this were issues relating to the church itself. The previous priest-in-charge was arrested for indecent assault, and when we arrived the court case was surfacing again in the media. This added a further complication getting people to attend.

The aims of the trip were to satisfy goals set by both our church and the churches in Canada. We wanted to engage our youngsters with different people and grow them as leaders; expose them to how other people lived and the problems they faced; to share their faith and to encourage the youth they met to work for their goals and better themselves; to push their boundaries to do something they wouldn’t normally do and hence grow them as people. Our Canadian hosts were looking for a new influence to help grow the youth in their churches; to expose their youth to new influences and show them different skills; to revitalise their youth programme and get their Vacation Bible School (Holiday Bible Club) back on track.



We spent two weeks working with St Mark’s Church, assisting in running their Vacation Bible School (VBS). While it was a slow start, the numbers increased over the period, with everyone who attended the first week also coming back for the second week – these included children from split families and families with alcohol abuse.

The days were structured with a warmup session to start the day, and interactive sessions of music and actions. This was followed by a bible story, also interactive. There were then indoor activities and outdoor activities related to the theme of the bible story of the day. Mid-morning there was a break for snacks, and these treats were also theme-related. Possibly the highlight of all the activities was the water play – linked to the story of Jonah. Even for the adults this was possibly more fun than it should have been!

There were numerous successes from the trip, but too many to mention in this report. Notably, there was a family of three youngsters who had never been into a church before and were afraid to

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cross the threshold. Within a week they were waking their mother up before 7am to go to VBS! They are now regulars at youth meetings in the church.



We were very well looked after by our hosts, who also made sure we had activities in the evenings and on the weekends, and arranged free bus passes while we were there so we could get around the town. The trip was an immense success, and I believe the goals were achieved on both sides. The youth from our area certainly pushed their boundaries and did things they never thought they would, and forged friendships with people in another country, learning life lessons in all they did. The Canadian team have managed to grow their youth programme, and have a steady group of people attending regularly. Within a few weeks of our team leaving, they had already started planning for VBS 2018! In a letter from Helen Booth, the warden and Canadian organiser, the Olney team were thanked for everything they had done, with their youngsters asking when we could return, or perhaps they could visit Olney in the future.

Thank you to everyone who supported this venture.

Haydn Langley, Churchwarden



Church Gallery:



Financial Review

Olney Church is funded through planned giving, plated collections, donations, grants, fundraising and legacies received.

As you will be aware the 2017 accounts have had to be recreated as, upon closer examination of previous years accounts, a number of errors became evident.

Total receipts were £176,747 (2016: £209,864) and are detailed in the financial statements (see notes 1). Income from the Church Hall was £9,618 (£2016:£9,322).

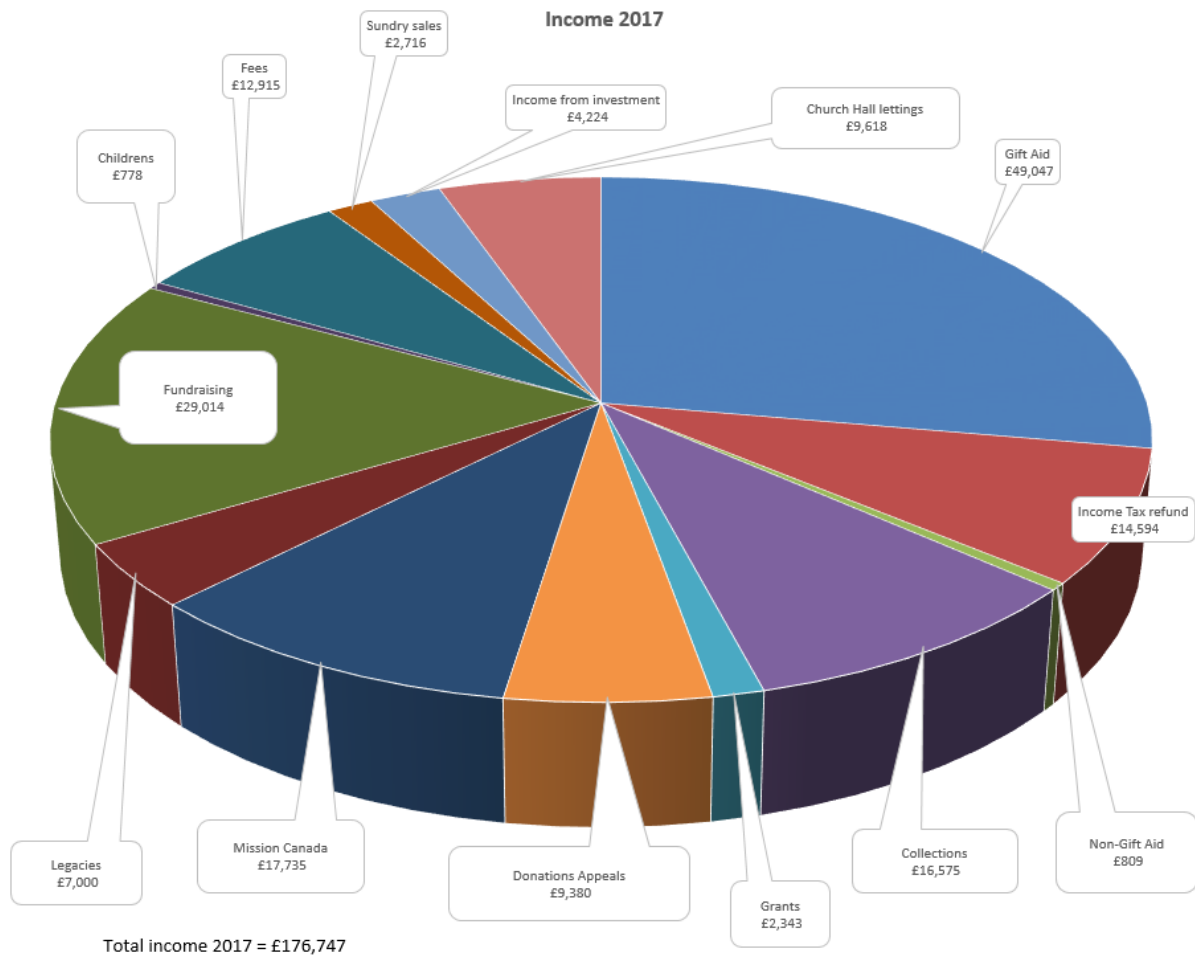
Expenditure is outlined in Note 2. The total expenses were £194,310 (2016: £185,714). It includes £163,020 (2016:£154,276) church running expenses, the largest single item being the parish share contribution to the Diocese of £59,337 (2016: £55,611). The parish share largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

The most significant correction in the 2017 accounts is the restating of designated funds to restricted funds totalling £46,892. We have also introduced a movement of funds table in note 7 which is required under Church of England and Charity Commission regulations. These tables will give greater transparency in the church finances. Having taken advice, the purchase of the new boiler will be written off completely in the 2018 accounts rather than depreciated over eight years. This is in accordance with accounting procedures. You will also note from the accounts that our designated and general funds are not wholly supported by cash in the bank but partially by £65,144 of "Tangible fixed assets". At a meeting of the PCC on the 25th September 2018 it was agreed that the Church Hall refurbishments represented in the accounts as a "Tangible fixed assets" will be written off completely in the 2018 accounts and adjustments made to the designated and general funds. This was agreed unanimously.

