

CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD *Annual Report*

for

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

and

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday 27th March 2019

8pm

Christ Church

Bedford

www.ccbedford.org



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday 27th March 2019 at 8 pm

In accordance with the Notices fixed to the Notice Boards, the Meeting of Parishioners for the purpose of appointing Churchwardens, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in Christ Church, Bedford, on Wednesday 27th March 2019 at 8 pm.

Meeting of Parishioners

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Appointment of Churchwardens
3. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Meeting of Parishioners
3. Election of 1 lay representative to the Deanery Synod for one year.
4. Election of 4 lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council for 3 years
5. To receive a copy of the new Electoral Roll
6. To consider the Trustees 2018 Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council
7. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year
8. Election of Sidespeople
9. Election of Reader(s) to the Parochial Church Council
10. To consider Reports of:
 - the Deanery Synod
 - the Halls Redevelopment Group
 - the Mission Action Plan Review
 - the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church,
 - various Committees and Activities of the Church,
11. Results of elections to Deanery Synod
12. Results of elections to the Parochial Church Council
13. Consideration of any other business of Parochial or general church interest
14. Vicar's Report
15. Closing Statements

RICHARD HIBBERT
Vicar

CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD
Minutes of the MEETING OF PARISHIONERS and of the
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
held on Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 8pm in the Church
Chairman: The Rev. Canon Richard Hibbert

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence

Pat Allison, Ken and Pauline Barber, Simon Berrington, Germain Brookes, Mhairi Brown, Penny and Ian Cooper, Dennis Davies, Vivienne Jones, Clive and Ros Just, Sidney and Judy Miller, Duncan and Susan Mountford, Amanda Ottaviani, Min-Min Peaker, Colin and Trish Pilbeam, Kirstine Pirrie, Simon and Sue Platt, Andrew and Helen Russell, Margaret Ryan, Chris and Tony Somervell, Marilyn Sykes, Jonathan and Ruth Templeman, Sue Templeman, Penelope Valleley, Anne Wakeling, Sarah Walker and Jo Wigg.

2. Appointment of Churchwardens

Two nominations have been received: Kay Berrington (nominated by Becky Gynn and AJ Wade) and Andrew Turpie (nominated by Marcus Ottaviani and Alan Cottenden). There being no other nominations they were declared duly elected for the forthcoming year. Richard Hibbert thanked Andrew and Kay for the hard work they put in as our wardens; we are grateful for their service. Kay commented that it is a joy to serve the church and people and she thanked everyone for their prayers.

3. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Andrew Turpie thanked the following assistant wardens for their service during the past year. They do very important work behind the scenes ensuring the smooth running of the church.

Peter Allen	Pauline Barber	Margaret Baron	Rachel Bennett
Fiona Betteley	Andrew Emmott	John Evans	Sandra Mahaffey
Sue Marshall	Pat Mathias	Sue Platt	Keith Priddin
Mike Seamarks	Mary Shaw	Margaret Tufnell	Lucy Waters
Steve Welsh	Simon Wigg	Janet Williams	Christine Worrall.

Mary Shaw and Simon Wigg have asked to stand down and Peter Allen sadly died in November.

Andrew Turpie proposed that James Roe be approved to join the list of Assistant Wardens and that the other 16 be reappointed. John Betteley seconded the proposal and the list was approved unanimously. Richard Hibbert thanked the assistant wardens; we will miss Peter Allen and are grateful to James for stepping up. They make the role of church warden less onerous.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Pat Allison, Ken and Pauline Barber, Simon Berrington, Germain Brookes, Mhairi Brown, Penny and Ian Cooper, Dennis Davies, Vivienne Jones, Clive and Ros Just, Sidney and Judy Miller, Duncan and Susan Mountford, Amanda Ottaviani, Min-Min Peaker, Colin and Trish Pilbeam, Kirstine Pirrie, Simon and Sue Platt, Andrew and Helen Russell, Margaret Ryan, Chris and Tony Somervell, Marilyn Sykes, Jonathan and Ruth Templeman, Sue Templeman, Penelope Valleley, Anne Wakeling, Sarah Walker and Jo Wigg.

2. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Meeting of Parishioners

Wendy Pegg proposed and David Gundry seconded that the minutes of the 2017 APCM, to be found on pages 3 to 8 of the APCM booklet, be approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record. This was agreed unanimously.

3. Election of 2 lay representatives to the Deanery Synod for 2 years

Deanery Synod is made up of fellow Anglicans representing churches in Bedford, Kempston and beyond. It is run by the Rural Dean (currently, Richard Hibbert). Two nominations have been received for two vacancies: Keith Priddin and AJ Wade. There being no other nominations those named were declared duly elected to serve as representatives on Deanery Synod. They automatically become ex-officio members of the PCC.

4. Election of 4 lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council for 3 years

Four nominations have been received: Simon Berrington, Tracey Emmott, Ruth Janes and Sue Templeman. These four were therefore declared duly elected to serve on PCC for three years.

5. To receive a copy of the revised Electoral Roll

Pauline Grimley explained that following the revision of the Electoral Roll there are still 318 people on the Roll. 25 names were added and the same number of names were removed from the list, owing to people moving away from the church, from the area, or sadly, through death. There are slightly more people who live in the parish on the roll this year.

6. To consider the Trustees' 2017 Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council

Pages 9-18 of the APCM booklet contain the trustees' report, with administrative and organisational information found on pages 10-12. Page 13 contains a statement on safeguarding. As a church we are trying to comply with good practice with regard to the latest guidance in this area and pages 13-17 report on our objectives and achievements. The financial review is on page 17 and at the foot of the page our reserves policy is set out. It is important to note from this that we do not have the money for our expected expenditure. The comment on going concern on page 24, is also a statement made by the trustees.

We have to submit our accounts to the Charity Commission and the Diocese of St Albans. Richard Lindley, as Chair of the Resourcing Impact Group liaised with Suzy Goodson, our independent examiner and the accounts were signed off on 5 March 2018 and then Pauline Grimley converted the spreadsheets to booklet format on Monday evening ready to publish booklets one week before the APCM.

A few points to note were made: Unrestricted funds can be spent on any of our charitable activities; the accommodation costs for the Church Weekend Away were all covered, but not all the other costs, overall there was a loss of about £600 on the weekend; for the Seniors' holiday completely covered its costs. The accounts show a £5000 deficit in terms of income from unrestricted funds and charitable expenditure, but this was much smaller than budgeted. In the past the PCC has approved a deficit budget and it has not been realised but, unusually, we were fully staffed in 2017.

Details of our income can be found on page 30. Most comes from standing orders and our next biggest source of revenue is reclaimed income tax. Thank you to those who give by standing orders. Rental income comes from hire of the hall (pre demolition) and of the church space, other sources of income should be self-explanatory. Details of our expenditure are shown on page 21. Our biggest expense is the parish share that we pay to St Albans diocese.

Employment costs is the next largest. We have had full staffing in 2017 and we must remember that a lot of the things we do wouldn't have happened without the staff. Our mission and charitable giving is set at 14% of general income, so if our income goes up, the amount we give away goes up.

Money has come in for the halls redevelopment during the year, but more has been spent. Bills continue to come in. We received a letter purporting to come from Jeakins Weir asking us to please update our banking records for them, but we quickly verified that this was not a legitimate letter. We verify any organisation that tells us their bank account details have changed including the Diocese of St Albans. Restricted Funds are those given for a specific purpose, e.g. Uganda, what comes in goes out again to the nominated cause. Our reserves show that we could survive for 2-3 months with no income. Creditors due includes spending on the halls in December that was not paid until January.

