Annual Review 2017

A look back at the last year of Christ Church Winchester
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Welcome to our Annual Review Document for 2016/7. As I read through the stories of what goes on at Christ Church I am deeply moved and excited by the energy and commitment of so many people who volunteer their time and effort to help others have an opportunity to encounter and grow in the life of Jesus. As an example of the extent of this, we DBS check at least two hundred people who contribute to our work of discipleship and pastoral care to people of all ages in and around our church family. (A huge thank you to Lin Brewer who has volunteered hours of time to process those checks for us.)

This year it has been a massive and significant journey to transition our small groups in order that they become a much more transformational tool in our growth in discipleship. There have been some very moving stories of the depth of that journey as people have told each other something of their life story in their “Letters to God”; and come back each week to share testimony of what God has been doing through practising the various exercises and challenges we set ourselves each week, in our groups.

Please do read this document and, each time you get to the end of a report, offer up a prayer for that ministry – because we know we are constantly in need of Divine grace to sustain this work, so that “we do not lose heart” as the Apostle Paul tells us.

This year we have been constantly reminded of the challenge that if we are to sustain this personal walk of discipleship, if we are to reach the end of the race, if we are to do anything effective as a church, then it is paramount that we “Go Deeper”. A couple of months ago in, the newssheet, Angie reminded us of a quote from one of the twentieth centuries profound spiritual thinkers, Richard Foster, about what was really necessary:

"Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant sanctification is a primarily spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people."

The question is, of course, how do you measure depth? It’s easy to measure by numbers attending, or technical advances, or buildings, or popularity ratings, (although these seem to matter little in Kingdom terms), it’s much more difficult to measure depth. How do we know when we are getting there?

As Jesus set out his own “manifesto” in the Sermon on the Mount he pointed out that “You will know them by their fruits...” The evidence of a deeper and more meaningful life or church is the fruitfulness of that life or church. And Jesus is implying that the kind of fruit that he is looking for is set out in the Sermon itself. This is the kind of life that reflects depth. Paul adds his own take on this in Galatians 5:22 when he highlights: “love, joy, peace,
"patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" as the kind of fruit to expect from a deeper person. In short, a deeper person reflects the character of Christ - reflects godliness – and that is what Jesus wants us to show our neighbour (Matthew 5:16). This is what can be called our “Authentic Spirituality”. As the Matt Redman song goes “May my deeds outrun my words and my life outweigh my songs.”

As well as authentic spirituality, our depth will also manifest itself in a *more meaningful* sense of community as a church – being like a true family. The weekend away gave us such a wonderful insight into that possibility, and if we continue to be real, and caring, with each other in our small groups, we will see this continue to grow. This is deeply attractive to a world that seems to be disintegrating in relationships at every level. It will manifest itself in expressions of generous hospitality, in our homes towards each other, and reaching out in compassion to those in need.

And finally, our depth will be evidenced in our ability to *articulate the big story*, the story of God's engagement with our world at every level, and with us as the people of God. We have often thought of this articulation simply in terms of “how I can become a Christian?” But the story will broaden if we are deep people. We will be able to articulate how God views His Creation and how we should live in it, and how God views poverty, inequality and injustice. This is how the deep prophets articulated things. We will also be able to articulate God’s desire for us to work for the common Good; how we relate to each other across borders and boundaries, and how above all things love prevails. Our depth will be evidenced in a broader theological understanding of all things because all things come under the reign of God (Colossians 1:17).

As we look back on the last year, we can only hold our journey up before the light of Christ, and allow his call for depth to both encourage and challenge us. It has been very exciting to share with you over this last year and I look forward to the years ahead. Thank you for your willingness to trust and to share in this adventure with me.

I want to add a special thank you to James Kendall and Charlotte Slinger, for their deep wisdom over this last year as churchwardens, and to Angie Smith as curate, for her energy and encouragement; to all the staff team, who have been brilliant, and to all the PCC who have shared, so helpfully, in leadership. They have been a great support and the collective wisdom has been such a blessing for our direction and vision.

*David B Rowe (Vicar)*
Churchwardens Report

What a joy to reflect on our first full year with David & Pixie - God is at work here in Winchester, in Christ Church and in each of our lives. At the last annual review we sensed that God had been preparing us for a new season, we all stood together in support of David's vision from God to 'Go Deeper'. Since then we have been intentional as a church in spending time getting to know God and each other in a more authentic way. Our church weekend away at Beaumont Estate was a significant time of deepening and the home groups are already being blessed through using the 'Lyfe' materials.

Behind the scenes the PCC have been working hard, meeting to discuss and make decisions about the 'business of the church', updating policies, procedures, building relationships across our cluster, the deanery and the diocese as well as praying for the life of our church. We have been blessed and impressed by the work of the new sub-groups and working groups, who are meeting, reflecting and making recommendations about our church life in the following areas: God-ward, us-ward, out-ward, support functions, environmental and buildings. Some practical results of these groups have been the creation of 'Connection Point', the beginnings of engaging with 'Eco church' and plans to refurbish the Simeon Room as a pre-runner to a larger building project. It has been wonderful to have such a range of gifted and passionate people take an active role in leading and developing church life. Our thanks to you all.

We have seen considerable change in the staff team this year, as people have moved on to different roles and ministries that God has called them to. It was particularly moving to say goodbye to Tim, Jo, Joshua and Hannah Gleghorn but a real joy to see Tim licensed to St Swithin's Walcot in Bath this January. This new season has presented an opportunity to re-think the staff structure to better align with the vision as well as to recruit some fantastic and gifted new members of staff. There will be five 'directors' leading key areas: Teaching & Discipleship, Fellowship & Pastoral Care, Evangelism, Youth & Children and Operations. We continue to pray that the right people are recruited to new roles and that the team are blessed in all they do. We as a church also pray that in the coming year we can each grow our gifts and be enabled to serve the church effectively.

Thank you for the positive response to the renewal of giving in January. We have been encouraged by the initial increase in regular giving as we work towards our recurrent income matching our budgeted costs, leaving one-off gift days for specific projects or charitable causes.

We remain very grateful for your prayerful support and are both happy to stand again to serve as Churchwardens for the following year, looking forward to what God has in store.

Much love in Christ,

Charlotte Slinger & James Kendall
Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting on Sunday 24th April 2016 at 5.15 pm

1. Introduction
David Rowe opened the meeting in prayer, welcomed all present and introduced Malcolm Lemon who as PCC Secretary would be chairing the AVM and APCM. Malcolm advised that all persons resident in the parish as well as those on the electoral roll are entitled to vote at the Vestry Meeting. Only those on the electoral roll are entitled to vote at the APCM. He asked that any formal apologies be sent to him or Omi, the Vicar’s PA.

Apologies for Absence: Alex and June Fyfe, Neil Ellis, Moira Knapman.

2. Election of new Churchwardens
Two nominations had been received being James Kendall and Charlotte Slinger, and both were therefore duly elected.

James and Charlotte addressed the meeting to acknowledge the responsibilities they had taken on and the trust placed in them. Charlotte thanked Mark Loman as retiring Church Warden for his service over the past 4 years, which had included 18 months of interregnum. A small presentation was made to Mark. Mark then prayed for the two wardens appointed for the coming year.

This concluded the Vestry meeting.

Minutes of the APCM on Sunday 24th April 2016

1. Minutes of APCM on 26th April 2015
The minutes were approved by the PCC on 11th May 2015.

2. Reports
A comprehensive Annual Review document had been circulated to the church covering all areas of activity over the previous year.