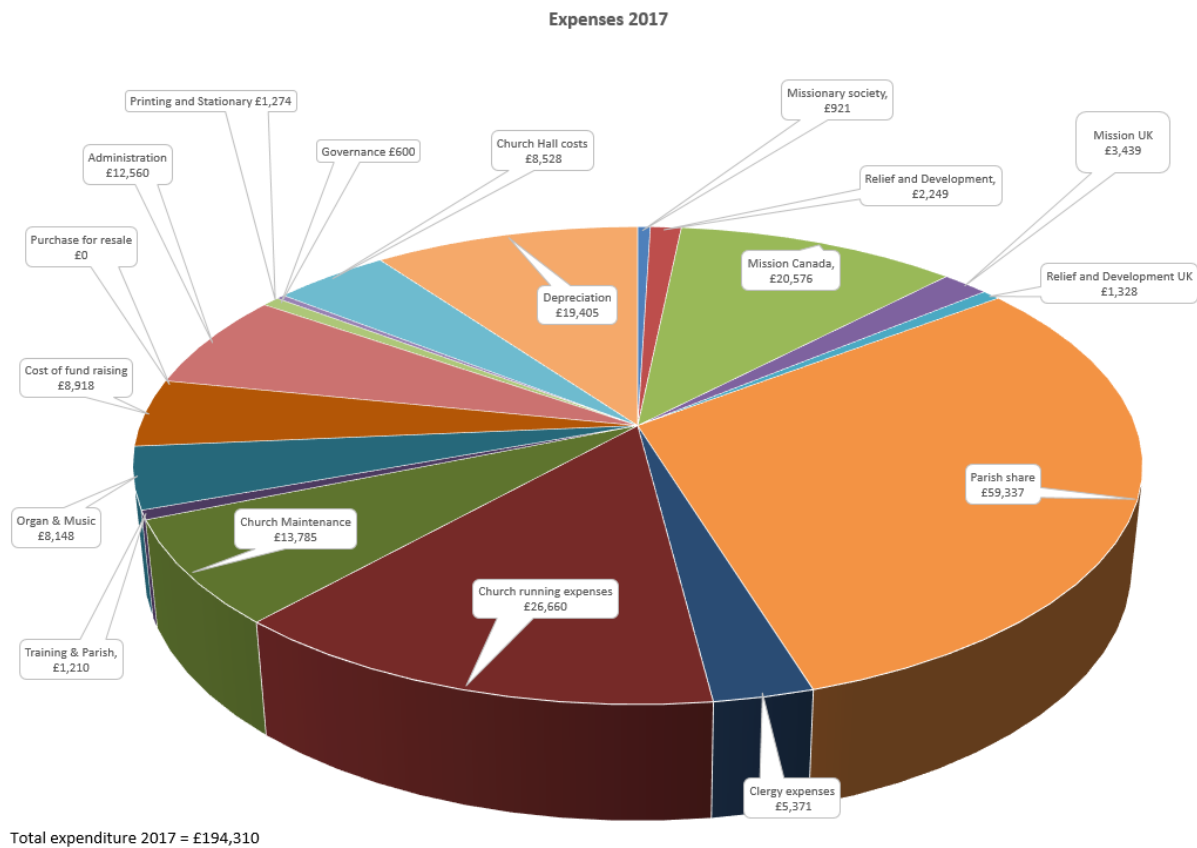
Church Hall running costs were £8,528 (2016: £20,825 which included maintenance). The space at the rear of the Church Hall has been turned into a Sensory Garden at a cost of £655.96.

The most effective way parishioners can contribute to the costs of the Church is through planned giving via the Stewardship Scheme administered by Ken Noon, which, for tax payers, allows us to recoup tax paid on any donations at a rate of 25%. Regular monthly or weekly donations make it easier to plan the cash flow of the Church and budget for any additional expenses.

The breakdown of Income for 2017 is illustrated in the chart below:



The following chart illustrates how our 2017 expenditure was incurred during the year:



As Treasurer I would like to extend my thanks to Ken Noon, Pat Pankhurst and Graham & Helen Dille who manage aspects of our financial processes on a daily basis and provide the valuable data which allows the Treasurer to effectively control the Church's finances and provide important management information to the PCC.

The preparation of these accounts has been a very time consuming effort correcting historic mistakes, however this has resulted in us having a much improved and transparent set of accounts.

Lisa Geary
Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 December 2017

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out on pages 13 to 24, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 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 financial statements to be reached.

Signed:

Dated: 9 October 2018

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

Statement of Financial Activities

Income and Expenditure

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2017						
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds 2017 £	2016 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming resources from donors	1(a)	81,023	0	0	81,023	80,968
Other voluntary incoming resources	1(b)	36,480	29,770	0	66,250	95,055
Income from charitable trading	1(c)	25,250	0	0	25,250	30,188
Income from investments	1(d)	0	0	4,224	4,224	3,654
Total incoming resources		142,753	29,770	4,224	176,747	209,864
RESOURCES USED						
Grants made	2(a)	7,937	0	0	7,937	6,507
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	2(b)	137,993	25,027	0	163,020	154,276
Fund raising and publicity	2(c)	5,726	3,192	0	8,918	18,335
Church management and administration	2(d)	13,834	0	0	13,834	5,961
Governance costs	2(e)	600	0	0	600	635
Total expenditure		166,090	28,220	0	194,310	185,714
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		-23,337	1,550	4,224	-17,563	24,150
Profit/(loss) on investments - unrealised		0	0	10,214	10,214	11,305
Net movement in funds		-23,337	1,550	14,438	-7,349	35,455
Transfer between funds		34,712	-15,712	-19,000	0	
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY		146,498	78,712	191,442	416,652	381,197
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER		157,873	64,550	186,880	409,303	416,652

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2017					
		2017		2016	
	Note	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible	4	65,144		84,549	
Investment assets	4	123,358		113,144	
			188,502		197,694
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		0		175	
Debtors	6	19,600		17,365	
Cash at bank and in hand	8	203,277		205,824	
Total current assets			222,877		223,364
LIABILITIES:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	2,076			4,406
NET CURRENT ASSETS			220,801		218,958
TOTAL NET ASSETS	5		409,303		416,652
PARISH FUNDS					
Unrestricted	5		157,874		146,498
Restricted	5		64,550		78,712
Endowment	5		186,880		191,442
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER			409,303		416,652

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

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

David Phillipson (Snr Warden)
Interim Chairman

Lisa Geary
Treasurer

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

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. Movable Church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's Inventory which can be inspected (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.

Reserves Policy

The PCC maintains several reserves. The unrestricted reserves are separated into designated and general funds. The various funds designated for use in a particular way are more fully explained in the Notes to the Accounts and the level of designated funds is reviewed annually. The PCC's policy is to carry a general reserve of at least 6-months' worth of expenditure or an amount in excess of £75,000 whichever is the greater. Over recent years the reserves have not been sufficient to meet this policy and the Trustees are looking at ways to build up the reserves.

Notes to the Accounts

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2017**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds	
				2017 £	2016 £
1 INCOMING RESOURCES					
1a) Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving:					
Gift Aid Standing Orders	49,047			49,047	49,102
Income tax refund on Gift Aid	14,594			14,594	16,887
Non Gift Aid	809			809	3,322
Collections at all services	16,575			16,575	11,657
	81,023	0	0	81,023	80,968
1b) Other voluntary incoming resources					
Grants received					
Petsoe Wind Farm Fund	0			0	5,000
Other Grants	2,343			2,343	1,000
Donations, appeals etc	9,380			9,380	20,040
Legacies	7,000			7,000	42,086
Fund raising events	16,979	12,035		29,014	26,353
Childrens Church	778			778	576
Mission Canada		17,735		17,735	
	36,480	29,770	0	66,250	95,055
1c) Income from charitable trading					
Parish Magazine					
Church Hall lettings	9,618			9,618	9,322
Fees	12,915			12,915	18,849
Sundry sales	2,716			2,716	2,017
	25,250	0	0	25,250	30,188
1d) Income from investments					
Dividends and interest	0	0	4,224	4,224	3,654
	0	0	4,224	4,224	3,654
Total incoming resources	142,753	29,770	4,224	176,747	209,864

Notes to the Accounts

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds	
				2017 £	2016 £
2 EXPENDITURE					
2(a) Grants made					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
<i>Church overseas:</i>					
- missionary societies	921			921	439
- relief and development	2,249			2,249	3,121
<i>UK:</i>					
- missionary societies	3,439			3,439	878
- relief and development	1,328			1,328	2,069
	7,937	0	0	7,937	6,507
2(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
Parish Share	59,337			59,337	55,611
Clergy expenses	5,371			5,371	4,569
Church running expenses	26,660			26,660	23,410
Church maintenance	9,333	4,452		13,785	8,997
Mission Canada		20,576		20,576	0
Training and parish work	1,210			1,210	4,834
Church Hall costs	8,528			8,528	20,825
Organist and music	8,148			8,148	8,929
Depreciation	19,405			19,405	27,101
	137,993	25,027	0	163,020	154,276
2(c) Fund raising and publicity					
Costs of fund raising events	5,726	3,192		8,918	18,288
Purchases for resale	0			0	47
	5,726	3,192	0	8,918	18,335
2(d) Church management and administration					
Administration	12,560			12,560	5,015
Printing and stationery	1,274			1,274	946
	13,834	0	0	13,834	5,961
2(e) Governance Costs					
Independent examination	600			600	635
	600	0	0	600	635
 Total expenditure	 166,090	 28,220	 0	 194,310	 185,714

Notes to the Accounts

	2017	2016
	£	£
3 EXPENDITURE		
Wages and Salaries	3,606	3,667

The people paid a wage by the PCC on a PAYE basis was a part-time administrator; this is in the note 2(d) Church Management and Administration.