The PCC has agreed the 2018 budget based on a potential income level. RIG have to consider work out the budget in October and it is presented to PCC at its November meeting. This means that RIG had to base the figures looking at the income that has come in by mid-2017. The PCC has approved another deficit budget and some sub budgets within the church accounts have been reduced. There has been an uplift in new standing orders and people increasing their standing orders in the last couple of months, which is encouraging, but 2018 is going to be a tough year, financially.

The treasurer expressed her thanks to the wardens and assistant wardens who count and record the collections after each service; for the treasurers of individual events such as Keith Priddin for the church weekend away to Chris Worrall for checking and banking the money and to Richard Lindley and the members of the Resourcing Impact Group for all the support they provide.

The treasurer then invited questions and comments about the accounts:

- What are our cash reserves likely to be at the end of 2018? If our income does not increase it is likely that we will have cash reserves of about 6-8 weeks of expenditure (approx. £50,000).
- On behalf of the Mission Impact Group the members of Christ Church were thanked for giving to the mission partners, for financial, prayerful and practical support. Our overseas mission partners have suffered a reduction in income due to the exchange rate of the pound and are very grateful for our faithful support.
- What do we get by paying the Parish Share? Primarily it pays for stipendiary clergy. The best place to find further information is on the Diocesan website under 'Parish Share'.
- Why was more given to one of our overseas mission partners than the others? In part this is due to the greater cost of living in the country where they are working and we have also contributed specifically to the schooling costs that they face.
- The Discretionary Donations on page 32 are donations to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund. About £9,000 has been distributed to those facing financial hardship or struggling, both to members of the congregation and others known to us.
- It is very encouraging to note that despite the financial pressures in 2017, £13, 500 more was given away in 2017 than in 2016.

Michael Bishop proposed that the accounts for 2017 be approved by the meeting. Ann Gray seconded the proposal and they were accepted.

Richard Hibbert thanked Ruth Janes for the amazing work that she does as the treasurer of a million-pound charity and the many hours that she gives the church each week. We are very grateful to her and to Phil and the family who give you to us to do this work. He thanked Chris Worrall for counting and banking the money week by week and Richard Lindley for his work in pulling the accounts together. Richard's final comment was that regular Standing Orders are the best way to give to the church because it is the most helpful way for us to budget and to know what is going on financially.

7. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year

Ruth Janes proposed that we reappoint Suzy Goodson of Wright Connections Ltd as Independent Examiner or Auditor for the 2018 accounts. We may need to have our accounts audited, if our annual income in 2018 exceeds £1,000,000 and Suzy is qualified to do this if required. Sue Stanton seconded the proposal and everyone was in favour of it.

8. Election of Sidespeople

Kay Berrington thanked the team of sidespeople who support the wardens and assistant wardens. Their reliability and faithfulness is appreciated as is that of the welcomers at 10am and more recently also at Reason services. However, it is the responsibility of all of us to welcome those who come.

The following served as sidespeople during the year: -

Ken Barber	Germain and Melvin Brooks	Katharine and Ian Brown
Katherine Davies	Penny Gilham	Pauline and Vandon Grimley
Cheryl Grint	Christine Harrison	Bo and Cecile Laursen
Jill Leggat	Wendy Pegg	Margaret Ryan
Sheila Seamarks	Ken and Dorothy Summerfield	Jo Wigg

Kay Berrington proposed and Gillian Lindley seconded that the sidespeople be reappointed for the coming year. These appointments were approved.

9. Election of Reader(s) to the Parochial Church Council

The Church Representation rules permit the election of anyone who holds the Bishop's Licence as a Reader to the PCC. Christ Church has two licensed readers at the present time. Michael Bishop had indicated that he was willing and would like to serve as an ex-officio member of the PCC, and this was accepted. Margaret Tufnell does not wish to serve on the PCC, but rather to serve in other aspects of the life of the church.

10. To consider reports of: -

10.1 The Deanery Synod

This report is to be found on pages 15 & 16 of the Trustees Report. There were no questions about the report.

10.2 The Halls Redevelopment Group

This report is to be found on pages 34 & 35. A video taken by Simon Platt earlier this month showing how building has progressed was shown in the background. Steve Ashton, our project manager, explained how the snowfall two weeks ago has affected the build. The environmentally friendly lime render needs the temperature to be over 5°C for 24 hours. The builders have now begun to apply this, but the weather forecast is not looking good for the coming week, so please pray that it can be completed, as this is seriously impacting on the timing of the project. It does not affect us financially as the risk rests with the contractor.

They have tried to minimise the delay, but we are now looking at a completion date of the end of May rather than the end of April.

We will need a month to fit out and won't open as soon as the building is handed over; we can't therefore stick to the dates we had proposed for the bishop to come. It is possible that on 10 June we will have a private day and dedicate the building and ourselves with Bishop Richard. The 29 September 2018 is the 60th anniversary of the consecration of Christ Church and so we might try and celebrate both that and the opening of the new building with a community event.

Questions and comments were invited about the report.

- What is the role of the new Halls Usage Group? This group are looking at how we will use the premises and at things like policies, hire rates and the allocation of spaces. There is also a fit-out team, looking at how we fit out the rooms.
- What will the premises be called? This has not yet been decided.
- Where is the money for fitting out coming from? The Irene Lamb Trustees are aware of the needs and have consented in principle to commit the money in the fund for this purpose. The fit-out team have drafted a budget and using the money for this purpose falls within the wonderfully wide-ranging terms of the Irene Lamb Trust Fund deed. The trustees can wind up the fund at any time, if they feel that it would be worthwhile to use all the money for something (see page 33 of booklet for the accounts of the fund). £5,000, a legacy from Cynthia White, was added during the year and it has been agreed with her family that this will be used for fitting out the halls and especially the chapel room.
- Will the chapel be restricted to just that use? The present intention is for all rooms to be multi use.
- What is happening regarding the heating in the church? The Buildings Impact Group (BIG) and the Halls Redevelopment Group (HRG) are in discussion. BIG is keen to improve the church heating, so the gas meter will be updated so that it can supply two new boilers one for the new build and one for the church. Our electrical and mechanical contractors have suggested that a bigger more powerful boiler be installed than that originally proposed and this is going to be investigated.
- What about the other costs of bringing church back up to scratch? BIG are aware of this need and have it in hand to deal with over time. For example, we will move the carpet tiles around so the best ones are the most visible.

Richard Hibbert concluded this item with the following comments: Thank you Steve, our project manager, we are hugely grateful for your work and for that of the other HRG members and members of the congregation who have given us help and expertise. We need to raise the final 10% of the cost; on 23-24 March we will hold 24 hours of prayer before holding a donations day on 25 March. The weather has delayed our builders, Jeakins Weir, we need to pray for them, asking that this is a build that they will look back on with great joy.

10.3 The Mission Action Plan Review

The PCC agreed their Mission Action Plan in 2015 and conduct regular reviews of the action points. The 2017 review can be found on page 36 of the APCM report.

10.4 The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

This report was produced by the Buildings Impact Group on behalf of the wardens and it is to be found on pages 37-39 of the APCM Report. The Church Wardens are legally responsible for the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church. There were no questions about the report.

10.5 Various Committees and Activities of the Church

These reports are to be found on pages 39-64 of the APCM report. Richard Hibbert identified some key reports: page 39 Safeguarding – we are very grateful to Penny Cooper our safeguarding lead, Kathryn Hughes for administration and Pauline Grimley who performs the necessary identity checks and page 55 Pre-School – they have been gracious whilst using the church to meet in over the winter as we have struggled to heat the space. Ofsted came today and the feedback was that they have continued to be good which is the highest they can achieve in the current circumstances. Thanks were expressed to Charlie Eaton, the play leader and to the chair of the Pre-School committee, Helen Johnson (a member of the PCC).