Malcolm explained that due to a change in requirements our accounts for 2015 had not been audited but had been subjected to an Independent Examination by Messrs Knight Goodhead. Copies of the full accounts had been made available and the Annual Review also contained an “Executive Summary” of the financial situation. David Boul the Treasurer was asked to stand. Malcolm asked that any questions of detail should be directed to the Treasurer outside the meeting. An opportunity to ask questions of a general or strategic nature was given. As there were no questions the accounts were accepted unanimously by the
meeting and Knight Goodhead were appointed as Independent Examiners for 2016.

3. Proposal to change elected term of PCC Members.
Malcolm advised that at the APCM in 2014 the church had voted to change from electing PCC members for a term of 3 years on a staggered one third rotational cycle, to a system of electing all PCC members for 12 months. These revised arrangements came into effect in 2015. The PCC had reviewed the relative advantages and disadvantages of this arrangement and decided to recommend to the APCM that we return to a system whereby PCC members are elected for a term of 3 years on a staggered one third rotational cycle. Church rules require that 12 months’ notice is required for such a change. A proposal was therefore put to the meeting that with effect from the APCM in 2017 Christ Church will elect PCC members for a term of 3 years on a staggered one third rotational cycle. Proposed Charlotte Slinger. Seconded Malcolm Lemon. Following a question of clarification from Nigel Smith, Malcolm explained that the three year term was the usual situation in most parishes. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

4. Election of PCC and Deanery Synod Members
The meeting was advised that there were fifteen nominations for PCC Members and therefore because there are fifteen available places, no voting will be required and all the candidates have been appointed to serve on PCC for the coming year.

The meeting was also advised that there were five positions available to represent Christ Church on Deanery Synod for the final period of one year in the three year term of Synod. Four people have been nominated and therefore all four have been appointed. Those appointed to serve in the coming year are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCC</th>
<th>PCC</th>
<th>Deanery Synod</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Boul (Treasurer)</td>
<td>Mike Reynolds</td>
<td>Mike Carson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Camfield</td>
<td>Naomi Rial</td>
<td>Anna Dakin *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titus Camfield</td>
<td>Sara Jane Roope</td>
<td>Heather Evans *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrienne Caplin</td>
<td>Miriam Sawyer</td>
<td>Jon Faulkner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Cole</td>
<td>Rosalind Simpson</td>
<td>Dave Fenton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marianne Foster</td>
<td>David Stass</td>
<td>Malcolm Lemon *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tricia Meads</td>
<td></td>
<td>Geoff Meads</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Peck</td>
<td></td>
<td>Simon Russell *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Piotrowsky</td>
<td></td>
<td>Charlotte Slinger *</td>
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*Appointed prior to April 2016

David Rowe closed the meeting with prayer
God-ward Subgroup

Rebecca Peck, Charlotte Slinger, David Rowe, John and Julie Wells, Marianne Foster, Peter Russell, Rod James, Rosie Simpson, Sara Jane Roope, Susan Lane, Titus Camfield

We have been focused on the content and substance of ministry and teaching within Christ Church.

Long-term ambitions:

- To review our services and identify areas for improvement for a richer, 'higher, deeper, longer and wider' experience of worship, creating greater opportunities for breadth of worship at 11.15 service.
- To set up a process that will help the whole church explore what it means to go deeper with God in this coming year using Spiritual Formation tools from the Bible Society and Renovaré.
- To ensure that small groups include a Deeper with God strategy that includes meaningful bible study, open and accountable sharing and meaningful prayer.
- To explore ways of facilitating a more co-ordinated and synergistic ministry of prayer, setting up training and a system for facilitating ministry at our services.
- To create a climate of more intimate and open sharing in our services through genuine testimony.

Short-term actions:

- To provide challenging teaching at the church weekend away on whole life discipleship and exploring personal spiritual disciplines.
- To launch the 'Lyfe' material for small groups at the church weekend away and equip groups to go deeper in their spiritual growth and become more authentic.
- To provide ongoing training and support for small group leaders.
- To provide ongoing training for the prayer ministry team and to look at different ways of offering prayer ministry.
- To support and better resource the 11:15 service so that it grows and becomes more multi-generational, to continue to encourage new people to attend this service and also to explore possibilities of offering children's ministry in the future.
- To look at how we can bring a lasting and ongoing depth to our personal discipleship as we seek to become more Christ-like (this theme will run through all our services).
- To provide regular opportunities for further teaching and equipping for real life issues, building on the deep sharing and honesty awakened by Q&A panel at the weekend away.
Us-ward Subgroup

Adrienne Caplin, Angie Smith, David Stass, Ian Piotrowsky, Jon Camfield, Lisa James, Liz Russell, Malcolm Lemon, Sue Collinson

We have been focussed on how we can build community at Christ Church and go deeper together as the Body of Christ

**Long-term ambitions:**

- To develop pastoral care based on relationships within small groups; alongside this, to provide help and support across the church family with clear referral pathways when necessary.
- To develop our prayer ministry as a church and build a ministry team.
- To re-imagine our small group structure to cherish and care more comprehensively for all church members, whatever their situation.
- To affirm the importance of serving inside or outside of the church using the gifts and skills God has given us and make it easy and attractive for members to get involved.
- To make the often implicit, unseen care that goes on something that becomes an explicit part of our identity and culture as God’s people.

**Short-term actions:**

- Appointed a member of staff (Sue Collinson) responsible for Fellowship and Pastoral work.
- Established Connection Point to provide advice and details on the full range of opportunities to serve (and be served) at Christ Church and beyond.
- Established a clear vision and regular training for small groups and their leaders with regard to their aim of discipleship.
- Identified first ‘Connect Pastors’ to support small group leaders and connect into the pastoral structure.
Out-ward Subgroup

Mike Carson, Alan Cole, Alison Coulter, Heather Evans, Dan Greenfield, Geoff Meads, Mike Reynolds, Brian Wakelin

The focus of this sub-group has been on how to envision, to grow and create opportunity for the community at Christ Church to go deeper into the world, in mission, in evangelism and in serving the needs of others both in Winchester and the wider community.

Evangelism
Grasping God’s heart for the lost, creating environment, opportunity and momentum

As we go deeper in our relationship with God, we grasp more of His heart for the lost; we see His work in those around us and the challenge for our church community is to create the opportunity, the environment and community to draw them to come and meet with Jesus.

We are looking at developing a sense of continuity and diversity in the events that we create, to somehow meet with people at where they are in life and where they are at in their journey. There is a need to continue and develop ongoing opportunities to explore the big questions of life regularly throughout the year with seeker-friendly small group courses and events. We are reflecting on ways to keep the momentum going within our church life, within our small groups and in our own lives, equipping and spurring one another on to bring the Good News into our friendships and community.

Serving the needs of others
Responding to local and global needs and developing vision for local social transformation

The parish of Christ Church hosts the key institutions of an adult male community prison and regional remand centre; a district general hospital with attached specialist psychiatric and maternity units; and an expanding university. Taken together on any one day, these can comprise around 8000 persons. Within what appears to be an affluent community, the city of Winchester has high levels of single pensioner households and high levels of mental health problems amongst its young people with social isolation and loneliness prominent among these groups.

We are looking into collaborating with those who are already involved in these institutions, looking at new opportunities, particularly in line with the Diocesan Winchester Social Enterprises strategy, and looking at developing Civic Prayer Events for leaders of these institutions, of
businesses, of services and community groups to build relationships and to pray for the City.

**Local and world Mission**

*Evolving church partnerships, equipping, sending and supporting*

The church community has a passion to support the work of the church in the wider world as well as supporting mission locally. Strong links have developed with the church in Uganda and South Sudan in particular, by supporting individuals and specific projects. There is also a strong desire to respond in times of need both locally and globally.