	2017	2016
	£	£
4 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC		
Fixed Assets Gross Book Value		
Gross Book Value at 01 January	217,536	217,536
Additions during the year	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross Book Value at 31 December	217,536	217,536
Depreciation		
Accumulated depreciation at 01 January	132,987	105,886
Depreciation charge for the year	19,405	27,101
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated depreciation at 31 December	152,392	132,987
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value at 31 December	65,144	84,549

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

An adjustment to the depreciation charge has been made to account for an error in prior years.

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 North 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 feet 6 inches 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 Gauntlett who died on 21 February 1876. He is considered "the Father of Modern Church Music" and started his career as organist at St Peter and St 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 London 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 gift of Thomas Nicol Gent to the Church of Olney in Bucks. Nov 1 1726*"; and a chalice inscribed "*The Church of Olney 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*".

Churchyard Gate Pillars

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

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.

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Investments

Investments comprise of a CBF Investment fund. There are 7,524.40 shares in the CBF's Investment fund as at 31 December 2017 (2016: 7,524.40 shares).

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 £123,358.02 (2016 was £113,144.40).

	2017	2016
	£	£
CBF Investment fund	123,358	113,144
	123,358	113,144

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2017	2016
	funds	funds	funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed assets	65,144			65,144	84,549
Investments			123,358	123,358	113,144
Current assets	94,805	64,550	63,522	222,877	223,364
Liabilities – due within one year	-2,076			-2,076	-4,406
Fund balance	157,874	64,550	186,880	409,303	416,652

	2017	2016
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	17,418	16,865
Prepayments and accrued interest	500	500
Other	1,682	
	19,600	17,365

Amounts included in other debtors is expenditure paid by the church in relation to the church hall which is to be reclaimed in the following financial year, to the amount of £1,682, this resulted in the church hall making a deficit of £593 for the year.

7 SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

	Balance b/f at 1 Jan 2017	Incoming	Expenses	Investment gains	Transfers between funds	Balance c/f at 31 Dec 2017
Undesignated		£	£	£	£	£
General	98,026	126,065	153,987		2,344	67,760
	98,026	126,065	153,987		2,344	67,760
Designated		£	£	£	£	£
Mission	14,632					14,632
Fabric	7,041		1,663		38,000	43,378
Discretionary Fund	4,394	50	264		-944	3,236
Youth	570					570
Children	2,087	778	302			2,563
SoulTime	10,857	6,241	1,345			15,753
Church Hall	8,891	9,618	8,529			9,980
	48,472	16,688	12,103	0	37,056	90,113
Total unrestricted funds	146,498	142,753	166,090	0	34,712	157,873

Youth Fund

This represents funds to support youth work in the parish.

Discretionary Fund

This represents funds to alleviate hardship amongst the citizens of Olney.

Mission Opportunity Fund

This represents funds dedicated to promoting the growth of the church and is specifically not for general running costs.

SoulTime Fund

This represents funds towards our SoulTime work and proceeds from our SoulTime charitable trading.

Children's Fund

This represents funds to support our children's work, including Church Mice.

Church Hall Fund

This represents income from Church Hall lettings and other expenses and pays the operating expenses of the Church Hall.

Fabric Fund

This represents the purchase and acquisition of items to support the physical comfort and wellbeing of parishioners whilst worshipping within the building and the ongoing care, repairs and maintenance of the church buildings and contents.

Restricted funds

	Balance b/f at 1 Jan 2017	Incoming £	Expenses £	Investment gains £	Transfers between funds £	Balance c/f at 31 Dec 2017 £
Restricted						
Pancake Race	28,229	12,035	3,192		-19,000	18,071
Bells	3,591		4,452		2,344	1,483
John Kent Fund	42,086					42,086
Mission Canada	4,806	17,735	20,576		944	2,909
Endowment	191,442	4,224		10,214	-19,000	186,880
	<hr/> 270,154 <hr/>	<hr/> 33,993 <hr/>	<hr/> 28,220 <hr/>	<hr/> 10,214 <hr/>	<hr/> -34,712 <hr/>	<hr/> 251,430 <hr/>

The transfer from the Pancake and Endowment fund to the Fabric fund was to meet the cost of replacing the boilers.

The Pancake Committee Funds

This is a subcommittee of the PCC whose sole purpose is to organise the historic pancake race and associated community events, and in doing so, raise and disburse funds for the maintenance and fabric of the church. The PCC underwrite the insurance of the event. The fund does specifically not support the running costs and expenditure of the church.

Endowment Funds

This consists of a single permanent endowment, the capital of which cannot normally be distributed, with the income generated by the capital in the fund initially being used against the 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 held by the CBF Church of England deposit account at the year-end amounted to £63,521. The value of the capital stands at £123,358 (2016: £113,144).

The Endowment fund, the Mission Canada fund and John Kent Fund opening balances have been restated due to an error in the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016. The restatement only affects the classification of fund balances and not any income or expenditure.

The Mission Canada Fund was a 19 day mission trip that brought together members of the church, YAGs and Soultime Café in a trip to Canada.

The John Kent Fund was a legacy received in January 2016 with a restriction that it is used for the education of the children of Olney.

8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2017	2016
	£	£
Current Account	105,966	82,389
Bells Appeal Account	1,484	3,591
Pancake Committee Current Account	523	284
Pancake Committee Business Reserve Account	17,519	27,915
Pancake Committee Capital Reserve Account	31	31
CBF Church of England Deposit Accounts	63,521	78,298
Church Flowers Cash in Hand		173
Church Hall Account	14,233	13,143
	<hr/> 203,277 <hr/>	<hr/> 205,824 <hr/>

9 LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year

	2017	2016
	£	£
Creditors for goods and services	0	1,885
Fees due to Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance	0	51
Accruals	2,076	2,409
Other tax and social security	0	61
	<hr/> 2,076 <hr/>	<hr/> 4,406 <hr/>

Mission Canada

The draft accounts that were included in the Annual Report discussed at the APCM gave a totally misleading picture of the 'Mission Canada' finances. The figures in the accounts relate to 2017 and as such did not include monies received in 2016, i.e. the previous year and additionally the income figures for 2017 were incomplete. The correct figures for 'Mission Canada' related income are as follows:

£1,506.00	Personal Donations and £1,000 grant from the Diocese received 2016
£1,800.00	Payments received from participants
£1,500.00	Grant from Olney PCC as per minutes of the meeting 22 nd November 2016 - see below
£10,878.02	Payments received from participants
£6,857.08	Fund raising / Donations
£944.00	Transfer from Rectors Discretionary Fund
£23,485.10	Total Income
£20,575.96	Total Expenditure
£2,909.14	Surplus of Income over Expenditure

Extract from the minutes of the PCC Meeting held on the 22nd November 2016.

Under Item 8 'Mission':

Mission Trip to Canada – all are paying for their air fare themselves. They will be working in the community to run a summer camp with two churches for children and families in a deprived area of London Ontario. Request for £1,500 for accommodation and travel whilst over there. Sourced from Education fund.

Proposed by DP, MS seconded and all agreed (HL, CW abstained)

At the PCC meeting held on Tuesday 24th July 2018 the question of how to treat the surplus of £1899.29 was discussed. Since the first set of draft accounts was produced the Mission Canada Fund has been reclassified as 'Restricted'. As such the PCC will require the permission of the Charities Commission to transfer the surplus back into other non-restricted accounts.

At the PCC meeting held on the 25th September 2018 a detailed financial statement on Mission Canada was presented to the PCC by Tim Daily with a number of proposals.

The following proposals were then adopted in full by the PCC:

- A. We accept fully the explanation of the non-receipted expenditure of £2,196.16 from the Rev Claire Wood and Haydn Langley.
- B. We write to the Charity Commission requesting and or advising them re the following;
 1. The Mission Canada Fund has a surplus of £2,909.14. We request that we would like to transfer this amount to our General Fund as there are no future visits or future missions to Canada planned.

2. We formally advise the Commission that we have £2,196.16 of non-receipted expenditure which was effectively the participants own money. We advise them that the former Rector and former Senior Church Warden distributed this money to the participants however they did not retain any records of these payments. We are however satisfied that the payments were made to the participants as both the former Rector and previous Senior Church Warden have both confirmed that when the payments were made by the former Rector these were double checked and authorised by our previous Senior Church Warden. We ask the Charity Commission for permission to close the file.
3. We note in the 2017 accounts that we have approached the Charity Commission, in writing, to request we transfer the surplus Mission Canada to our designated Mission Fund and that we have £2,196.16 of non-receipted expenditure. The PCC are satisfied this money has been spent correctly and we have asked the Commission for their permission to close the file on this matter.