11. Consideration of any other business of Parochial or general church interest

- Gillian Lindley asked whether any decisions had been taken with regard to changing the format of some of our evening services. It was explained that, probably from May onwards, we are looking towards introducing something new, more like the monthly *reason* service on the third Sunday of the month.
- There is one spare space available on a day conference on Thursday 15 March in Ware *Leading a praying Church* if anyone would like to attend.

12. Vicar's Report

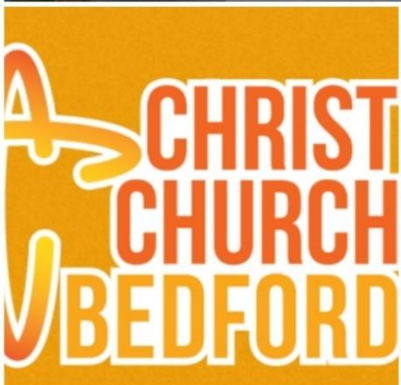
The annual report tells the story of Christ Church in the last 12 months, of God's story being worked out through us. Many great things have happened: The Vicar's Discretionary Fund has been able to help people financially, *the puddin club* has opened up for Alpha and Castle Newnham School has opened its doors to Becky and AJ with Open the Book, Values Club and contributions to Religious Education lessons. In total £2.2 million has now been raised for the halls redevelopment. In 2011 £1.5 million seemed impossible and there have been plenty of stops and starts since then with various issues having to be dealt with, but good has come out of them, for example, VAT exemption came about because we decided we could not afford to build the chapel that was in the original plans. A sub-contractor recently commented that "There's something special about this site". In December we had a very cold Carols in the Orchard, but people came and joined us, as they had for Apples in the Orchard. People have enquired about and then attended Alpha; a couple attended the marriage course following an invitation from friends and then both couples attended together. We want everyone to live out our mission statement and for the values of G(rowing) R(eal) A(ccepting) C(onnecting) and E(ncompassing) to underpin our thoughts; we want to be accessible and welcoming. There is a building excitement with the new church centre: what new things will we be able to do? Supper for the lonely, debt counselling, support for struggling families? We want to be a church beyond these four walls, in a hurting world; we can't fix it all, we can't remove all the uncertainties of life, but we can help.

Thanks to staff team a wonderful group of people. In reverse alphabetical order thanks to Pauline for her knowledge of, commitment to and concern for the church and its people; to Paul, God has given us a great servant hearted, spirit filled curate; Kathryn understands Richard's writing and frees him to do other things; Becky works out her belief that every child is important and every parent matters and finally AJ, our recent addition, looks for opportunities to demonstrate his love for Jesus and for our young people. He concluded by thanking all the members of Christ Church, who work together to fulfil our mission of making Christ known. The church thrives when everyone prays, gives and serves.

13. Closing Statements

Kay Berrington, on behalf of Andrew and herself, explained how daunting they had found it when they realised that they would legally be in charge when Richard was in Extended Study Leave, especially when the building work had just started and AJ was only two days in post. Kay thanked Pauline, Paul and Michael Bishop for their support during this time. She also thanked Steve Ashton (project manager) and Laura Turpie (chair of the Halls Redevelopment Group) for working tirelessly to make sure our new halls will bring glory to God and that during the build life has continued as normally as possible. So many people are involved in the life of Christ Church; Kay thanked them all for their commitment, energy and servant hearts. She expressed gratitude to the leadership team and in particular Richard, our incumbent and Rural Dean; he returned from extended study leave with enthusiasm and a sense of God's vision for Christ Church. Kay thanked Sarah and Emily for supporting Richard and asked everyone to pray that we will all remain faithful to God in the coming year.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.45 pm.



On 23 September 2018 the Bishop of St Albans opened the new halls



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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018
FOR**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD ("Christ Church")**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1134785

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The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2018. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

Administrative information

Christ Church is situated at 140 Dudley Street, Bedford. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 140 Dudley Street Bedford MK40 3SX. Registered charity number 1134785 under the name the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Bedford. It is also known as Christ Church Bedford, PCC or Christ Church.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2018 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex-Officio Members:

Incumbent	The Revd Canon Richard Hibbert	Chairman
Curate	The Revd Paul Boulter	(until 31 August 2018)
Wardens	Mrs Kay Berrington Mr Andrew Turpie	
Reader	Mr Michael Bishop	
Diocesan Synod	Mr Christopher Burrows Mr Duncan Goldthorpe Mr Marcus Ottaviani	(until 30 June 2018 (until 31 July 2018)
Deanery Synod	Ms Rachel Bennett Mr John Betteley Mrs Min-Min Peaker Mr Keith Priddin Mr AJ Wade	(from 13 March 2018) (from 13 March 2018)

Elected Members:

Mr Simon Berrington	(from 13 March 2018)
Mrs Mhairi Brown	
Mrs Leyla Burrows	(until 13 March 2018)
Mrs Margaret Cottenden	
Dr Jon Day	
Mrs Tracey Emmott	(from 13 March 2018)
Mr Nick Hearn	(until 13 March 2018)
Mrs Ruth Janes	Treasurer
Mrs Laura Jewell	
Dr Ewan McAdam	(until 13 March 2018)
Mr Daniel Payton	

Ms Helen Ryan
Mrs Sue Templeman
Mr Graham Thomson
Mr Steve Welsh

(from 13 March 2018)

(PCC Secretary)

Mrs. Pauline Grimley

(not a PCC member)

Bank:

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Suzanne Goodson BSc FCA
Wright Connections Limited
Registered Auditors
Bedford I-Lab
Priory Business Park
Stannard Way
Bedford
MK44 3RZ

Day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to the incumbent: -

Incumbent:

The Revd Canon Richard Hibbert

Christ Church Vicarage
115 Denmark Street
Bedford
MK40 3TJ

Structure, governance and management

Christ Church is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and it is part of the deanery of Bedford and the Diocese of St Albans.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Christ Church the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, one of the Readers, members of Diocesan and Deanery Synods and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

New PCC members/trustees are usually offered informal induction through reading a copy of *The PCC Member's Essential Guide*, and a copy of the PCC Notes of Guidance. In April a special meeting was held to induct trustees newly elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met 6 times during 2018 with an average level of attendance of 67%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of impact groups, each one dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These groups, which include communications, mission, buildings, outreach, resourcing, fellowship, and young people, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with reports of their meetings, decisions and recommendations being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Standing Committee: This committee is required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Buildings Impact Group: This group is responsible for the management and development of Christ Church PCC's buildings and infrastructure.

Communications Impact Group: This group is responsible for oversight of both external and internal communications, including our physical and online presence.

Fellowship Impact Group: This group is responsible for the planning, resourcing and delivery of events focused on the development of fellowship within Christ Church.

Mission Impact Group: This group is responsible for caring, praying and practically supporting our Mission Partners and Organisations and encouraging vocations and support to mission at home and overseas.

Outreach Impact Group: This group is responsible for the planning, resourcing, coordination and delivery of all pre-evangelistic, evangelistic and early discipleship support at Christ Church.

Resourcing Impact Group: This group is responsible for the financing of Christ Church and the prudent management of its financial resources.

Worship Impact Group: This group is responsible for the planning, resourcing, coordination and delivery of all corporate worship at Christ Church.

Young People's Impact Group: The Young People's Impact Group is responsible for supporting the Youth Minister and the Families and Children's Worker in developing and implementing a strategy for young people's and family work at Christ Church which directly contributes to the achievement of Christ Church's mission.