To effectively develop long-term strategy in evolving these partnerships, supporting individuals, creating an environment to encourage us to explore God’s calling on our lives; we are creating a Mission Support Group to take our church forward. We will have the opportunity to discern longer term engagement, look at new opportunities for frontline mission, to develop processes and structures to support individuals and groups and to envision, inform and equip the church community in local and world mission.

**Local Global Mission in 2016**

*Our Local Engagement*

We have continued our support (financially and with people) for activities carried out jointly by the churches in the city. Members of Christ Church have worked as Street/Prayer Pastors and as part of the City Centre Chaplaincy; including the newly established work in the Law Courts. Others have been involved in the Night Shelter, Trinity Centre and the Basics Bank – reaching out to those most in need in the local community. Some have been involved in ministry at the hospital and in the prison. Our Christmas collections went to help the Red Cross’ work in settling refugees in Hampshire.

In our working with St Barnabas and St Luke’s/St Mark’s we have contributed financially in the provision a youth worker attached to both parishes.

*Our Global Engagement*

The year has been a time of change for our individual partners. **Heather Ndayisaba** has returned to a teaching role in the UK after many years in Rwanda. **Claire Lunn-Rockliffe** has handed over her work with the Diocese of Muhabura but continues to develop tourism potential in the Kisoro area. **Dave and Lucy Timms** had to return from North India because of political instability and are now working in Senegal. **Ben and Abi Sharpe** made their planned return after ten months in South Sudan just before the escalating violence reached Yei. **Elizabeth Newport** continues her work with Wycliffe Bible Translators.
We have continued our partnership with Kalerwe (particularly with the school and our link families through Karis Kids); and with the Diocese of Muhabura in south-west Uganda. Bishop Cranmer and Mama Hope visited us in May when we were able to facilitate a round table meeting of all his UK partners.

From the PCC budget we gave £86k to support mission activities locally and globally. See the graph below for where it was spent.

![2016 Local and Global Mission Expenditure of £86000 By Location](image)

Ben and Abi Sharpe  Claire Lunn Rockliffe  Dave and Lucy Timms
Christmas Market

A big THANK YOU to everyone for helping make the Mission Chalet at the Christmas Market happen again this year! It has been another encouraging year with lots of energy behind it and lots of positive feedback from volunteers (chalet hosts) and the public. It was great to work alongside other churches again to share the good news of Jesus with passers-by.

The theme this year was ‘King for a Day’. The team decorated the chalet like a throne room, complete with throne, and people were invited to write on a ribbon what they would do if they were king for a day. People were then given a Bible verse to take away.

- Over 3000 ribbons were pinned up.
- 59% of volunteer slots were filled (212 / 362) – similar to last year.
- Great conversations, recorded in the logbook by chalet hosts, included...

  Four medical students who all sat to have their photos taken. All took a message from the King and two were clearly moved by their personal message which they read out to their friends.

  Mother and daughter wrote a note. I said we were from the churches and the mum said she was a Christian, the daughter said “I’m not but I come to your stand every year and it always looks beautiful and it’s a really good idea. It makes me think”.

  Great conversation with a lady who was brought up a Christian but doesn’t really have a faith now. Shared the gospel with her and then gave her a gospel to take away. I also got to pray with her.

  I spoke to several people today who came along to see the chalet after hearing about the ribbons on BBC Radio ‘Thought for the Day’, which spoke about the Winchester Christmas Market and the ribbons at the chalet.

  Just had a conversation with a lady thinking about what she would do - she was feeling fearful of the future. I offered her a message from the King and she said ‘Yes, I would like to hear.’ Please pray God does speak to her.

  Lots of positive conversation around the ‘King’ theme and many people were happy to accept a message from the King.
Support Subgroup

David Boul, David Stass, Felicity McElderry, James Kendall, Jon Faulkner, Miriam Roberts, Naomi Rial, Sophie Butt, Tricia Meads

We have been focussed on our building, our environmental impact, our policies and how we can better communicate with our church community.

Long-term ambitions:

- To maintain and develop our buildings to be fit for our ministry purposes and speak of our values (based on a horizon of 10 years and no plans for significant numerical growth at the Christ Church site).
- To lead the way (in the diocese) in stewardship of resources and care for creation.
- For all aspects of the church's operational running to be well understood and managed.
- Communication: for everyone in the Church to be informed and feel part of the Christ Church family. (Intent to provide better tools for communications that enables visibility of groups, rotas, calendar, contact details (opt-in) and better use of available channels.)

Short-term actions completed:

- Buildings task group set up and working with architects, Snug. Upgrades to the Simeon room and the Sanctuary approved with a framework plan in development. Plans to be shared with the congregation soon.
- Environment/Stewardship Group set up and being led by Felicity McElderry. Initial focus on promoting fair trade and environmental impact.
- A review of policies undertaken and half of the reviews completed.
- Communication survey completed in December with results being disseminated shortly.
Pastoral Report

In December 2016 I was delighted to be appointed to the role of Fellowship and Pastoral Director. Working alongside the Us-ward PCC subgroup, my role includes responsibility for pastoral care, small groups, welcome and the building up of our community life as a church.

My priority in the first 3 months has been to build relationships and identify members of the congregations that are involved in caring for people and building community. I have focused on small group leaders, as small groups are instrumental in encouraging discipleship and community. We have established regular small group leaders meetings where we share the vision for going deeper in our relationship with God, one another and the world we live in. We also, together, have identified ‘Connect pastors’ who are people who can provide encouragement for leaders and help me manage the health and growth of the groups. In the future we hope to continue to provide training and support to the connect pastors and small group leaders.

As Fellowship and Pastoral Director, it has been a privilege to oversee the care that is being offered within our congregation. I receive referrals from members of the church who need extra help or support and am then able to connect these people with other members of the congregation as appropriate, who can provide practical care, support or mentoring. I see my role developing in how we care for and supervise those who are serving in this way.

Some areas that I anticipate developing are prayer ministry, the provision and training for home communion, hospital and home visiting, and how we specifically care for older members of our community.

If anyone wants to develop their calling and ministry in pastoral care, please do contact me.

*Sue Collinson*
There’s been so much going on with the children’s and families work at Christ Church! Hear from the leaders themselves...

“On a Tuesday morning in the Simeon Room- it is impossible to ignore lye... it is there in its fullest possible way at Bumps and Babies. You’ll see a group of mums with babies up to about a year old - some are even less than a month old. Together we laugh, cry, share, pray and do life together. The bond of new mothers is so strong that everyone keeps coming back for more. Through creativity, cake and coffee we open our doors to all - ever carrying the Gospel in our hearts and always wanting to keep our focus on Jesus’ mission.” - Clare Carson

“Climbers (year R-2) is a whirlwind of fun! Every Sunday the children run in with a high-five and look forward to what they will be learning. Each week we have something to remember, whether ‘qualities of Jesus’ or ‘tips’ to be more like him; they all have great memories! Craft is a really valuable time, when the energetic atmosphere changes into a calm one and the children ask really poignant questions. We are blessed to be working with such amazing children! Our senior leaders are moving on after the summer so we need some new people to help lead this great group.” - Tim Uffindell

“Our Sunday Crèche group for under-2’s has been attended each week by an average of 10 children. Each has been cared for by our team of adult volunteers and young people. During the morning, besides playing and snack time, we have shared stories from the Bible, sung songs and played instruments. We have listened to stories about creation, Christmas, the parables and Easter. Our favourite songs are Our God Is a Great Big God and The Wiggle Song, which puts a smile on everyone’s face!!” - Liz Brown

“We’ve had a good year in Little Oasis where we look after the babies and preschool children of the ladies who come to the Oasis women’s group on a Monday morning. The number of children has grown and it has been lovely to welcome in some new faces, with everyone settling nicely! We’ve been learning about stories that Jesus told, and making some fun messy craft to do with the story each week, as well as playing with toys and our new favourite - the sand tray! We also love singing. Please pray for more people to come and help with this expanding group of lovely kids.” - Helen Tivey
“Messy Church” (on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 4-6pm) exists to reach out to families in our local community. We aim to welcome, draw alongside and encourage all those who come, introducing aspects of faith in fun and inclusive ways.