Lisa Geary the Treasurer, Tim Daily as a Trustee and member of the PCC and I have fully examined all of the financial and meeting records in connection with the 'Mission Canada' and can certify that the figures shown above are an accurate record of the account.

David Phillipson
Senior Warden and Interim Chair of the PCC
September 2018

Church and Parish Group Reports

Planned Giving Report 2017

Ken Noon - Planned Giving Officer

Summary of Giving

GIFT AID

Weekly Envelopes	(19)	4,763	
Direct to Bank		0	
Bankers Orders	(69)	<u>42,039</u>	46,802

OTHER GIVING

Weekly Envelopes	(1)	8	
Bankers Orders	(5)	1,360	
Direct from Salary	(1)	<u>150</u>	1,518
			48,320
TAX RECOVERABLE			<u>11,700</u>
			<u>60,020</u>

ADDITIONAL GIFT AID DONATIONS

Cash Collections (8,517)	8,000	(Allowable)
Visitor Envelopes (154)	3,106	
D.E.C Appeal (18)	350	
Mission Canada (27)	1,991	
Rector's Discretionary Fund (1)	50	
Christmas Cards (6)	<u>105</u>	13,602
TAX RECOVERABLE		<u>3,400</u>
		<u>17,002</u>

The Government "Gift Aid Scheme" enables us to reclaim tax of £15,100 for the year, an important element of our income.

Churchwardens' Report for 2017

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.

We have been challenged a little more this year because, although Claire Wood celebrated her 8th anniversary with us in January, it also marked the end of an era when she was chosen to become Archdeacon of Loughborough. She took up her new post on 8th October, shortly after her 3 month sabbatical. Under the stewardship of Claire our Church has seen significant growth. We are now in an interregnum and have endeavoured over the last 6 months to keep all aspects of the Church running as near normal as possible. We are actively seeking a new incumbent, who will not only have the joy of leading our Church and services, but will find a newly-refurbished rectory at their disposal.

Services

As Churchwardens we are required to ensure that each of our many services runs smoothly, and you will see us checking that all the roles on the day and the duties behind the scenes are fully covered or that we find replacements when necessary. Volunteers to do readings or intercessions, sides people to welcome the congregation, sound desk operators, chalice assistants and acolytes are always welcome. Please come forward and speak to us if you would like to help. As our Church continues to grow, we rely more heavily on these volunteers and we would like to thank them for being part of the heart of our Church. Wardens or Assistant Wardens now attend nearly all services and this has made a significant difference to the coherence of the support and background activities.

Friends

As a Church, we are aware that a more formal Friends of St Peter and St Paul Church would be a real bonus in the longer term to guide and oversee selected external and fundraising activities. We continue to keep this on our agenda.

Fabric

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 and to sensitively address and advance a range of fabric issues including:

Porch and north door: Ongoing, with permission being sought.

Sound attenuation floor above the bells: Almost complete; additional stonework repair of a window is needed.

Churchyard: Please see the separate fabric report. In addition: new floodlight installed; triangle of land cleared near shed; asbestos roof on the shed has been formally inspected and declared stable; for practical and safety reasons, diseased chestnut trees will be removed and replaced.

Quinquennial: Ongoing work continues (see fabric report).

Carpet: To be installed in 2018.

Spring clean: Save the dates: 1st and 2nd June 2018.

Heating boilers: Fully replaced and commissioned.

Organ: The organ suffered damage in 2015. At present it is faring well, but it will not heal itself, and at some point in the future there will be a cost to get it repaired.

General maintenance and remedial work for both Church and Church Hall: Majority of Health and Safety issues and repairs addressed including electrical fittings, lighting, plugs, locks, bolts, noticeboards, batten and flagpole installations, security camera repairs, shelf and equipment securing, installation of fire door, fire exit signage, smoke detectors and assembly areas. Annual servicing requirements, reviewing suitable contractors and the need to address on-going issues and general wear and tear continue.

Security and alarms: We continue to focus on these issues in line with the requirements of insurance agents, the need to adequately protect our assets and awareness of thefts locally and across the country and the Diocese.

Budgeted Maintenance Plan

Our church would not function if we did not have regular maintenance contracts in place. These cover everything from fire extinguisher testing to organ tuning. The discovery of the boiler faults this year highlights the importance of these diarised events and proves how vital they are to maintain. We continue to seek the most cost-effective deals for annual maintenance.

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.

2017 and Looking forward

Last year we reported that the Church Hall had been broken into and damaged. This year the Church has been subject to personal thefts and damage. We are always saddened that our open Church and friendly congregation, staff and volunteers are subjected to this mistreatment. We will be widening our burglar alarms and CCTV in the future to help secure our building more effectively, but our church will always be open to the public who, for the most part, are delighted to spend time in our lovely building.

Our Sensory Garden is now complete and Claire officially opened it on 23rd September. We are looking forward to making full use of it in 2018.

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 Churchwardens:

Haydn Langley, Susan Bailey, David Phillipson and Kevin Wiseman

Deanery Synod Report

Richard Colson

"Would you like to be on the Deanery Synod?" I was asked. "Err, Okay." I replied, not really knowing what it involved, where it met or who was on it. Like many of you reading this I had heard it referred to in the prayers in church but perhaps not been fully aware of how it relates to us here in Olney. I will do my best to explain.

The groups of churches across North Bucks belong to Newport Deanery and their respective PCCs appoint members to the Synod. We meet three times per year in different churches with a Lay Chair taking the meetings. There is always time to meet and chat to the others first over a drink. We then have a focus item, for example, the work of soup kitchens or how to raise funds with 100 Clubs. We then move onto talk about issues affecting the whole Deanery such as Parish Share, clergy vacancies and finally ending with prayer and the grace together.

For me, I find the meetings beneficial and it helps to remind me that we are part of a wider church and how we can support each other as we seek to support God's work here in North Bucks

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

Health and Safety

Rod Parker
Health and Safety Chairman

Health and Safety (H&S), by its very nature, includes identifying and completing a large number of small and often tedious jobs, which are far too many to be included here in this report, but are essential to make the Church and the Church Hall a safer place. Our thanks to all those who get on and do this so well.

There are of course the larger more complex tasks, often requiring professional involvement. This ties in very closely with the work of the Fabric Committee. Consequently, to ensure effective use of resources and linkage of jobs, the H&S Committee has merged in with the Fabric Committee, whilst retaining its own responsibilities for H&S issues.

As a result, following on from needs identified during 2016, much has been done in 2017 on H&S issues. For example:

Church

The plug sockets have been replaced in the Cowley Room, and the locks on the balcony door re-fitted from the left side to the right side making entry and exit safer and easier. On the agenda for 2018 will be the fitting of a stair door to make the room safer and more secure.

The huge amount of stored items kept for many years above the Vestry, presenting a major fire hazard, not least of which because of its proximity to the Organ, has been cleared and tidied. The fire signage in the Church itself has been improved and made more secure.

Church Hall

The smoke extractor fans, which were fitted too close to the smoke detectors in the toilets, have been repositioned. Similarly, the main Utility Control Unit has been relocated from the storage cupboard to the meeting room giving free access in the event of emergency.

The kitchen fire exit door has been rehung and modified enabling it to be pushed open from the inside in the event of an emergency, but still locked from the outside, retaining security. A Fire Assembly Point has been set up outside but there is still work required to complete it.

All of this is an ongoing job, and needs the involvement of all members of the congregation to bring H&S issues, however small they may seem, to our attention. Together with help from the congregation, we can then correct them.

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 year it was keeping the congregation warm that presented the biggest challenge. In August a routine inspection of the boilers stunned us all when it revealed serious corrosion of the boiler casings and the possibility of gas leakage. Subsequently the boilers were condemned. After taking advice, obtaining quotes and organising finance, we were able to get new boilers installed and commissioned by end of November.

Fabric Committee members David Phillipson and Brian Lintern were invaluable in this process, going above and beyond in their efforts to ensure we were cosy for Christmas. Thank you to them and the rest of the team from myself (Susan Bailey – Chair) to Rod Parker, Mike Hughes, Tony Evans, David Richbell and our new member Sally Gallimore. Each one provides invaluable expertise and vision, as well as practical help and advice.

This year we have started to address the urgent issues highlighted by the Quinquennial report of 2016, involving initial roof and stonework repairs. We have also begun to apply for grants for the financial support we need to continue our programme of repairs and to keep our Church and Church Hall in good order. We have also addressed the majority of Health and Safety issues in and around the Church and Church Hall (see separate report).