Risk management

The PCC is aware of its risk management duties and has affirmed a number of policies, including the Notes of Guidance for PCC meetings and PCC responsibilities and Safeguarding. These risks are regularly reviewed and systems and procedures have been put in place to manage these risks. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

All our trustees and youth and children's leaders are DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked, as are those whose volunteering brings them into contact with vulnerable adults. Our fire risk assessment, policies and fire safety equipment are kept up to date. There is a food management and recording system in place and at the Environmental Health Inspection in October 2018 we were awarded grade 5, the highest possible. The PCC approved a privacy policy and our data holding procedures were evaluated and amended where necessary to meet the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

Aims and purposes

The primary responsibility of Christ Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, Reverend Canon Richard Hibbert, in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and halls complex of Christ Church, Bedford.

The mission statement of the PCC is *'To enable everyone to become maturing followers of Christ, who experience and live out God's love daily in every part of their lives'*.

The vision of the PCC is therefore to be a Church: -

In which we are	Growing – in faith
	Real – about ourselves
	Accepting – of all
	Connecting – to our community
	Encompassing – all who come

Our priorities for 2018 were

To have a greater presence in Devon Park Estate area of parish – taking God's *shalom* there

To reduce our busyness and increase our servant-heartedness for service

To embed our mission statement into our personal daily lives as well as our church life and activities

Objectives and activities

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living within and outside in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church and complex at 140 Dudley Street, which new halls and rooms were opened by Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans, on Sunday 23 September 2018, with local councillors and dignitaries in attendance. Over 800 people visited the new facilities on that day. During the autumn, the PCC has worked hard to make the new halls and rooms properly operational and appropriately fitted out. Both are on-going matters. The PCC also had responsibility for the upkeep of 161 Dudley Street.

The main objectives of the PCC for 2018 were to: -

1. Promote and move forward with the Hall Redevelopment, such as detailed planning and fund raising, in order to better serve our community including the Church.
2. Extend testimony slots to all main services, sharing God's daily stories in our lives.
3. Communicate and inspire Home Group members with the aim and purpose of the Mission Statement.
4. Research the views and needs of the Devon Park Estate residents.

5. Reflect on and initiate the way ahead for growth in making disciples in the community, family and children's ministry.

The objectives were kept under review by the PCC throughout the year. The PCC are aware of the importance of continuing to equip people for living their lives rooted in Jesus, continued to serve the residents of Devon Park Estate in building a sense of community, seen principally in inviting the residents to the opening celebrations and through our now annual Carols in the Orchard (over 150 people gathered).

The PCC are delighted that there is a growing openness to the Children's Minister and Youth Minister serving the school community at Castle Newnham School through lunch-time clubs and occasional assemblies with *Open the Book*. In addition, two church members serve as Governors.

The emphasis on the new halls and rooms has prevented full concentration on building links with local churches and yet there is still good ecumenical work with the local young people and at incumbent/minister level.

The main emphasis has been the Halls Redevelopment. Partial handover (interior spaces) was granted on 7th September 2018 and it has been exciting to see the original hirers return and new hirers to come on stream. The local community have been overwhelmingly positive about the facilities and how they serve the communities of Castle Road and Devon Park.

In order to achieve our objectives the PCC has: -

1. Continued to implement the recommendations of the Mission and Identity Strategic Review 2015, through which all activities and groups are being more effectively aligned with the overall Mission Statement. All groups/activities are encouraged to consider their response to the values and priorities of the Strategic Review within their aims and purposes.
2. Set up a halls usage group to:
 - Develop the appropriate policies for halls usage
 - Develop the standard contracts
 - Allocate space for present/existing hirers
 - Create an on-line enquiry and manual booking system
 - Identify key community group we would like to work with
 - Identify volunteer receptionists, welcomers, etc.
3. Appointed a new part-time Centre Manager from 1 October 2018.
4. Promoted within Devon Park Estate a Carols in the Orchard service.
5. Consulted and reviewed the proposed Deanery of Bedford MAP.
6. Reviewed and affirmed the strategies of the Children's Minister and Youth Minister for 2018.
7. Approved Christ Church becoming a placement church for a Theology Ministry and Mission student to gain practical experience of youth work.
8. Encouraged the opportunities of learning and discipleship through Home Groups and Alpha/similar courses.
9. Appointed a new Quinquennial Architect
10. Closed the Irene Lamb Fund, allocating the full funds towards the fit out of the new halls.
11. Purchased a new projector and side aisle monitors in church to replace the ailing old system.

Role of Volunteers

Many of our activities are supported by a large number of volunteers, without whom we would not be able to operate. Good examples from 2018 include:

1. Holiday @ Home, which provides 3 days of events for the elderly, including a day out to Woburn Abbey, is run by a dedicated group of 12 individuals with further support from church members.

The 'Holiday' is open to all in the community and great encouragement was taken that larger numbers than before from the community but not the church participated.

2. Messy Church and Messy Sunday both meet monthly, providing a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. The team of 10 volunteers create a warm and hospitable event for local families, many of whom have no other connection to the church.

It is impossible to quantify in financial terms the contribution made by these and many other volunteers, but it is considerable and without which the PCC would not be able to fulfil its charitable objectives.

We would like to thank all the many volunteers, who work so hard to make this church the lively and vibrant community that it is. In particular, we want to thank the Churchwardens, Kay Berrington and Andrew Turpie who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf during 2018.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

All are welcome to attend our regular services. Under the Church Representation Rules, it is a requirement that a new Church Electoral Roll is prepared every 6 years. This process took place this year and was completed on 13 March 2019. At present there are 282 names on the Church Electoral Roll, 212 of whom are not resident within the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 267, but this number increased at festivals.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 5 baptisms, 3 thanksgivings for the gift of a child and had two candidates for confirmation. We have ministered at 3 funerals in our church and officiated at 10 funerals at Bedford Crematorium this year. Regretfully, no weddings were celebrated in 2018.

Deanery Synod

We have one lay representative directly elected to Diocesan Synod and five lay representatives elected to Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. At each Deanery Synod meeting members, where appropriate, received reports from General Synod, Diocesan Synod, Diocesan Board of Finance, Deanery Pastoral Committee, financial matters, and notices of special events being arranged by Parishes.

In 2018 there were 4 Deanery Synod meetings, each having a primary focus of discussion.

- In February the focus was on Mission Action Plans, both the Deanery's and those of individuals parishes. Groups, comprising members of different parishes/benefices, shared one or two specific actions related to the MAP(s) that worked well and then groups of people from the same parish/benefice identified one specific action from the MAP to focus on.
- In June the focus was on the effective use of social media to reach all ages. If churches are to use this, they need to do it well, and be aware of who may be reading the posts. The church today should follow in the footsteps of other generations who used cutting edge technology, such as codex, printing press and TV for communicating God's word.

- September's meeting was with Tim Bull (Diocesan Director of Ministry), who made Synod consider ways for more churches to encourage their congregation to invite people to church to share good the news with them.
- In November, the Synod heard a presentation from Tim Lomax, Diocesan Director of Mission, and Mark Dunwoody, Diocesan Senior Fresh Development Officer, on Fresh Expressions and the Reaching New People project which supports churches in reaching new people, growing churches and new forms of church.

The Church and Halls

One of the hardest to bear parts of 2018 has been the slow delivery of the new halls. Expected to be completed in April/May 2018, partial handover for the interior only came on 7 September 2018 – 2 weeks before the official thanksgiving and dedication by the Bishop of St Albans. The builders, Jeakins Weir, continued to work on the exterior in the autumn. As at the end of 2018, the Architect had still not signed off Practical Completion.