The friendly registration team welcome everyone, handing out labels to break the ice and encourage conversations. Welcomers look out for individuals so they feel included.

The theme of the month is often based on what the rest of the church is doing. We’ve looked at Bible characters and prayer which led up to writing our own Messy Prayer.

Activities include crafts which provide an opportunity to discuss the theme while being creative. In the church we have challenges, competitions with prizes and a quiz. Sometimes we have a bouncy castle, which is very popular.

In the apse, there is a prayer zone where different activities enable prayer, e.g. candles and interactive prayer stations. This has become more popular over the months.

After activities we have a celebration which is a short focus on the theme where we sing and hear the story together.

The meal is a good opportunity to get to know each other and chat about what’s been going on in the afternoon.

With Tasha Anderson going into ordination training in September 2016 we lost our much-loved leader of Messy Church. However, since then we’ve been really blessed to have Claire Bentham as our leader and she’s doing a fantastic job!

Many helpers are needed in all the different areas and all are really appreciated. If you would like to join the team, you would be very welcome.” - Sally Normington

“Messy Dads” this year has been evolving to find the best time and activities to engage as many men who are role models to children as possible. We’ve created two streams: One stream (Messy Dads) is about having fun with the children aged 3-11, doing outdoor activities, treasure hunts, woodcraft, “it’s a knockout” and sharing food. We sing and have time where we bring the bible to life and reflect on it with the children.

The other stream (Who Let The Dads Out?) has been just for the men to meet with peers, have some silly fun, good chats and truly meet people we may have seen a hundred times, but never had the chance to get to know. All in a relaxed setting, sharing some food and drink. We aim for one event from each stream every term. Numbers are growing and our prayer is that more people would hear about it, be free and want to join in. The next event without children will be mid- to end of May (date TBC) and the next with children will be at Farley Mount on Saturday 17th June. If you are interested in any aspect of Messy Dads, please contact jonhfaulkner@gmail.com.” - Jon Faulkner
“We have a lot to thank God for this past year in Scramblers (2-4s, Sundays at the 9:30 service). We have seen the children grow in many ways, including those who didn't want to leave their parents, now looking forward to each session and joining in. Our Scramblers sing along to worship songs, make beautiful craft to show their parents and sit transfixed during our Bible story. It has also been a joy to see both experienced and new leaders demonstrating their love, care and commitment to each child having a God-centred time at Church, learning to love God and love coming to Church. Please pray that our Scramblers continue to grow in understanding God's love for them and enjoy Scramblers and also that we are joined by some much needed new leaders to support our team.” – Jeanette Faulkner

“It has been a privilege to serve in Toddlers over the last year. We have welcomed about 40 children with parents and carers into our church building each Tuesday morning, trying to create a safe place where children can play and adults can chat over coffee and biscuits. God has given us many opportunities to share his love with those who come, through the Bible story, simple Christian songs, or just by providing a listening ear to someone who needs to talk. Please join us in praising God for all he has done through Toddlers this year and praying for more helpers to join the team.” - Hannah Giddings

“XPC on a Friday (5:45-7:15pm) has continued to be a club where 9-11 year olds have fun and invite friends. Our vision is to create a caring environment where the children can make friends, connect to church, have fun through the activities and experience God’s love through the leaders and testimonies they share. We have around 40 kids each week and the majority aren't connected to church in any other way. New leaders have brought new energy to areas such as craft and brilliant themed nights so praise God for them. We'd love more people to join this rewarding team.” - Melody Belsey

“In Xplorers (year 3-6, Sundays at the 9:30 service) we encourage children to go deeper in their faith in the context of a fun, loving and safe community. 'Going Deeper' has been the focus this season as with the adults. In the autumn term we looked at bible characters that went deeper in their faith. This Spring we looked at practical discipleship in the Sermon on the Mount - helped by our friend Hiker Harry, who each week likened being a disciple to an element of being a true explorer. Highlights have been seeing the children go deeper in their pursuit of God, the kids asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and trying to hear from God. It has also been amazing to see our young leaders grow in their gifts, develop great relationships with the children and provide great role models for them to look up to.” – Dave Smith
Internship Reflections

I began the internship at Christ Church after my final year of study at University. I finished my degree with huge uncertainty but it was in God’s timing and in his will that I was able to apply for the internship and start working for the church at the beginning of October. I felt very blessed to have the opportunity to do an internship in a church that I had been a part of as a student and was excited as to God’s plan for my time working for the church, and in the opportunity to go deeper within the church community and in my relationship with God.

The internship has enabled me to gain a breadth of experiences within different areas of church ministry for which I have a real passion. I began the internship with the opportunity to work alongside Dan in organising the mission chalet for the Christmas Market. To be involved in the whole process, from helping to develop the concept, to encouraging people to oversee a slot, to helping deliver the training and volunteer at the chalet was an exciting opportunity that frequently took me out of my comfort zone.

I have felt very supported by Christ Church in growing in various areas of ministry. I am passionate, whilst also being challenged and stretched in aspects of leadership. Children’s ministry is an area of church work that I am most passionate about and the main area of ministry I have been involved in. It has been great to work alongside Melody and be involved in kid’s groups across a range of ages, including Little Oasis, Scramblers and Xplorers/XPC. Over the course of the internship I have been able to take on different roles within the children’s groups and gradually adopt more responsibility. It has been great to become a leader in both Scramblers and Xplorers/XPC, and to get to know more families within the church.

To also have the opportunity to be involved within Messy Church and school assemblies and reach out to children and families within the wider community has been really exciting. Taking on responsibility for the prayer zone within messy church shown me how God can use my love of art and creativity and use it for his works and I am excited to see how the prayer zone continues to grow.

It has been a huge learning curve for me in terms of working for a church, not knowing exactly what to expect and all that it would involve. I have found it hard at times to balance the children’s groups, the student group ‘Life’ and study alongside all that working within a church entails, but have found it has given me good experience in my own ministry.

The internship has given me huge insight into church ministry and I feel I have gained a breadth of experiences in my time here so far. It has been a time of growth both personally and spiritually and I feel very blessed to have been able to join a staff team that have supported and encouraged me in that journey. I am excited to see where God leads me and to continue deepening my relationship with him.

Emily Bellerby
Pathfinders

Something has happened in Pathfinders over the last couple of months where there has been a true sense of worship and a desire to discover more about who God is and especially how it can impact daily lives. Year 7-9s are going through a challenging time right now, making their way in a world which is full of division and conflict, and as leaders we play our part in equipping and encouraging those in Pathfinders to be prepared and ready to live in Christlikeness in their schools and on the rugby pitch, at the cinema and at home with their family and, ever increasingly, on the internet. We seek to empower them to be an influence in their friendship group and with peers, building disciples and community in all that they do.

Serving

Pathfinders would be nothing without its dynamic, enthusiastic and devoted team of volunteer leaders, giving up long hours in their busy weeks. There are about 20 regular leaders who serve on Friday nights or Sunday mornings, with some core leaders who are involved in both. We have had nights where we have had a great number of leaders, enabling there to be powerful conversations with the young people, building relationships and offering time to listen and share. We hope that we can continue to have that amount of leaders to maintain that positive point of connection with the young people of Winchester.