Our priorities for 2018 are to finally install the new north doors in the Church, which will be the half-glazed design as decided by a majority vote; to work with MKDC to repair the Churchyard walls, and to address other wall issues and some of the major stonework at both the Church and Church Hall. In addition a legacy is going to enable us to install a new carpet.

A number of other important items we are working on are an alarm system, security measures, security marking, and repair of the choir vestry door, which have been made more urgent by a series of thefts during the year. The paperwork and permissions often take longer than the work itself! Thank you for your patience in these matters and if you would like to give practical support, please join us for the annual spring clean on 1st and 2nd June 2018.

Services and Special Events

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, choir and bell ringers 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, we have had social events including the Harvest Hog and BBQs. Huge thanks to all who are involved and make our Church a vibrant community and share the blessings of Christ with all.

Choir

The choir has grown every year over the last five, and this year has been no exception. We now have four juniors, six sopranos, six altos, four tenors, and five basses, totalling 25 singers. Attendance at Choral Evensong remains high, as the choir are able to “stretch their wings” musically in this service. Choir attendance at morning services is variable, but is always higher on the fourth Sunday of the month when there is an Introit and Motet during the Communion, and lower on the third Sunday of the month when the Gloria etc. is said. The hymns and music for the whole year have again been planned and published in September; of course, some changes are inevitable, but this has helped us prepare for services more efficiently. The choir have sung at Leicester and Peterborough Cathedrals over the last year, and continue to widen their repertoire, most recently introducing a work by the late Sir Thomas Armstrong.

Organ and Piano

The organ remains in a reasonable state following its “cooking” just over two years ago. Where it was previously reliable, it certainly no longer is in cold weather, and we must continue to remember that damage was done, and that in time work will be required. Our piano tuner also notes that a small amount of remedial work is due on the piano.

Band

From Anne Ball: The band has shrunk slightly this past year; our regular members are three trumpet players, two violins, two cellos, a bass (brass) player, a guitarist, a keyboard and the piano. Both clarinets are at university now so intermittent in being available to play, and flute player is working most Sundays so hasn't been able to play very often. At Christmas we had our usual extras to play for the Crib services. With the lack of young people in church and also the smaller number playing instruments in school, we aren't getting any new players at the moment – there is also the problem of sport on Sunday morning that a couple of people who may have been interested in playing are already committed to something else.

Mix at Six

From Haydn Langley: Our worship band during the year consisted of Sophie Wood with assistance by Chris Hobson whenever possible. With the departure of Sophie, we have had to rely on recorded music played over the sound system. 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.

Pancake Day Report for 2017

Haydn Langley

Chairman Pancake Race Committee 2017

Once again this year the weather leading up to the Pancake Race was suspect, but Shrove Tuesday arrived on a clear morning that gave way to cloud. The rain didn't stay away, but thankfully held off until after the event.

Following on from the success of last year, the day started at 8am with breakfast in the Teflon® marquee cooked by celebrity chef Lesley Waters. Now a regular at the Olney Pancake Race, Lesley cooked a delicious breakfast for those lucky enough to get a ticket. The event was very well received,

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with people already asking about the next year! Following on from the breakfast, Lesley had a cooking demonstration/competition with the chefs John from the Bell and Bear in Emberton and Ollie from Wild Leaf Deli and Café in Olney. A good number of people enjoyed this event.

The VIP guests at the races were hosted by Francis Jackson Homes, and included our MP Mark Lancaster, the High Sheriff of Buckingham the Hon. Mrs C R Soames, the High Sheriff Elect of Buckingham Mr Peter Kara, Mayor of Milton Keynes Cllr Steve Coventry, Mayor of Newport Pagnell Cllr Eastman, Mayor of Olney Cllr Jeremy Rawlings, Ward Councillor Peter Geary, the guest speaker Bishop David Jennings, and our Rector Revd Claire Wood.

This year we were also happy to host two couples representing Liberal, Kansas. They were George and Connie Rosel, and Marc and Becky Shank, who made a trip to the race as part of their honeymoon. Both couples had a wonderful time and are hoping to return again soon.

The children's races started at 10am, with 150 in attendance from Olney Nursery, Olney Pre-School, Infant Academy, Middle School and Ousedale. Our VIP guests took turns starting the races which were enjoyed by the runners as well as the starters. Despite tears when the race didn't go according to plan for some of the youngsters, a few kind words restored confidence and fun was had by all.



The main race was started as usual at 11:55. This year, in addition to the usual runners, we had two groups doing a three-legged race and a lady in a wheelchair raising funds for MNDA (Motor Neurone Disease Association). Although a good and fast race ensued, with victory going to Kaisa Larkas, a technical glitch meant no time was recorded, a blow for Kaisa who would have liked to get her time for the course. It also meant we had to declare a no-result with Liberal in our annual competition for the fastest time. Despite this, a very big well done to all the ladies who took part.

After the race and the Teflon® prize giving, the runners went into the Church for the annual Shroving Service. The guest speaker this year was Bishop David Jennings, who reminded us that Jesus is not boring and forgiveness opens up a whole new world. His talk was very well received by a large congregation.

In the afternoon a pancake flipping competition took place at Olney Middle School. This event was in competition with a school from Liberal, Kansas. The whole school attended the event in the school hall, where once again this year rapturous shrieks, cheers and applause greeted the competitors as they did their best to win the coveted Golden Pan award. Olney was victorious over Liberal, and it

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was clearly evident that all at the Middle School had a fabulous time. This year CBBC's Newsround was in attendance to film the event and interview the Olney winner. 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.

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 2017 such a successful year, including those who bought raffle tickets but didn't win.

Dickens of a Christmas

Tim Haskell

Responsibility for organising the Church's element of this Olney-wide event was again taken on in 2017 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.

2017 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 good results once again. 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, Cherry Fair 2017 combined great weather with a huge amount of hard work to create an enjoyable, fun day for the people of Olney and the surrounding villages and a successful fund-raising result to support the church and the work that we do in the local community. The Cherry Fair Committee gratefully acknowledges the hard work and dedication of its small team of volunteers and is actively encouraging helpers from the wider Olney Community to make Cherry Fair 2018 an even greater success! 2017 saw a small drop in overall visitor numbers and a £316 reduction in net



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profit compared to 2016 (2017 net profit £4716.16 vs £5032.77 in 2016). An interesting shift in 2017 was that, due to the very warm weather, the refreshments tent and BBQ reported lower takings, while the Pimm's and cold drinks were significantly ahead of the previous year, so the weather can make a very real difference! The Cherry Fair Committee closely analyses all the numbers, which help us to learn lessons from previous years and apply those lessons to the next Cherry Fair to help build its success.

Looking forward, Cherry Fair 2018 will take place in the Glebe Field on Saturday 16th June and we are looking for additional 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.

Schools

Revd Janet Lawrence

We have not been able to sustain regular assemblies at the schools in Olney as many of the team moved on. 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.

Further, as part of the Scripture Union and Bridgebuilder Trust Lifepath, we supported the event at Elstow reflecting on the life of John Bunyan where Andrew Wood took the part of Bunyan. This is held in the alternate years to Lifepath Newton in Olney.

Baptisms

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

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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.

Weddings

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 and events.

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 the office.

Funerals

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

Rebecca Rushton

During 2017 the Pastorate groups have continued. These groups are founded in prayer and extend the love of Jesus in the pastoral care of our Church family.

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 and others social gatherings. If you would like to know more about the Pastorate groups then please contact Rebecca Rushton.

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

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the Rector's Discretionary Fund. In 2017 the five nominated charities were The Olney Newton Link, Church Mission Society, Leprosy Mission, Bridgebuilders Trust and Advantage Africa.