Nevertheless, the halls are a beautiful addition to our church and the wider community, already enjoying increasing use by various church and community groups. Financially, we saw the outstanding amount required to be pledged reduce from £270,000 at the beginning of the year to under £100,000 by 31 December 2018. God's generosity and his people's generosity have been wonderful to see, and we are also truly grateful to those grant-making trusts that gave again to cover the rising costs we have experienced. We have not had to draw on the loan facility of Methodist Chapel Aid to meet our required expenditure. During 2019, the final sum will be confirmed and we will pray for that to be raised in full and final settlement of the building costs.

Pastoral care

Some members of our church are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. There is a team of pastoral visitors and three members of the congregation hold the Bishop's permission to take the sacrament to the housebound.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The Mission Impact Group channels support and news between our Mission Partners, scattered across Africa, the Middle East and Europe, and encourages prayer for them. A highlight in 2018 was our Mission Partners' weekend, a joyful coming together of our three main Mission Partners, the Deneufchâtel, the Gayets and Rob and Ruth for a weekend of listening, learning and fellowshiping together.

We have also sought to offer regular Alpha Courses, a video-based series that explains the basics of the Christian faith and the work of Jesus Christ to those living in the community. It is a privilege to see several people each year coming to saving faith through this course and the follow-up material we offer.

Our parish magazine is available from the Church and is published six times a year. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and Church members, and includes articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Ecumenical relationships

The church is a member of HOPE Bedfordshire and we have taken part in events such as the town-wide open-air Good Friday Witness and at Christmas we worked with Three Rivers Church to deliver a flyer to every home in the parish advertising the Christmas services of both churches.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £327,061, with £176,382 from standing orders and £48,553 was from Gift Aid. Restricted donations of £265,106 were received for the halls redevelopment. Further details are shown in the annual financial statements.

£327,262 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from Christ Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share of £128,705 which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

Net movement in funds was a reduction £1,115,781 and during the year, and the total reserves reduced to £35,536, both decreases largely being due to entering the build phase of the hall redevelopment.

The principal source of donations are the church members. The PCC takes its environmental, social and ethical duties seriously, ensuring that such inform the ministry of Christ Church.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain adequate funds to ensure the smooth financial running of the church, and ensure that unexpected expenditure can be met as and when required. Total funds held at the year end amounted to £35,536.

The balance on the general reserves at the year end was £92,412 which is considered adequate. Of this amount £76,748 is available without the sale of fixed assets. Total unrestricted funds (including the general fund) amounted to £126,733 with designated funds of £34,321 representing amounts raised in respect of a previous house purchase.

The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the financial statements. Restricted funds are in respect of specific projects and or schemes and include amounts raised for the proposed Hall Redevelopment Project (HRP).

Financial risks

Total restricted funds amounted to a deficit of £107,364. This deficit is arising from the fact that not all funds have been raised for the Hall Redevelopment Project, even though the build has almost completed. The working capital shortfall is being covered by interest free loans from members of the congregation, which are repayable in equal instalments over the next 5 years. As at 31 December 2018 a further £28,924 had been pledged by the congregation which is expected to be received over the following 3 years and a £5,000 grant was received in early 2019. These amounts will reduce the deficit on the Hall Redevelopment Project. The PCC are satisfied that further funds will be available to repay the interest free loans and in a meeting on 7 March 2019 approved a motion to hold a Gift Day in summer 2019 to raise the remaining HRP balance. It should be further noted that the cash reserves on the Hall Redevelopment account had increased from £73,000 as at 31 December 2018 to £89,000 as at 12 March 2019. It should be noted that in the unlikely event of sufficient funds being received after this date into HRP funds before 31 December 2019 to be able to fund the final build costs and pay the first instalment of the interest free loans, cash from the main church funds will need to be used.

The cash reserves of the church, including restricted funds but excluding hall redevelopment funds totalled £89,137 as at 31 December 2018. The budget for 2019 was approved by the PCC showing a deficit of approx. £40,000, and the PCC expects to pay approx. £12,000 to complete the fit out of the halls – such sum is currently shown as restricted amounts. The PCC is mindful of this deficit, confident that there are sufficient cash reserves to meet all obligations for the next 12 months in respect of both the general funds of the church and HRP and will, after the closure of the new electoral roll in March 2019, be taking active steps to eliminate this deficit.

Plans for future periods

In the light of the results of the Mission and Identity Strategic Review of 2015, the PCC continues to be has committed itself in 2018 to the following priorities

Priorities

1. Loving people intentionally towards salvation
2. Balancing the message of abundant life and costly discipleship
3. Developing a collective identity as a congregation

The PCC, having reviewed its priorities and objectives, has confirmed the following objectives to meet these priorities over the next 2-3 years: -

Objectives

1. Equipping people for intentional living rooted in Jesus.
2. Continuing a long term presence on Devon Park with Christ Church seen as an essential part of the Devon Park community.
3. Walking with Castle Newnham children and their families through thick and thin from age 3-16, especially through the ministries of the youth minister, AJ Wade and the Children's Minister, Becky Guynn and other church members.
4. Continuing our active partnerships with Bedford churches.
5. Complete fund raising and finalise furnishing of the new halls as a welcoming space for our community and a welcome into the church family and faith.
6. Proactively develop Fresh Expressions of Church initiatives to reach out to those for whom new ways of worship will assist them to be part of a worshipping community within the life of Christ Church.

Approved by the PCC on 19 March 2019 and signed on their behalf:

by Revd Canon Richard Hibbert (PCC Chairman)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, BEDFORD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure account)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	<i>Note</i>	Unrestricted Funds £	HRP Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 31.12.18 £	Total Funds 31.12.17 £
INCOME FROM						
Donations and Legacies	4	265,943	317,876	69,639	653,458	697,204
Charitable activities	5	55,480	58,000	4,040	117,520	102,909
Other trading activities		5,487	0	0	5,487	3,810
Investments	6	151	0	0	151	948
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		327,061	375,876	73,679	776,616	804,872
EXPENDITURE ON						
Charitable activities	7	327,262	1,503,406	61,728	1,892,397	1,112,832
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		327,262	1,503,406	61,728	1,892,397	1,112,832
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(201)	(1,127,530)	11,951	(1,115,781)	(307,960)
Transfers between funds		(345,451)	345,451	0	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(345,652)	(782,079)	11,951	(1,115,781)	(307,960)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	19	472,386	674,715	4,216	1,151,317	1,459,277
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD at 31st DECEMBER 2018	19	126,733	(107,364)	16,167	35,536	1,151,317

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, BEDFORD

BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2018

	<u>Note</u>	31.12.18		31.12.17	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	12		105,664		112,316
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	18,695		16,835	
Cash at bank and in hand		162,548		<u>1,362,382</u>	
		181,242		<u>1,379,217</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors due within one year	14	-115,691		<u>-284,536</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			65,551		<u>1,094,680</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			171,215		1,206,996
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	15		-135,679		-55,679
NET ASSETS			35,536		<u>1,151,317</u>
FUNDS	19				
Unrestricted funds		126,733		472,386	
Restricted funds		16,167		4,216	
Hall Redevelopment Project		-107,364		<u>674,715</u>	
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		35,536		<u>1,151,317</u>	

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 19 March 2019
and signed on its behalf by:

Revd. Canon Richard Hibbert Chairman

Mrs Ruth Janes Hon. Treasurer

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts

Charity registration number 1134785

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, BEDFORD
CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Note	31.12.18	31.12.17
Cash flow from operating activities			
Cash generated from activities	3	(1,291,203)	(25,169)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(4,875)	(3,180)
Interest received		151	948
Net cash flow from investing activities		(4,724)	(2,232)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Receipts from issue of long term loans		100,000	0
Interest paid		(3,907)	(3,907)
Net cash flow from financing activities		96,093	(3,907)
Net increase/decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(1,199,834)	(31,308)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1.1.18		1,362,382	1,393,690
Cash and cash equivalents at 31.12.18		162,548	1,362,382
Cash and cash equivalents consists of			
Cash at bank and in hand		162,548	1,362,382

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Christ Church Bedford

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Christ Church Bedford (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Suzanne Goodson BSc FCA
Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales
Wright Connections Limited
Bedford I-Lab
Stannard Way
Bedford
MK44 3RZ

Date:

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) General information

Christ Church, a registered charity in the United Kingdom is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and it is part of the deanery of Bedford and the Diocese of St Albans. Its trustees are all member of the Parochial Church Council and they operate under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 2 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are shown on pages 2 to 11 of these financial statements.

b) Basis of preparing the financial statements

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years prescribed.

c) Income recognition

Voluntary income and capital sources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activates (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Collections are recognised when made. For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. Pledged amounts are only recognised on receipt of the funds.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid scheme donations is recognised in the period the income is received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of the entitlement and the likely amount due.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity

would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

Where practicable, gifts in kind donated for distribution to the beneficiaries of the charity are included in stock and donations in the financial statements upon receipt. If it is impracticable to assess the fair value at receipt or if the costs to undertake such a valuation outweigh any benefits, then the fair value is recognised as a component of donations when it is distributed and an equivalent amount recognised as charitable expenditure.

Other trading activities

Other trading activities represent feed in tariffs from solar panels, and are recognised on entitlement.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is accounted for when earned. Fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals, etc. are accounted for on an event by event basis

d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Costs directly related to the work of the church

The Diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable and any amount unpaid at 31st December is included as a creditor in the Balance Sheet. Grants and donations are accounted for at the earlier of payment or formal approval by the PCC. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

e) Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church property

Consecrated and beneficial property is excluded from the financial statements by s. 10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property.

All expenditure on consecrated and beneficial property and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off in the year incurred. This includes all expenditure incurred to date in respect of the Hall Redevelopment Project, including the build costs, since the build is occurring on consecrated ground, and as such cannot be capitalised.

Other land and buildings

Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes are valued at cost. No depreciation is charged on such properties since it is considered that the estimated residual value of the properties is in excess of the purchase price. Any expenditure on maintenance or improvement is written off in the year incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment purchased within the accounting period is capitalised on the balance sheet. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off in the year in which the asset is acquired.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset in a systematic basis over its expected useful life. Depreciation rates used are as follows

Furniture and solar panels – 10% per annum (estimated useful life 10 years), Equipment – 33.33% (estimated useful life 3 years)

f) Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

g) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the financial statements. Restricted funds include amounts raised for the proposed Hall Redevelopment Project (HRP).

The financial statements include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

h) Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

i) Bank and Cash

Bank and Cash include short-term deposits which include cash held on deposit either with the General Board of Finance of the Church of England or at CAF Bank.

j) Loans

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

k) Concessionary loans

Concessionary loans include those payable to third parties which are interest free and are made to advance charitable purposes. Where the loan is repayable on demand within one year, the loan is measured at cost, less impairment. Where the loan is repayable more than one year, the loan is initially measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment.

k) Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within 1 year

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are included as debtors at transactional values less any provision for amounts that may prove to be uncollectible. Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

l) Judgements

No judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies.

m) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees acknowledge that there are uncertainties in respect of the final build cost of the Hall Redevelopment Project (although they are expected to be small) and future pledges expected to be received. Based on the latest information in respect of the final build cost, cash in the bank, expected pledges and the provision of interest free loans the trustees consider that there are sufficient funds in hand to complete the project. The trustees have considered the level of reserves held and the expected level of income and expenditure together with loan funding and subsequent repayments and believe they are sufficient to ensure the charity is a going concern for 12 months from authorising of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, BEDFORD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure account)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017 Comparatives

	<i>Note</i>	Unrestricted Funds £	HRP Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 31.12.17 £
INCOME FROM					
Donations and Legacies		255,324	419,989	21,891	697,204
Charitable activities		70,291	30,000	2,618	102,909
Other trading activities		3,810	0	0	3,810
Gain on sale of 145 Dudley Street		0	0	0	0
Investments		948	0	0	948
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		330,373	449,989	24,509	804,871
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities		335,506	752,754	24,571	1,112,832
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		335,506	752,754	24,571	1,112,832
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(5,133)	(302,765)	(62)	(307,961)
Transfers between funds		(170)	0	170	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(5,303)	(302,765)	108	(307,961)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		477,689	977,480	4,109	1,459,278
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD at 31st DECEMBER 2017		472,386	674,715	4,216	1,151,317

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, BEDFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2018

3 Reconciliation of net expenditure for year to net cash flow from operating activities

	31.12.18 £	31.12.17 £
Net expenditure for year	(1,115,781)	(307,960)
Interest receivable	(151)	(948)
Interest payable	3,907	3,907
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	8,347	6,722
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	3,180	0
Decrease (increase) in debtors	(1,860)	2,867
Increase (decrease) in creditors	(188,845)	270,242
Net cash flow from operating activities	(1,291,203)	(25,169)

4 Income from Donations and Legacies

	31.12.18 £	31.12.17 £
Gifts	546,939	653,686
Legacies	0	6,000
Other Donations	106,519	37,519
	<u>653,458</u>	<u>697,204</u>

5 Income from charitable activities

	31.12.18 £	31.12.17 £
Rental income	18,002	12,527
Grants	58,000	30,000
Events and activities	40,635	36,606
Fees	883	1,488
	<u>117,520</u>	<u>80,621</u>

6 Income from investments

	31.12.18 £	31.12.17 £
Deposit interest	151	948

7 Charitable Activities Costs

	Direct costs £	Donations £	Total £
Church Activities	<u>1,841,203</u>	<u>51,193</u>	<u>1,892,397</u>

See note 20 for further details

8 Support/ Governance costs

	31.12.18 £	31.12.17 £
Independent examiners remuneration	<u>2,314</u>	<u>1,620</u>

9 Net income for the period is stated after charging

	31.12.18 £	31.12.17 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>8,347</u>	<u>6,722</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, BEDFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2018

10 Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2017 - £nil)
In 2018 and 2017 the incumbent and the curate were remunerated by a related party, being the Diocese of St Albans.

Five trustees, including incumbent and curate, were reimbursed £ 5,729 during the year (2017 - 3,113)

11 Staff Costs

	31.12.18	31.12.17
	£	£
Wages and salaries	68,132	65,021
Social security costs	1,817	1,038
Defined contribution pension costs	3,179	3,255
	<u>73,128</u>	<u>69,314</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2018	2017
Youth minister and Families and Children's worker	2	2
Other	3	2
	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

No employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000

12 Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 January 2018	90,000	88,479	178,479
Additions	0	4,875	4,875
Disposals	0	(11,288)	(11,288)
At 31 December 2018	<u>90,000</u>	<u>82,066</u>	<u>172,066</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2018	0	66,163	66,163
Charge for the year	0	8,347	8,347
Disposals	0	(8,108)	(8,108)
At 31 December 2018	<u>0</u>	<u>66,402</u>	<u>66,402</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2018	<u>90,000</u>	<u>15,664</u>	<u>105,664</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>90,000</u>	<u>22,316</u>	<u>112,316</u>

Note:

The property held at 31 December 2018 consists of 161 Dudley Street, Bedford, which is subject to an equity sharing loan from the Church Commissioners (see loan note for further details).