In the Week

With increased pressure in schools and on the sports field, we envision that Friday night at Pathfinders is a break away, a chance for people to engage with friends, build a sense of community and to have a platform for open conversation. Young people are looking forward to Friday evenings at Pathfinders. We have been encouraged by the way Pathfinders has opened its door to the unchurched, giving them a taster of Christian fellowship and friendship. In the past few months the attendance has averaged c.50-55. A regular Friday has a lot going on, with sports and challenges in the Simeon room, a tuck shop, milkshake bar, games consoles and a chill-out room. Frequently, we have specific themes running through the evening such as a Murder Mystery, Wall Street, Grill-a-Vicar and Scrapheap Challenge. Termly we have themed parties with a feast, which goes down really well. Friday nights are also intentionally evangelistic, with each night rounded off with gospel talk from either one of our leaders or a guest speaker. In recent months we have increased this section at the end, to a half hour, to incorporate some worship into the evening, something that has been a very positive move.

Sunday mornings give us an opportunity to draw more out of the passage studied on Friday nights, exploring how God specifically works in our lives. There is a rotation of enthusiastic and adept groups of leaders who teach, share and challenge the young people through relevant bible stories, interactive games, enabling reflection through art, drama and music. There are about 40 young people each week. This is also a great chance for our young
Downloader leaders to take a leadership role, and the Pathfinders themselves to get involved in worship through music.

Pathfinder Weekend Away
A great turn out came with us on the Pathfinder Weekend Away in November. We stayed in an outdoor activity centre called Carroty Wood in Kent. Jess Penberthy, a student from the University, was the speaker, who ignited a real spark with the group of around 50 young people.

Over the weekend, there were four main sessions, worship, small groups, talks and workshops. Interspersed between we had sports and team-based challenges, including a bizarre yet excessively fun wide night game in the forest, called Haggis. On the final night the young people, through both Jess’ compelling talks and worship, had a chance to receive and recommit their lives to Jesus. Many did this, and it was a powerful moment for the whole group - a catalyst in the ministry that is still bearing its fruit even now.

Up Ahead
It is an exciting next few months for Pathfinders with 13 ready to stand up and be counted either by being baptised or reconfirming their baptism vows and going through confirmation. The recent classes for this have been a great forum for questions about belief, spirituality and ethics. It is definitely encouraging to see so many want to rise up to be great bastions of the faith.

Please continue to pray for the Pathfinders who seek to speak out and act as salt and light in their schools and homes. There have been recent developments in Christian Unions in two of the local schools, where they are looking at how they can make a difference with their peers and teachers alike. It has been a joy to see the young people and leaders hear the call and actively seek to serve and praise God in the busyness of their lives.

Jesse Rowe
Download

It's been another fantastic year for our teenagers in Download as our young people have grown in spiritual depth through the Church's 'Deeper' movement. We are seeing more and more young people taking on leadership opportunities within the church; we have over 50 Download-aged young people serving in kids' groups, worship bands and on tech teams and in welcoming/hosting teams - even Downloaders on the PCC! As well as this there has been a massive movement of the spirit through the Christian Unions of our schools and colleges where a number of our young people have leadership responsibilities.

There have been a number of highlights throughout the year. The summer residential is always a highlight and we were able to share that week in 2016 with two other churches - David Rowe came and shared a message on the Deeper theme with us all. In the build-up to the week away we were able to send young people to meet our brothers and sisters in those guest churches; they even joined us for a BBQ and then to watch the Euro 2016 final! Other highlights in Download have been social events such as the talent show (we have an impressive set of young people!), a bonfire, movie nights... but these are all just flash-bulb moments in a year that has seen teenagers pressing into their faith with integrity, taking on Bible-reading challenges, praying with persistence and exploring ways to love radically, both inside and outside the church environment.

Please do continue to pray for us - for the continued work of the Spirit teaching us, shaping us and equipping us - and for more leaders with fervent faith and compassion for our young people to join the team.

Simon Barber
### Schools Work

A girl said to me after our Owslebury assembly, 'This is the last time you'll see me because I'm moving to a different school tomorrow.' I asked her which school she was moving to. She said, 'Cheriton'. 'In that case,' I said, 'We'll see you tomorrow...' We talk about a God who is always with us. What a privilege to be able to live out that truth at a key transition time in a child's life.

In 2004, Christ Church took a mission trip to Kisiizi in Uganda. In just over two days of children's mission, around 3,500 children heard about Jesus. When this was reported back to the church council, one member challenged the church to think about how we could do the same in Winchester... In 2016-17, nearly 5,000 children have heard about Jesus through the primary school assemblies programme that Christ Church head up. From Micheldever to Colden Common, from King's Somborne to Cheriton. We've become tighter in terms of our reach. Nearly all of the assemblies are within Winchester Deanery, so we have pulled out of assemblies in Ropley and West Meon and added in St. Swithun's Junior School and Micheldever.

On the team, we now work with more people from other churches, and we've had preliminary discussions this year about becoming a Winchester Deanery Schools Team. Many of our team give really sacrificially to make the assemblies happen each month. More volunteers would be hugely welcome.

We're now speaking in St. Swithun's Senior School each half term, but it would be excellent to develop work in other secondary schools. A couple of young people have described secondary school as 'brutal' recently. With that in mind, it would be fantastic for Christ Church to be able to support young people better at such a key time.

There is more that could be done, but God does continue to bless this ministry. Thank you for your prayers. Do chat to me or one of the team members if you want to find out more.

*Dave Thornton*
This year, we’ve focused on mission in a new way. We’re seeing students coming into church and discovering Jesus for themselves in a way that we’ve not seen for years. It’s been exciting, busy and at times tiring but seeing the fruits of our hard work has been the encouragement we need to keep pushing forwards.

Over the summer, we identified the strengths and weaknesses of our current student work and found that we really needed something to bridge the connections we’re making with Students at Nosh and introduce them to Church on Sundays or our Life Bible Studies. Consequently, we’ve overhauled our Tuesday nights to include a pattern of a four week rotation. Specifically:

- **Bible Study**
- **Worship and Encounter Nights**
- **Socials**
- **Missional Events**

We called the missional events ‘Agape’, meaning the deepest kind of Love. The evenings consist of Arts and Music contributed by Students from the University of Winchester, the School of Art and Peter Symonds, along with interactive art work, short Gospel messages and space to relax. Each month we’ve had between 60-80 students come through the doors and get involved.

Other notable events throughout the year include hosting 200 people for Christmas Nosh (Noshtivity), 80 people for Pancake Day, giving out 450 ice creams to welcome Freshers and taking 23 students to various events and conferences across the country.

As a result, we have at least half a dozen Students coming to church for the first time, others meeting with our Student Team to talk about faith and more still...
interested in what we believe and who we believe in.

Closely partnering with Christian Union at University has given us opportunities to pool resources and support them as they proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel on campus. The current committee, headed by Sam Lockwood and Emma Forrest, are reaching their fellow Students in new and exciting ways, which we support whenever we can in person and prayer. Weekly prayer meetings happen on campus every Tuesday morning and as Student Workers from across the city once a term.

Our next steps are to work out what discipleship looks like for Students encountering Jesus in Winchester. Working with groups like Fusion and Alpha, we’re trying to discern the best ways to encourage them and help them along their journey. Winchester’s universities are very liberal, inquisitive, creative, post modern institutions which bring their own challenges and opportunities. Traditional, apologetic based evangelism is less impactful than space for discussion, experience and seeing the change that a life led by Jesus brings. We’re continually evaluating all that we do to make sure that it reaches the widest possible group of students and represents Jesus in a way that is accessible to them.