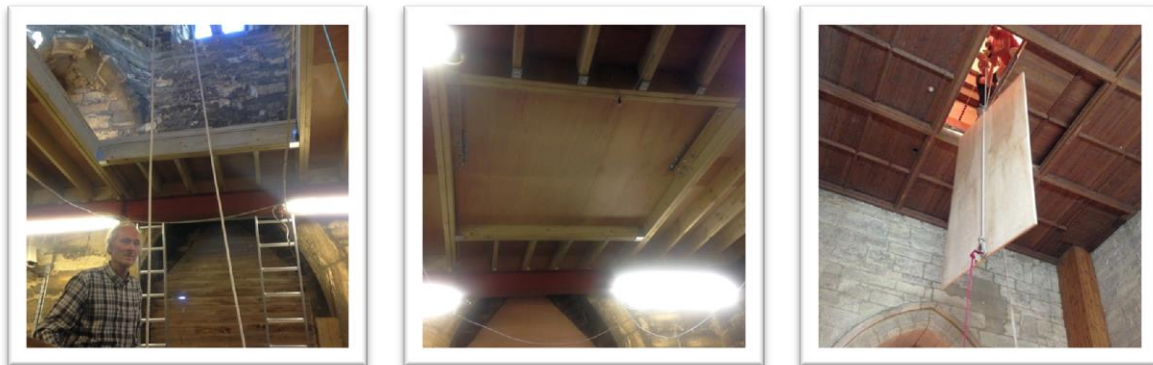
By using the PCC agreed funding formula the following distribution was achieved and approved by the PCC out of the available funds: Bridgebuilders Trust 30%, Advantage Africa 20%, Olney Newton Link 20%, Church Mission Society and Leprosy Mission 15% each.

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.

The Bell Ringers

Liz Sheaf

In April this year work commenced on the soundproofing floor. During this period we still rang for nine weddings. This proved challenging as the ringing chamber was full of tools and wood for the flooring, however ringing went ahead and there was no disruption to the services.



One of the weddings was for Simon Daley's son Alex and his wife Hannah. Simon has been ringing with us for many years and we were honoured to ring for him on this special occasion.

We were unable to accommodate visiting ringers this year and peals were kept to a minimum due to the work being undertaken. We were also unable to ring for the Cherry Fair or do any tower visits but we did ring for St George's day on 23rd April.

The work in the tower is now all but completed, ringing practice is back to normal and we continue to train our new ringers with additional practices during the week.

We are looking forward to 2018, and we have already received requests for visiting ringers and we have nine weddings scheduled so far.

Training Placements

Haydn Langley

At the start of 2017 we had two curates under training with Revd Claire Wood – Revd Tim Dawson and Revd Coralie Mansfield. In March Revd Tim Dawson left for All Saints', Kettering.

In October Revd Coralie Mansfield took up a local post in the SCAN parish. It was obvious to all that our curates grew in strength and confidence while they were at St Peter and St Paul, and will prove to be valuable assets to their new parishes. They will be missed by all at St Peter and St Paul.

Knitty Stitches

Gill Noon

Knitty Stitches are the St Peter and St Paul handicraft group, and we meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month between 1.00pm and 3.00pm in the Church.

We were created about twenty years ago and initially it was purely a social group. It became obvious that we could raise money by selling items and this has snowballed into us working towards stalls at *Dickens of a Christmas* and on *Pancake Day*, with all monies going to the Church.



Alongside the fundraising we always support one or two charities. We have made items for the Christmas Shoe Boxes, Blankets for SANDS, Twiddle Muffs for MK Hospital, Fish and Chip baby vests, premature baby clothes and blankets for Emily's Star, and our latest project – Trauma Teddies. Trauma Teddies are knitted teddies for children involved in a trauma, for example accidents, abuse, loss, tragedies of any kind. These teddies are carried on fire engines, ambulances, police vehicles etc. The hope is a frightened child will have a soft comforter to cuddle.

The most important thing is the fellowship created at our meetings; we enjoy and learn from one another. All are welcome to join us, even if you don't knit or sew you are welcome for a chat, cup of tea and quite a few laughs as we work. Please contact either Gill Noon on 01234 240187 or Annie Jeavons on 01234 711419.

Young Adults Group (YAGS)

Sarah Page

YAGS meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month during term time 7-9pm in the Church Hall. This group is for secondary school-aged young people. It is a chance for them to meet together to share stories and reflect on Christ and Christianity in the modern world. We discuss topics that are relevant to young people and often go off on a tangent as they ask questions, and sometimes this leads to a debate between themselves.

During the summer of 2017, several of the group took the opportunity to travel to Canada to become involved in a community project and run a children's holiday club in less privileged areas. This was an incredible experience for them and they have all returned with stories on how this trip

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has affected their lives. The group themselves have become closer since returning, sharing stories and praying for each other.



We have a great team that work together to lead YAGs, all of whom have a passion for sharing the love of Christ with young people. We would welcome new leaders to the team, so if you are interested please contact Rebecca Rushton or Will Trevitt.

Moment on Monday

Basil Margrave

Where and When: 3rd Monday of the month at 11am in the Church.

Several years ago Rena Partridge, in conjunction with Claire Wood, created Moment on Monday. Although many people regularly attended the various churches in Olney on a Sunday it was realised that there were many elderly people in the town who didn't go to church either because it was too far to walk, or bad weather might put them off or because they had mobility problems.

Rena came up with the idea of using a community bus, plus volunteers' cars, to get anyone to the Parish Church once a month for a special "Moment on Monday" service and social gathering. This service was open to anyone from any church of any denomination and it soon became a great success!

All the clergy from the Parish Church supported the venture and it has been run successfully for many years. However, sadly some of those original founding members have died, some have moved away and some have moved into "homes" which means that our numbers have fallen considerably. Over the last few years very few new members have joined us, probably because they may not even know that we exist!

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Will you please help by putting the word around? Will you please keep an eye open for anyone in Olney who might consider joining us? No membership fee! No contract to sign! A real opportunity exists to join a very friendly group.

For further details or to request a lift please contact Pat Pankhurst, our Church Administrator, on 01234 241721.

Church Mice

Laraine Coney

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

Each session is based on a story from the Bible, using the Christian cycle of Seasons and festivals. The children have the opportunity to do a craft which relates to the Bible story. Some of the mums that have a flair for craft have joined our craft rota.

Our time together also includes singing with actions, music-making, playtime, refreshments, sharing news, and quiet time with thanksgiving prayer.

During the year our activities have included shared, indoor picnics and a mini Pancake Race using the cardboard pans made by the children. We also celebrated, with cake, Revd Coralie Mansfield's new post with SCAN. We are delighted that Coralie and her grandson are still able to attend Church Mice.

Church Mice continues to grow; we usually have 50 parents and children at each session. We have received positive feedback, especially from those new to motherhood.

Susan Heron co-ordinates a small group of volunteers, and we usually have four from this group at each session. It is a privilege and a blessing to be part of Church Mice.

Vacuum Cleaning and Dusting

June Ward

We say it all the time, don't we? "Gosh, it can't be a year since we last did that!" But yes, submitting a report on *Vacuuming in Church* has come round again. Sitting in my usual pew in Church on Easter Sunday morning it looked as if David Phillipson was approaching me – *ooh, I thought, I wonder what he wants?* I was to learn that Haydn Langley had made a request for me to submit the annual report regarding the Church vacuum cleaning... I responded politely of course, whilst thinking, "wouldn't last year's suffice?" at the same time agreeing in the affirmative!

So, what's new? Same volunteers carrying out this duty and the same machine being used – which does not mean that extra willing hands would not be welcomed. You don't need to sign a contract or clock in and out and may even enjoy leading a cylinder vac around the aisles.

I'm quite glad that we aren't required to clock in and out on our duty days as I forgot all about attending on one occasion!

Frequently there are others in church, some similarly occupied to maybe share a coffee and a sneaky chocolate finger. Sometimes there may be visitors (maybe from far places) to pass the time of day or one could take advantage of where you are with a quiet little prayer.

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Although it seems no time at all since writing the 2017 report lots has happened in the past year, most notably and memorable the Missionary Mayhem – significant as I was one of the privileged making that trip to Canada.

Back last spring it became known to us that our Rector was to take a four month sabbatical. We knew that we were going to miss her but, harder to accept, following her appointment as Archdeacon of Loughborough was the knowledge that her new position meant a move to Leicestershire. Last October I was fortunate to be able to attend the service of welcome at Leicester cathedral. Her legacy of the SoulTime projects remains with us.

So, we're now turning the page and await our new (to us) Rector.

Those of us on the various cleaning rotas will no doubt continue to sweep/dust/vac/mop to maintain our good reputation. Watch out for spiders! The last one I saw was in the utility cupboard...

Tea/Refreshments

Liz Sheaf

Tea and coffee continues to be provided after Sunday services and is proving popular with proceeds going to the Church.

Refreshments were also supplied for the Archdeacon's Visitation service (swearing-in of the wardens) in May, and many thanks to all the helpers who made the evening a success.

Grace Home Group

Janet Lawrence

The Home Group which meets on Mondays was called Happy Fishers but after 20 years we are having a change! It is now called *Grace Home Group*.

We meet almost every week at 7.30pm in a welcoming home, and enjoy several things together. One is just meeting up, sharing news – and praying for each other – and those we love.