13 Debtors: amounts falling due within 1 year

	31.12.18	31.12.17
	£	£
Other debtors	18,695	16,835

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2018

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31.12.18	31.12.17
	£	£
HRG creditors	84,151	274,561
HRG - interest free loan from members of congregation	20,000	0
Other creditors	11,540	9,975
	<u>115,691</u>	<u>284,536</u>

Members of the congregation have given interest free loans, repayable over five years. The first instalment of the repayment is due on 31 December 2019.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	31.12.18	31.12.17
	£	£
HRG - interest free loan from members of congregation	80,000	0
Other creditors	55,679	55,679
	<u>135,679</u>	<u>55,679</u>

The PCC has a loan of £55,679 from the Church Commissioners which was taken out to assist with the purchase of 161 Dudley Street (the Curate's House) This is an interest only value linked loan representing 62% of the original value of the property. It is repayable on sale of the property together with a 62% share in any increase in value since acquisition. There are no plans to sell 161 Dudley Street

16 Monies raised for others

During the year the following monies were collected on behalf of external organisations

	31.12.18	31.12.17
Kings Arms (Christmas appeal 2017)	380	1,693
Diocese of Egypt (Christmas appeal 2018)	1,484	0
Bishops Harvest appeal	923	718
Ordinand training	265	310
Hurricane Irma relief	0	318
Bike n Hike	1,620	0
Other external organisations	0	1,177
	<u>4,672</u>	<u>4,460</u>

17 Financial commitments

The PCC had committed a total of £2.5m to the hall redevelopment project (31 December 2017 - £2.5m). As at 31 December 2018 a total of £38,803 of the £2.5m remains uncommitted, although it is currently estimated that only £2.47m will be spent. Funds will be sourced from grants, pledges made and interest free loans from the congregation.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, BEDFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2018

18 Related parties

The Irene Lamb Trust fund is a related party by way of its trustees also being trustees of the PCC
The Diocese of St Albans is a related party by way of the constitution

Details of payments to related parties are found in notes 21 and 22

19 Fund reconciliation - 2018

Unrestricted funds

	Balance at At 1.1.18 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.12.18 £
General fund	91,363	327,061	-327,262	1,251	92,412
Designated reserve - HRP	345,451			(345,451)	-
Refurbishment reserve	1,251			(1,251)	-
Unrestricted house reserve - 161 Dudley St	34,321			0	34,321
	<u>472,386</u>	<u>327,061</u>	<u>- 327,262</u>	<u>- 345,451</u>	<u>126,733</u>

The designated reserve for HRP has been transferred to the HRP reserve since the build has been completed.

Restricted funds

	Balance at At 1.1.18 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.12.18 £
Vicar's discretionary fund	507	3,805	(2,949)		1,363
Hall fit out	739	27,493	(16,269)		11,963
Other	2,000	38,341	-40,078		263
Holiday at Home	970	4,040	(2,432)		2,578
Total restricted excluding HRP	4,216	73,679	(61,728)	-	16,167
HRP funds	674,715	375,876	(1,503,406)	345,451	- 107,364
	<u>678,931</u>	<u>449,555</u>	<u>(1,565,135)</u>	<u>345,451</u>	<u>- 91,198</u>

	Unrestricted funds 31.12.18 £	Restricted funds 31.12.18 £	HRP funds 31.12.18 £	Total 31.12.18 £
Fixed assets	105,664			105,664
Cash and current investments	73,192	16,167	73,189	162,548
Other current assets	15,097		3,598	18,695
Creditors: amounts due in less than one year	(11,540)		(104,151)	(115,691)
Creditors: amounts due in more than one year	(55,679)		(80,000)	(135,679)
	<u>126,733</u>	<u>16,167</u>	<u>- 107,364</u>	<u>35,536</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, BEDFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2018

20 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	HRP Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 31.12.18 £	Total Funds 31.12.17 £
Income from Donations and Legacies					
Standing orders & Envelope Scheme	176,382	265,106		441,488	559,837
Legacies	0			0	6,000
Basket Collections	4,127			4,127	5,922
Income tax reclaimed	48,553	52,770		101,323	87,926
Other donations	36,880		69,639	106,519	37,519
	<u>265,943</u>	<u>317,876</u>	<u>69,639</u>	<u>653,458</u>	<u>697,204</u>

Note: Included in above for 2018 is £ 17,493 - Unrestricted, £27,775 - HRP, and £49,473 (of which £27,493 is from Irene Lamb) - Restricted being a total of £94,731 from related parties of which £67,248 was given by trustees.

Income from charitable activities

Rental income	18,002			18,002	12,527
Social & Youth Events	20,905			20,905	19,164
Grants	0	58,000		58,000	30,000
Morning Out receipts	1,150			1,150	1,578
Lunch Club Receipts	3,651			3,651	3,805
Holiday at Home	0		4,040	4,040	2,618
Church Weekend Away	0			0	22,288
Fees	883			883	1,488
Sundry receipts	10,889			10,889	9,441
Malawi	0				
	<u>55,480</u>	<u>58,000</u>	<u>4,040</u>	<u>117,520</u>	<u>102,909</u>

Note: Included in sundry income is an amount of £3,000 received from the Diocese of St Albans.

Income from other trading activities

Income from solar panels	5,487			5,487	3,810
	<u>5,487</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,487</u>	<u>3,810</u>

Income from investment

Deposit interest	151	0	0	151	948
	<u>151</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>948</u>

TOTAL INCOME

	<u>327,061</u>	<u>375,876</u>	<u>73,679</u>	<u>776,616</u>	<u>804,872</u>
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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, BEDFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2018

21 Resources spent		Unrestricted Funds	HRP Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31.12.18	Total Funds 31.12.17
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Grants						
Mission and charitable giving		33,474		14,770	48,244	50,246
Other donations		0		2,949	2,949	9,735
		<u>33,474</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17,719</u>	<u>51,193</u>	<u>59,981</u>
Directly relating to Church Ministry						
Parish share - payment to a related party		128,705			128,705	123,177
Clergy & staff expenses		3,528			3,528	4,795
Housing costs		2,336			2,336	2,143
Services including music		4,573			4,573	5,561
Telephones		2,956			2,956	2,579
Books		85			85	851
Explorers, Holiday Club & Youth Work		5,414			5,414	4,826
Training		1,182			1,182	3,912
Morning Out		942			942	1,161
Lunch Club		2,898			2,898	3,184
Holiday at Home				2,432	2,432	3,063
Church weekend away		0			0	22,903
Outreach (including social events)		22,538			22,538	19,596
Sundries		3,023			3,023	861
Interest payable		3,907			3,907	3,907
		<u>182,087</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,432</u>	<u>184,520</u>	<u>202,519</u>
Church management and administration						
Heat and light		10,102			10,102	6,734
Insurance		2,948			2,948	2,323
Cleaning Materials		2,380			2,380	2,412
Church and property maintenance		5,417		24,222	29,639	5,307
Equipment - not capitalised		860			860	0
Hall Redevelopment			1,503,406	17,355	1,520,761	752,754
Salaries and wages		73,128			73,128	69,314
Printing, postage and stationery		2,825			2,825	2,585
Other		200			200	559
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		3,180			3,180	0
Depreciation		8,347			8,347	6,722
		<u>109,386</u>	<u>1,503,406</u>	<u>41,577</u>	<u>1,654,370</u>	<u>848,711</u>
Support/Governance Costs		<u>2,314</u>			<u>2,314</u>	<u>1,620</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES SPENT		<u>327,262</u>	<u>1,503,406</u>	<u>61,728</u>	<u>1,892,397</u>	<u>1,112,832</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, BEDFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2018