We’d love prayer for the Students who are on the edge of finding faith, for more Students to find themselves at home here and for those currently part of our community that they would persevere and be encouraged in deepening relationships with each other and the wider Church.

We regularly update our Facebook and Instagram profiles with the latest news of our Student Work.

*Sam Dinsmore*
Worship

One of the things I am continually delighted by is the prophetic creativity and genuine humility of our worship and media team. They are an amazing bunch of people to work with, who are incredibly committed to giving voice to the heart of the church as we go deeper.

You will find our worship and media team serving across Sunday services, small groups, children’s groups, youth groups, ceremonies, events and much more besides. The team is made up of around 16 sound operators, 15 AV operators, 90 musicians (including 20 worship leaders), 6 administrative volunteers, painters, photographers, designers, copyrighters and so on. Particular thanks to those who have stepped forwards to serve in the 11:15 service where the team has nearly tripled in size in the last 12 months, yet could still do with more volunteers. Particular gratitude is also due for the increase in administrative and media support, It may surprise you to hear that we currently want lots more people to join the team. Why? Because sung worship is so intrinsic to the life of the church, we really want to see it increasingly well-led and richly resourced in all aspects of church life.

As part of what we do, some of us can also be found encouraging worship teams in other local churches. Please pray for continual unity as we partner with other churches and seek to learn from one another. Pray for Chris Kipling as he works in partnership with the Diocese to train and start contemporary worship teams in other churches. Even in the last couple of months, more doors have opened for us to go and bless in places of renewed vision. The team is always evolving too, especially as students and young people come and go. We really are training and resourcing church with regards to sung worship.

Huge thanks should also go to those who have made the landmark celebrations so incredibly special this last year. These include Carol services led by the new orchestra, the ever-growing choir and Alison Coulter, as well as the weekend away and Easter services.

I am also very grateful for the wise stewardship of our material worship resources here at Christ Church. Thank you especially to our PCC, as well as the helpful advise of SFL Group and our very own Steve Lucas. Following the install of an incredibly clear and robust speaker system in 2013 and the new HD projector, we are right in the thick of plans to increase visibility for being “in the round.” Forward steps have been made in modernising the website and increasing the church’s voice in the social media sphere. We are finding that 1000s of people are regularly receiving Christian content through our online presence. Most recently, we have been able to release a little live EP, capturing some of the life and soul of our church weekend away.
In this recent season of going deeper together, I was most profoundly challenged by Jon Eldridge’s thoughts at the 9:30 service on the health of the heart and the power of sharing our stories. Testifying is such a wonderful expression of worship to God and of vulnerability with one another. I am also reminded of Paul’s charge to the Ephesians; “Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

James Collie

Worship Resourcing on the Road

I have been at Christ Church since 1970 and ran the worship and choir from the mid-1980s. Christ Church made gradual changes over a decade or two, and is continuing to explore new ways of worshipping the Lord under James Collie’s leadership. I have increasingly had a calling to help other churches develop worship and since 2013 Christ Church has seconded me to the diocese to be a resource for churches that are desiring change. I worked at St Barnabas for two and a half years and have been helping three other benefices over the past couple of years. I have organised bands to play in the Cathedral for special services over the past thirty years. I have now been invited to develop a new service at Kingsclere. This is initially for six months from May, but may well exceed that timeframe. All this work takes up quite a bit of my time, and as someone who is self-employed, I am very grateful for the financial support that Christ Church gives me. Also, my wife Ruth is a great support, and she works with me and gives great advice from a congregational point of view.

Chris Kipling
Third Way

Third Way is part of the Christ Church family dedicated to those in their third age. We have described that as being 'at or near retirement' but will shortly re-define that as 'Over 50'. Every fourth Friday of the month we are to be found at the Golden Lion on Alresford Road where we have an excellent lunch. We like to get out when we can and last summer we visited gardens and took a group of 25 to Buckingham Palace. We have been fully engaged in both 'Sharpening the Focus' and the 'Lyfe' course. In the autumn we enjoyed a visit from the Pelynt Male voice choir who gave us a free concert and a gift for Samaritans Purse. We shall be recruiting sorters and checkers for this years Shoe Box appeal - do help us if you can. We will shortly publish our summer programme - some activities will be in the early evening to enable those who work to join us. If you fit the 50+ category we would love to see you.

Dave Fenton

Lunch Club

Lunch Club is an outreach to people of the 3rd age. Over the past year numbers have risen and we now serve 90 to 100 meals once a month. Members who attend (1/3 of these are not Christ Church members) enjoy a delicious meal and friendship in a Christian environment. The Tear Fund stall is an added bonus, selling gifts, cakes, jams and eggs. We are grateful to Steve Mitchell for taking over the running of the stall. Short talks and interviews between the courses have included personal testimonies, school and prison work, outreach abroad and more. These talks have prompted questions and discussions around the tables. We are SO grateful to the many volunteers who help in the running of Lunch Club. Without them none of this would be possible. We always welcome new helpers.
Oasis meets in the church on Monday mornings within slightly shorter than school term times. At present, about 60 ladies from various churches, meet in small groups following input from the front and sung worship. Ages range from mid-20s to nearly 90! There is always room for more if you would like to come along. We have excellent pre-school childcare available.

This year, we have studied the book of Esther and reflected on how God works in the background but shapes events and that an individual’s courage can make a difference when they realise their moment – for such a time as this. We struggled with the violence described but enjoyed celebrating at our “Esther Brunch” – our version of a Purim Party. The Jews are good at celebrating! In the Autumn, we spent time considering the different ways we hear from God with the help of a Joyce Meyer book which prepared us well for using the Lyfe Streams material that the rest of the church is doing in small groups. We also spent a few weeks looking at The Cross of Christ, reminding ourselves of the sacrifice and purpose of Jesus’ death which has been so overwhelming, our response can only be to surrender to Him and to be open and ready to be transformed by the Holy Spirit to become more like Jesus, to His praise and glory.

Feedback from the groups as to what Oasis has offered this year include being able to pray with other women and building up strong and deep relationships with one another. Also, having a confidential environment that has enabled trust and sharing of situations and burdens. Mothers with young children are thankful for Little Oasis childcare as they have space to spend time praying and reading Scripture together which is a “lifesaver” to many. For others, they have appreciated learning and understanding more of their faith through the talks and studies together. There is a lot of prayerful support going on in the groups affecting people’s everyday lives. James Collie’s ministry with us in song and prayer is really appreciated too.

Over the past year, we were sorry to say good bye to Jo Gleghorn who was so open, honest and funny and will be blessing to the congregation in Bath. Sarah Marshall-Ellison has been doing our administration and is now taking on the role as Operations Manager in church. Thank you to them, James and all the volunteers who serve in such a caring way in Little Oasis to make it a safe and nurturing place. Thank you to all who come for your support, hard work and prayerful contributions to Oasis.

Sara Jane Roope
Prospects
Going Deeper with Joy

The Prospects Ministry group in Winchester meets once a month in the Simeon Room. It is part of a national organisation, that helps adults with learning difficulties to grow in their faith, by linking life experiences to accessible bible teaching, through drama and kinaesthetic learning. In the picture we are acting out the story of Joshua, marching around the walls of Jericho seven times to bring them tumbling down! Whilst the number coming to Prospects each month has remained constant, the support team has diminished due to natural attrition, so this amazing ministry is at risk of ceasing. We constantly see God's blessing through the work of Prospects, so if you want to be part of that blessing, then please speak to Vince Smith. We are always amazed at what God is doing in the lives of all those who are part of Prospects, taking us all deeper, and releasing is us a rich sense of celebration and joy. It is good to be part of God's great family!