We also do some Bible study. This can sound a bit studious, but though we are serious in our desire to learn more from the Word of God, we enjoy what we do and share many laughs. We each have something to contribute to the discussion, and try to look at what God wants for us today, through his Word. We usually follow some published notes which lead us in our study – but we don't always agree with what they say, or with each other!

Recently we have looked at the gospel of Mark, which took us most of last year. Then we considered the Names of God in the Bible – which was very illuminating. In the summer we finished looking at the book of Revelation; very challenging, but well worthwhile. This autumn we are beginning to look at the gospel of St Luke.

We welcome anyone who would like to come along.

Listening Ear

Revd 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

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with the prayer chain and other elements of our Church life which offer a safe place and confidentiality. It perhaps needs to be more widely known and those who would value the opportunity be encouraged to use it, either to discuss a personal matter or simply to ask for prayer – for a particular need or maybe just in celebration and a chance to give thanks.

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. I encourage members of the congregation to publicise this service. 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.

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 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.



Christian Aid

Sally and Malcolm Jones

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

2017 was the 60th anniversary of Christian Aid Week and the focus last year was on refugees - Christian Aid was originally set up to help refugees in Europe after the Second World War. In 2017, 18 collectors raised £2,114.01 from the house-to-house envelopes and their continuing efforts and

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witness are greatly appreciated – knocking on doors can take a lot of courage but the rewards do make it worthwhile. Together with £121.35 from a Christian Aid Week coffee morning held by Lorraine Coney, this meant a grand total of £2,235.36 was remitted to Christian Aid from Olney as a result of the week's activities.

Christian Aid is also supported by the Church Tithing and an additional cheque for £613.78 was received from the Church and forwarded to Christian Aid in Oxford. This coming year's Christian Aid Week runs from 13th to 19th May and we are planning to kick-start our fundraising with a cream tea in the Church Hall on Saturday 12th May. Not all of Olney was included in our house-to-house collection in 2017, so more collectors are always needed. If you could spare some time to cover even a few houses in 2018, please contact Sally or Malcolm Jones.

Preaching Group

Haydn Langley

The Authorised Preachers continue to contribute towards the ministry of the Church, most notably at the Mix at Six services.

Following the departure of Revd Claire Wood to take up her role as the Archdeacon of Loughborough, as well as Revd Coralie Mansfield taking up her role in SCAN parish, there was an obvious hole in the preaching rota in the Church. A number of the Authorised Preachers have stepped up to the mark and increased their contribution to preaching at the Sunday 10am services, as well as some of the festival services.

The Preaching Group (as the Authorised Preachers call themselves) are a valuable addition to the Ministry Team, and are gratefully acknowledged for their support.

Children's Society

Nicole Colson

The Christingle service for 2017 took place on the first Sunday of Advent, the 26th November. 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.

A workshop held on the Saturday before the service was well supported, and I am incredibly grateful to all those who took the time to help prepare the oranges!

The actual service was down in numbers compared to 2016. Despite this, a fantastic total of £153.70 was raised. I also wish to give a huge thank you to all box holders for the charity. The money raised from boxes, for 2017, was £257. If anyone feels they could put aside a little spare change through the year, and would like to support the Children's Society, boxes are always available from me. No matter how small the amount saved, together it all adds up!

Options for 2018's Christingle service include moving the date, and time, to coincide with a Family service.

SoulTime Programme – Community Mission

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.

SoulTime Café

Revd Thelma Shacklady

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

The SoulTime café, originally planned as a safe place for young people to meet, is now used by all ages, proving to be a popular meeting place for people in our town. It offers a great opportunity for secondary school students, with over 30 young people on the team rotas – and a waiting list of young hopefuls. The training our young volunteers receive includes preparation of the food and drink on the café menu, understanding of food hygiene, dealing with the public, operating the till and teamwork. This experience is of great benefit when the students apply for part time jobs. In addition, a growing number of young people use this experience as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme.

Our young people do, of course, work under adult supervision and we really need to expand the small team of helpers who work alongside them. If you feel that you can offer to assist in this invaluable work, please contact Revd Thelma Shacklady for further information.



SoulTime Memory Club

Tory Kermeen

Where and When: 1st Friday of the month, 1.30pm-3.00pm in the Church Hall.

Memory club meets once a month on the first Friday of the month in the Church Hall. The club is open to anyone that would benefit from help with mild to more significant memory loss.

The session lasts for 1½ hours from 1.30-3pm. We initially have tea, coffee and biscuits and a catch-up. We will then do an activity or activities based around a theme that will help with discussing past events, interests, time in history, or significant events. For example, in January our theme was

hobbies and we did a number of activities encouraging people to describe a hobby that was on a piece of card in front of them, without saying the name of the hobby. We then encouraged people to mime a hobby they liked doing that we could then guess. This allowed for people to share hobbies they are involved with now and in the past.

We will generally end the session with a physical activity that everyone can participate in, that encourages movement and co-ordination, as well as being fun. For example, trying to keep a balloon up in the air, or blowing a feather around the circle.

Since June/July time our numbers at Memory Club have dwindled somewhat, from 19-24 (including helpers) to 10-15 (again including helpers). We are therefore trying to think of other ways to encourage participation, such as working with *Olney is Kind* to get lifts to and from the session. As with any club of this nature we will need to keep encouraging new membership.

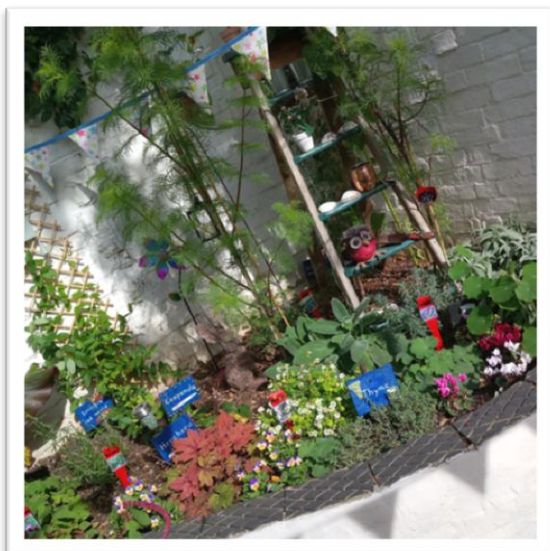
There is also an awareness that, since the club was first formed, a number of the leadership group did not receive any training in this area, and do not have expertise in working with people with memory loss or difficulties. A course run by the Alzheimer's Association has been researched and may be very useful, as it could train a number of people on one day. It would therefore be useful to ascertain whether funding may be accessed in order to facilitate this training.

We always welcome new members to the group and anyone is encouraged to come and try it out for a session and see what they think.

SoulTime Sensory Garden

Ruth Ayling

Finally in Sept 2017 the Sensory Garden, at the back of the Church Hall, was opened by Revd Claire Wood. It is a garden to be enjoyed by all ages and one that will continue to develop and grow over the coming years. Raised beds, ornaments, wind chimes and scented flowers are all part of the sensory garden. We are just waiting for a tree to be pruned which at the moment continuously sheds leaves and berries over the entire garden. Please feel free to visit and enjoy the garden whenever the Church Hall is open. A big thanks to Jo Lais, Ann Murtagh, Joe Ayling and Stuart Ayling for all their hard work in helping this project reach its current state and for their continuing help to ensure it is a delight for years to come.



SoulTime Breakfast

Chris and David Richbell

Where and When: 1st Saturday of the month, 8.00am-10.00am in the Church Hall.

Three pairs of volunteers run the SoulTime Breakfast on the first Saturday of the month, cooking for up to thirty, or even more, people. The rock, who does the ordering, serving and clearing, is Thelma Shacklady, who also ensures that hygiene and health and safety rules are not broken.

The breakfast is open to anybody and is free (although most diners make a donation). It is an opportunity for church members and people who have little or no adherence to the church, to meet in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. There is nothing more human, and historic, than the sharing of food together although the bread is sliced, not broken, and there is no wine!

SoulTime Soup Lunch

Laraine Coney

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

The soup lunch is available for the children and their parents/carers attending Church Mice. The lunch is served immediately following every Church Mice session.

The homemade, wholesome, delicious, vegetarian soup is prepared and served by our volunteer cook, Gill Burfitt. The lunch is much appreciated by all, and we receive a lot of positive comments. We have 30-35 being fed on a regular basis. Mums and volunteers help with clearing away after lunch sessions. Costs for soup are covered by donations on a voluntary basis.

SoulTime Christmas Lunches

Pat Pankhurst

Five years on and our little appeal grows and grows. Each year I am humbled by how generous people can be. The day was about sharing my blessings and for making a small difference – even if it's just for one day.

This year we were lucky to work with '*Olney is Kind*' and other organisations and individuals to bring another successful event to those that need support at Christmas – and word about our lunch has definitely spread – so the first *thank you* has to go to all those that have shared news of our day with others.

Christmas Eve in the Church Hall saw food parcels being put together, presents wrapped for the Santa sacks, vegetables being prepared for the Christmas Day lunch as well as decorating the hall and setting up the tables. Christmas Day saw 38 sit down for lunch - our biggest number yet. We were also able to have guests from further afield with the kind use of the Brock's mini bus (and Nick) to collect people around Milton Keynes and bring them to the Church Hall. Volunteers also went out into our community to bring those unable to walk far by car to the hall. We delivered six Christmas lunches to the housebound and took them a little gift and hope that we brought a little sunshine to their lives on this day.

We are grateful to many people for their generosity this year, to those who donated money through our BT MyDonate page across the country, to those that handed us cheques and cash directly. To

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Holywell School that held a cake sale which enabled us to buy some larger gifts for the Santa Sacks. To our wonderful volunteers on Christmas Eve and especially on Christmas Day. They served, washed up, talked to people and filled the room with kindness and chatter. I was so proud of everyone that gave their time – it truly was a community team effort bringing so many people young and old together.

We are grateful for food donations and gifts, especially to the local Pilates Class who did a boot camp event and people donated food bank items, to 'a Fitter Life' who have supported us for a number of years and collect tins and packets over a couple of weeks. To James and Emma at Pastures Farm for their kind donation of the turkey crowns and continued support, to Teapots for their Christmas Cakes (they went down a treat after lunch). Harvest in Fountains Court supplied the vegetables and Olney Butchers the sausages, bacon and pork. We have now been able to add to our Emergency Fund to support anyone in need throughout the year by receiving this week a donation from The Newport Pagnell and Olney Lions Club.

There are many more who have been with us for the last five years on this journey, bringing those in need or alone in Olney together, and have supported us, and long may it continue.

If 2018 becomes a tough year or you find yourself without somewhere to go next Christmas there is always a place at our table.

Safeguarding

Richard Colson

Through 2017 the work of Safeguarding went along largely unnoticed and behind the scenes, where it should be for most people. We, as a Church, and in particular the PCC, have a legal and moral obligation to ensure that those we entrust to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults within our Church setting are suitable and verified. As well as completing an application process and seeking references, a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check is required for each individual. 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, the forms are sent off for the checks to be completed and upon approval, a certificate is issued to the applicants. Towards the end of 2017 the decision was taken to move to an online system to submit these checks. It is hoped that this transfer will go smoothly.

As I reported in 2016, Safeguarding is more than just DBS checks. It 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 2017 I linked in with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, John Nixson, 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.

Finally, please remember that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and if anyone has any concerns or questions, please contact me and I will do my best to help.



APPENDIX

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parishioners

On Sunday 23 April 2017 in Church at 10.45am.

1. **Opening Prayers** led by Revd Claire Wood.
2. **Welcome.** Revd Claire Wood welcomed everyone to the Parishioners meeting.
3. **Attendance and Apologies for Absence.** There were 66 roll members of the parish present. Apologies were received from Richard, Nicole, Alex, Daniel and Corrie Colson, Rod and Gill Parker, Laraine and Keith Coney, Sarah Page, Brian and Rachel Lintern, and Andrew, Susan and Bethany Heron.
4. **Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 24 April 2016.** Minutes having been circulated before the meeting were proposed by Andrew Wood and seconded by Haydn Langley. The minutes were approved and signed.
5. **Election of Churchwardens.** Nominations for the following people were carried: Haydn Langley – Senior Warden, with Deputies Susan Bailey, David Phillipson and Kevin Wiseman. Assistant Churchwardens Malcolm Jones and Roger Hull will remain in post.
Tim Haskell was thanked for his role as Senior Warden, and he agreed to become an Assistant Warden for the coming year.
6. **Appointment of Tellers.** Haydn Langley, Susan Bailey and David Phillipson were appointed unanimously.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2017

1. **To approve the Minutes of the APCM Meeting held on 23 April 2016.** 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 232 members on roll. A copy of the roll is kept in the church office.
4. **Annual Report, Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements of The Parochial Church Council.** The Treasurer, Malcolm Jones, reported that the accounts had been certified by an Independent Examiner. Stewardship brings in £80,000 per year. Running costs for the church amount to £105,000. We as a church need to increase our income by £20,000. We do get £16,500 each year for Gift Aid but we need to look at the money that is given to the Church. There is a gap between operation costs and pledged giving of £20K, therefore in 2017/18 we will seek to raise awareness and giving.

Claire Wood thanked Malcolm Jones for his work as Treasurer. Malcolm has now stepped down due to his continuous travelling, and will become Assistant Treasurer with Tim Pemberton becoming Treasurer.

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

Nothing to add to the report, other than the fact that the Wardens have been busy!
Deanery Synod

As per the report.
Church and Parish Groups

Claire Wood 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.**
Thomas Kingsley Jones stood down as he explored further his vocation.

End of term of office for Coral Bex and Liz Sheaf.

The following nominations had been received for new members of the PCC:
 - a. Sarah Page, proposed by Rebecca Rushton and seconded by Haydn Langley.
 - b. Sally Gallimore, proposed by Sarah Daley and seconded by Judy Gay.
 - c. Laraine Coney, proposed by Ruth Plackett and seconded by Edwin Horlock.
 - d. Teresa Riley, proposed by Gill Burfitt and seconded by June Warde.
 - e. Stuart Ayling, proposed by Ann Murtagh and seconded by Jo Lais.
 - f. Lindsay Pemberton proposed by Victoria Kermeen and seconded by Rebecca Rushton.These were agreed by all.
7. **Deanery Synod representatives.** Mark Saunders would be stepping down after 7 years. Malcolm Jones and David Phillipson will continue, and two further people are now needed.
8. **Election of Sidespeople.** A list of those persons prepared to serve was read out by Claire Wood who then proposed their election. Seconded and carried unanimously.

9. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.** Malcolm Jones proposed that Jonathan Vowles be asked to continue. Seconded and carried unanimously.
10. **Rector's Report.** Claire presented her Rector's Report 'Past, Present and Future'. The community has changed and the Church Hall and the SoulTime Programme have now become the heart of the community. The Way Ahead – how do we as a Church sustain and grow in faith? There are difficult times ahead and the Church needs to recruit new people, to develop and sustain its vision.

Claire thanked those that cleaned the Church; it sparkles! Claire expressed thanks to the choir and to all of our volunteers who give up their time to ensure the smooth running of the church.

Background – the SoulTime programme and the Church Hall are based on a legacy but further funding raised £67,000 in grant applications which enabled the refurbishment and alterations to be made. The Church Hall is self-financing.

This week has seen a further £3,827 being received through the Co-op CAF giving by way of their customers' dividends. This money will help to support all the SoulTime projects from the Memory Club, SoulTime Café, and Christmas lunch appeal.

It is hoped to recruit someone for the SoulTime café as this has grown over the years. A musician leader is to be sought for Mix at Six.

Matched Funding has meant the Church being smarter with its money.

The Sensory Garden will be finished for the summer, and monies are already in place to cover this, led by Ruth Ayling.

Claire went on to explain the Income and Expenditures across the Church and Church Hall. Olney has an amazing Church and a capacity to grow and she thanked everyone for their support in making it so.

11. **Any Other Business and Date of the next APCM**

Basil Margrave stated that after reading the Church Office report he did not realise that so much work went on in it.

Basil also stated that he had changed seats this week and he could hear a lot better as the speaker was nearer but had sat in the Churchwardens' seat. He asked that perhaps a further set of speakers could be placed in the middle columns which could benefit those who were hard of hearing.

Basil asked Claire to explain 'Mission Canada'. Why go to Canada when there is Africa needing mission etc. Claire responded.

Small gifts given to Pat Pankhurst, Rebecca Rushton, Janet Lawrence, Coralie Mansfield and Claire Wood. Tim Haskell was presented with a 'thank you' gift for his time as a Church Warden. Andrew Wood was also thanked for supporting the Church and Claire in her work in Olney.

Claire presented Thelma Shacklady with a small gift to celebrate her 25th year in ministry.

The date of the next meeting will be 22 April 2018.

12. **Closing Prayers** were led by Revd Claire Wood.