Vince Smith

Westminster Theological Centre

Christ Church has been home to Westminster Theological Centre’s Flagship Hub – the Hampshire Hub - since 2009.

‘A Game Changer’, ‘...studying with WTC is amazing, it’s changed my life!’ ‘We’re so blessed to have a Theological Centre, right here at Christ Church.’

Just a few student comments I’ve heard in the last two weeks.

The Hampshire Hub - essentially your Hub - is one of 12 WTC centres; located throughout the UK, Channel Islands and Sweden. I’ve been in post as Hub Director for two years now and it’s an absolute joy and privilege to be part of this established, thriving and dynamic learning community – impressing most as; Worshipful, Prophetic and Supportive.
As I write, our MA first years are in the room next door, grappling with studies on Paul. Their Lecturer teaching live from his office in Houston Texas – via Video Conference. They are joined on screen by fellow students in Hubs across South London, North East London, Exeter, Gloucester and Manchester.

Upstairs on Monday evenings students participate in hearty theological study, where the Equipping and Illuminating power of the Spirit is welcomed into; Lectures, lively Group Discussion, then Reflection and Prayer. For most, it’s a return to study after many years. Many are from Christ Church. And for most, the reason for studying is simply to know their Bible better and dig deeper into the treasure of God's Word.

Each year brings a different dynamic as the Community evolves and develops. This year we’ve built on the sense of the Lord shaping the Hub to be a safe place. A place to space to Stop, Pause, Rest, take stock; a Border Land - where students can look back at where God has taken them in their journey so far and look out to all God has promised and is calling them into.

We’re currently in the throes of student recruitment for next Sept. It’s one of the busiest times of year, with our two key events coming soon: Our Annual Kingdom Theology Day of; Study, Grappling, Questioning the Lecturer, Worshipping, chatting with fellow day students over coffee and lunch etc, (6 May). This year’s theme: ‘Suffering and the book of Job’. Secondly our Taster Hub Night, open to everyone, follows on 12 June. Everyone is very welcome to each event. Do look out for details of how to book.

The bottom line for me, I think, is it really is all about the numbers. Communicating out this rich, Spirit anointed, Spirit led resource - seated here within Christ Church, and increasing the numbers of God's people who can experience it.

If you’re interested in finding out more information about the Hub, or what might be involved in studying upstairs on a Monday evening, do let me know and we can arrange to have an informal chat and coffee, here at Christ Church.

I’ll close with what has been a significant scripture to us as a learning community over the past year ...

‘I’ll contemplate His beauty; I’ll study at His feet.’ (Psalm 27:4 The Message).

Sue Higgins, WTC Hub Director
hampshire@wtctheology.org.uk
Office and Operations

Well it appears to be all change in the front office here! Last autumn we said goodbye to both Omi Carter and Naamah Maundrell who had been working with us as PA to the Vicar and Operations Manager and who left a great hole in the team.

Alison Pringle kindly stepped in working as part-time Operations Manager until earlier this year and Sophie Davis came and acted as PA to the Vicar in January before formally taking the position at the beginning of March.

We are delighted with the recent appointment of Sarah Marshall-Ellison (right) as the new Operations Director and look forward to her joining the team on 8th May.

Lin Brewer offered to come for a couple of weeks in November to help cover the gap in staff and has been volunteering three days a week in the office ever since. She has been particularly helpful in taking on the mammoth task of updating DBS records and we are greatly indebted to her for all she has been doing in helping us with safeguarding.

Lastly, after years of faithful service as our Office Manager, Teresa Pittis has announced her intention to retire this year and after Easter will be going down to two days a week before officially leaving us in June.

Dear Carol Kent, our finance administrator, will be the last woman standing!

Prayers for us as a team amidst all this change are welcome indeed, especially for Teresa as she moves on and for us as we seek someone to fill her role.

Carol, Lin, Sophie and Teresa
Post Script: 2016 A reflection

14 years ago God called me to leave my job as an Architect and to seek him, little did I know that I would end up serving him by serving you, my Christ Church family and friends, in my role as curate. It has truly been an honour and my delight, in the good times and tough ones to do his will in that way and for which I am eternally grateful. So in what might well be my final Annual Review I have been asked to reflect on our life together in 2016 and draw together what is testified to in this report.

It will be no surprise then that I like the building metaphors that God uses in the Bible and, whether or not we know how to construct them, we all use and experience buildings every day. David’s encouragement for us to go deeper in this year was a journey into a more passionate personal spirituality, into holiness. Paul, writing to the Corinthian Church, encourages them to be holy, not just a cerebral way or spiritual way, but in a physical way that involved their bodies too. Paul could have used words such as “home,” or “house,” but he chooses the word “temple” to describe the Spirit’s dwelling to remind us that our bodies are a sacred place, in which the Spirit not only lives, but is worshiped, revered, and honored. Therefore, how we behave and think and speak, how we work and learn and play, how we respond to our circumstances, things that happen to us and the world around us all matter when we seek to be God’s holy people.

But the vision was not just to go deeper alone but also to go with each other and the world. Peter, in another letter to a group of new Christians, encourages them to be built together into a ‘spiritual house’, which demonstrates to others the goodness of God. This picture of a building is a helpful metaphor to look back on our life together last year where, founded on Jesus, who is the cornerstone of all we do, we have been building a spiritual house for the Holy Spirit to live in. We have been focusing on creating a robust and safe structure, with new organization and up to date policies. In our Sunday and midweek gatherings, we have been building upwards toward God, in our praise and prayer and our reading of the Word and openness to the Holy Spirit’s work in us. Each of us and the groups we belong to relate to one another like the internal arrangement of rooms in a house. They are places where children play, the lonely and elderly eat together, young people welcome others and share their lives, workers diligently pursue the gospel and where we go out from. But it is also a building that has extensions, reaching and opening out beyond our territory and the limit of the known, until the boundaries of what is church are blurred. It’s a building that takes its place in the streetscape and the texture of the city.

Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?
1 Corinthians 6:19

Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you’ll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God.
1 Peter 2:5 The Message
I recall a prayer meeting in the autumn when we each took a stone and prayerfully placed it in a pile as a personal commitment to being part of the spiritual house that Peter speaks of. It was very moving as some reflected that their stone had marks or a shape that somehow signified their imperfections, but still placed it in a willingness to offer themselves to God to be ‘built together’. As I read through the report I sensed that there was an incompleteness, like a wall with gaps, or a jigsaw with missing pieces, whose full glory cannot be seen until all the missing pieces are fitted in. I believe this a true reflection of where we are in our journey to go deeper, and where completeness is only found in eternity, but it is also a reminder that we each have a unique place to take in God’s people and part to play in his kingdom purposes.

So as we review with gratitude what has past and look to the future, God asks each of us again to offer our whole selves, our whole hearts and our whole lives to serve him. Will you willingly allow Him to build us together into a place where his Spirit has pleasure to dwell and His goodness is apparent for all the world to see?

_Angie Smith, Curate, April 2017_

**Deanery Synod Report**

The Winchester Deanery Synod is formed of 26 parishes in the city and more rural areas including Owselbury, Colden Common and Hursley in the south reaching up to Micheldever and East Stratton in the north. Christ Church representatives comprise about ten percent of the total membership. The Deanery Synod meets three times each year, November, July and April. The July meeting is usually more of an informal event and in 2016 took place in the Masters Garden St Cross.

The business meetings of the Synod have become more focussed in recent times on sharing ideas and best practice. These are usually but not universally well received and whilst attitudes might be changing, signs of real change are sparse. In April 2016 we met at St Barnabas Weeke where presentations were made, and well received, of four very different programmes that had been used and found effective within the Deanery, focussed on the sole purpose of growing churches – Knowing God, Leading your church into Growth, Growing Leaders and Everybody Welcome.

In November 2016 meeting at Kings Worthy, we received feedback on the Diocesan Conference. There was also a proposal from Dave Thornton that a Winchester Churches Schools Team based on the existing Christ Church Schools Team be formed, but with participants drawn from the whole Deanery to deliver assemblies to Primary Schools in the area. Not to replace but to enhance and work alongside local engagement already in place. A small minority
expressed reservations and disappointingly just one new member has been added to the schools team.

In April 2017 the church will be appointing all nine of its lay representatives for a new three year term. The Deanery will review its Mission Action Plan over the coming year and it will be important for Christ Church to play an effective part in this process. Please pray for the new representatives that are to be voted in at the APCM.

Malcolm Lemon
March 2017

The Wider Church of England: Christ Church at Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods

One way in which we contribute to the life of our wider family, the Church of England, is by having representatives at all the Synods that make up the governance structure of the Church of England. Christ Church has 10 elected members of Deanery Synod, a meeting of representatives from the 26 Parishes and 13 Benefices in and around Winchester. The main focus of Deanery Synod over the past year has been forming clusters to work closely together in order to be more effective in mission. Christ Church is clustered with St Luke’s Stanmore and with St Barnabas’, Weeke. There was a very successful safari supper evening for these 3 PCCs to get to know each other better, and also to talk about how we can help and support each other.

Winchester Diocesan Synod conference met in October 2016, with nearly 200 Diocesan Synod members and guests spending 3 days away together at Swanwick in Derbyshire. The main speaker was Bishop Graham Cray, who previously led Fresh Expressions. He challenged us to think how the Church is on a Mission with Jesus, not just gathering on a Sunday, but being sent out to bring God’s Kingdom to the world. Angie Smith, Brian Wakelin, Geoff Meads and Alison Coulter (Lay Chair of Diocesan Synod) attended from Christ Church. The particular focus was to agree the priorities for the Archdeaconry Mission Action Plans, building on the 4 strategic priorities set at the previous Diocesan Conference, and the Deanery Mission Action Plans. These four priorities have been approved by Diocesan Synod in March 2017:

1. Resource Churches - Christ Church is included as a Resource Church, to plant new churches
2. Benefice of the future – to promote rural mission and evangelism
3. Further and Higher Education – ensuring we engage with and have an effective mission to students and young people
4. Major Development Areas – supporting sustainable community development and ensuring a Christian presence in areas of significant new housing, including King’s Barton in Winchester
Other work underpinning these priorities includes the Diocesan Rule of Life and a commitment to Thy Kingdom Come. We are all encouraged by +Tim and Diocesan Synod to develop a Rule of Life, a pattern for our Christian discipleship – more information here http://www.winchester.anglican.org/about-us/strategic-priorities/rule-of-life/

Thy Kingdom Come is a period of prayer for our witness between Ascension and Pentecost, culminating in a service in Winchester Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday 4th June. This is something we can all be involved in - https://www.thykingdomcome.global/

General Synod met in York in July 2016 and in London in February 2017, and the shared conversations about human sexuality and the debate on the Bishops' paper were widely reported in the press. The thinking and discussion about sexuality continues, and we, the elected General Synod Reps for Winchester will be meeting to discuss this with +Tim in May. Although not so well reported by the press, other areas of discussion at General Synod have included a commitment to mark and celebrate 500 years since the reformation, a change in the legislation on vestments, more work on the simplification of church legislation (still a way to go!) and a great debate on the importance of protecting the most vulnerable in society from gambling and betting. I was proud to be part of the Lay Leadership Task Group whose report ‘Setting God's People Free' was accepted by General Synod. Do have a look at the report here https://www.churchofengland.org/media/3858033/gs-2056-setting-gods-people-free.pdf

All the General Synod reports are available on the Church of England website, and many of the debates are available to listen to on soundcloud if you are interested.

Looking ahead, the focus for Deanery Synod in 2017 will be a review of the Deanery Mission Action Plan. For the Diocese, there will be a focus on implementing the 4 mission priorities agreed, and becoming a Resource Church will be a particular opportunity for Christ Church.

The focus for all of us, whether Parish, Deanery, Diocesan or General Synod is to pray and work for growth – for each of us to be able to witness to God's presence in our lives and to share our faith, to learn what it means every day to be on a mission with Jesus, seeing more of God's Kingdom here on earth as in heaven.

Alison Coulter
Finance Report

Thank you for all that you contributed to the church in 2016. In financial terms, 2016 was a quiet revolution. Our expenditure was much lower than in 2015 and we chose not to support our on-going work with a gift day. In previous years we had rightly chosen to progressively use a legacy from the mid-2000s to support more ministry, but 2016 marked the end of that phase of our church's financial life. Our clear objective for 2017 is to keep our routine expenditure in line with our normal giving.

Let's turn to the summary table of our 2016 accounts (see below) and walk through what to begin with looks a complicated table. We have 2 types of fund making up our total for 2016. We can set aside one of these funds, the so-called Restricted Funds. This is where we administer monies given by people (e.g. members of the congregation) for specific purposes, usually for mission. Income was £38,211 and expenditure was £40,396, a lot of which was for Street Pastors, which we administer under their direction. That leaves Unrestricted Funds, our core church finances, where the PCC has legal responsibility.

Our donations (that you gave) and legacies amounted to £653,316. In addition we had income of £57,821 for charitable activities, most of which is fees (e.g. for events like Monkton Combe). That all goes straight out again as expenditure for accommodation, coach transport etc. Together with another couple of small items, our total income was £714,164. We spent £753,607 (see below) so we spent £39,443 more than our income. With funds of £158,421 at the beginning of the year, we were left with £118,978 on December 31. That £118,978 has some importance as this is the number that the Charity Commission looks at. They want to know we have at least 2 months normal expenditure as a buffer. That equates to about £120,000 now so we should not spend more than our income in 2017.

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<tr>
<th>Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 December 2016</th>
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<td><strong>Pounds</strong></td>
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<td>POUNDS</td>
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<td>Donations and legacies</td>
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<td>Charitable activities</td>
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<td>Total expenditure</td>
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<td>Fund Balances at 1 Jan 2016</td>
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<td>Fund Balances at 31 Dec 2016</td>
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Let’s now go behind these accounts numbers. As mentioned above, we did not have a gift day in 2016. So, while our overall giving was down compared with 2015, our regular giving did show a small rise. That is continuing and, latest news, for 2017 we have raised our forecast income by over £30k as a result of our Review of Regular Giving in January.

On the expenditure side, you will see that we saved significantly on staff costs in 2016. Part of that was planned, but gaps after departures meant that costs were well down on a one-off basis. While parish share and missions / grants were broadly in line with expectations, there were savings on other expenditure. The eagle-eyed among you may notice that we monitor the net cost of what we spend (£690k), rather then the gross cost (£753k) as stated in the accounts; the difference approximates closely to our charitable activities income.

Looking to 2017, the PCC agreed a budget of £765k. £30k of this was a provision for the church weekend. We will not need that owing to the generosity of gifts and pledges made. Then the budget also contained £15k one-off expenditure for Simeon room design work. With this removed, the remaining £720k is close to forecast income of £701k. The target remains to keep these in balance.

Copies of the full accounts are available. If you cannot find a copy on our celebration day, please ask at the Office (01962 854 454). Also the Treasurer (David Boul, david.boul@ccwinch.org.uk, 07912 576 438) is happy to try and answer any questions you may have.

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<td>701</td>
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