22 DETAILS OF MISSION AND CHARITABLE GIVING

	General	Restricted	Total 31.12.18	Total 31.12.17
OVERSEAS				
Rob & Ruth S - Middle East	10,500	0	10,500	8,500
SIM (supporting the Deneufchâtel)	5,950	0	5,950	5,000
Gayet (work in Belgium)	7,000	0	7,000	5,000
Specific work in Middle East	0	0	0	600
Malawi - Home of Hope	0	0	0	1,000
Specific sponsorship	0	0	0	500
Egypt EDA	0	0	0	4,500
Samuti - interfaith helpers	0	0	0	500
Neno Macadamia trust	500	0	500	100
Crosslinks - Millers	0	0	0	120
Other	1,459	0	1,459	1,416
Malawi Orphan fund	600	0	600	0
Uganda - faith mission	0	9,105	9,105	10,435
	26,009	9,105	35,114	37,671
HOME				
Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust	2,790	1,710	4,500	4,500
Kings Arms Project - Bedford	500	0	500	500
COACH including Beth Bradley (nee Day)	1,000	0	1,000	1,000
Specific sponsorship	0	600	600	100
Bedford Street Angels	50	0	50	50
Youth Inspired	600	0	600	1,000
International Justice Mission	0	0	0	200
Richard Hibbert sabbatical	0	0	0	200
Friends for Life	25	0	25	25
Irene Lamb trust fund - related party	0	0	0	5,000
Barnabas fund	500	0	500	0
Bedford food bank	500	0	500	0
Friends of Home of Hope - supporting teens 2019 trip	1,500	0	1,500	0
Other specific giving	0	3,355	3,355	0
	7,465	5,665	13,130	12,575
Total mission	33,474	14,770	48,244	50,246
OTHER				
Discretionary donations	0	2,949	2,949	9,735
	0	2,949	2,949	9,735
	33,474	17,719	51,193	59,981

TOTAL MISSION GIVING

Note: Mission giving was set at 14% of General Gifts in 2018 (2017: 14%)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, BEDFORD

INFORMATION ONLY AS MANAGEMENT TRUSTEES OF THE IRENE LAMB TRUST FUND

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	31.12.18	31.12.17
	£	£
Balance at 1 .1.18	27,426	22,360
Interest received	66	66
Adjust prior years	0	0
Donations	0	5,000
	27,493	27,426
Withdrawals to fund Halls fit out	-27,493	0
	0	27,426

The Irene Lamb trust Fund was closed during the year

The trustees during the year were:

Mrs Kay Berrington, Revd Canon Richard Hibbert, and Mrs Laura Jewell

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

HALLS REDEVELOPMENT GROUP REPORT

Introduction Last year we started our report with these words; What a difference a year makes. They are equally appropriate this year. We have our new building and have been using it since September 2018. In spite of last year's 'Beast from the East' and the pressures that placed on the team, relationships remained positive and Jeakins Weir have provided us with a remarkable new building for Christ Church to fulfil its vision. It is a very rare thing in the construction industry but, in spite of the challenges, the construction has come in under budget. Again, repeating last year's report; construction is a notoriously dangerous activity and we are very grateful for the safe delivery of the scheme. We are also thankful for the Contractor's staff who have continued to be very friendly, approachable and helpful for both Church users and our neighbours.



Communications We have concentrated on four key messages under the strapline: 'being built to meet the growing needs of our local community'.

1. They are for all of us
 2. We outgrew the current halls
 3. They are sustainable and built to last
 4. We want to bless you with them
- Since moving in to the building we have concentrated on providing a friendly and informative welcome to hall users through the arrival of Dawn Hire, our Halls Manager.
 - The original communications strategy for the halls was about 20% implemented owing to lack of manpower and expertise.
 - A small core of Rachel Bennett, Laura Turpie, Dawn Hire and Jude Hamilton have been communicating regularly in order to address ongoing feedback from hall users. Special attention has been given to pre-school who have had a lot of changes, many of them unwelcome, to deal with.
 - We kept an eye on the reaction of the neighbourhood via local Facebook groups and there has been a fairly even range of views expressed in public: from highly negative to supportive.
 - The overwhelming reaction of public visitors to the halls have expressed their love of the design, look and feel and also the building's peacefulness and natural feel.



Halls use now All of our regular hirers who used the old halls have come back, although some for less hours. We also have a good number of new regular hirers, including Song Squad, Castle Counselling, Moo Music and the King's Arms Project (language lessons for refugees and asylum seekers) and one-off hirers are now getting in contact, mainly looking for a space for a family celebration or child's party. One young man has decided to wait a week for his birthday party so that he can have it at Christ Church, rather than at another local venue.

Others who use the halls regularly are CCB's own regular users including

the Knitters as well as some house groups and impact groups. Bedford Foodbank and other charitable organisations supported by CCB also use the halls regularly or for events. The Children's Ministry Team, Youth Ministry Team, Alpha, Go 4 Gold, Lunch Club, Ladies and Men's breakfast events and others all use the halls for regular or occasional activities. A Hub Welcome Team is being set up so that visitors can receive a warm welcome and information about activities taking place.



Wi-Fi has been installed throughout the building and is working well. Storage is evolving in the building, a loft area has been installed in the upper storeroom and conversion of the former toilet and boiler room along from the office has taken place. A defibrillator has kindly been donated and installed on the wall close to the main Dudley Street entrance.

Next Steps The Completion Certificate was issued on 1 February 2019. This starts a 12 month 'maintenance' period where by any materials or construction snags or defects are the responsibility of the contractor who is obliged to correct them. The Architect will be involved throughout this time and will have a final inspection of the building at the end of the 12 months to give it the final sign off. I hasten to add that 'latent defects', by law, remain the liability of the contractor for many years. These can be issues that emerge several years down the line but can be attributed to poor workmanship and/or materials. At its March meeting the PCC approved a motion to hold a Gift Day in summer 2019 to raise the remaining HRP balance.

Laura Turpie, Chair Halls Redevelopment Group

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS, AND ORNAMENTS OF CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD AND BUILDINGS IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Membership: Richard Hibbert (Vicar), Fanie Lessing, Martin Hamilton (sec), Pat Davies, Vandon Grimley, John Betteley, Dawn Hire (Centre Manager), Andrew Turpie (Churchwarden), Rachel Bennett (Chair)

Pauline Grimley stepped down when Dawn Hire joined the group in autumn 2018. We are grateful for the time, energy, insights and wisdom that Pauline gave to BIG during her many years of service. We thank her and miss her experience and knowledge but are pleased to have Dawn with us, bringing a fresh input to the group.

BIG has had a busy and productive year with many things being achieved. Some larger tasks as well as small but necessary tasks have been completed. Obviously with the completion of the new halls in the summer, BIG has been taking over many jobs from HRG. We are grateful for members of HRG, particularly Steve Ashton, Laura Turpie and Jude Hamilton for their help, wisdom and guidance during this transition period. Thank you!

2018/19 Routine Activities/General Maintenance: BIG is responsible for making sure all routine maintenance and statutory building related activities are carried out. These vary from e.g. electrical inspections, organ tuning and lighting conductor checks through to ensuring we are adhering to Health and Safety legislation.

During the year BIG produced a Priorities Planning document to assist us and RIG with identifying and costings of the long-term work/tasks which we know will need doing in the main church and grounds, during the next five or so years.

Archdeacon's Inspection: The inspection took place August 2018 and was carried out by Wendy Waters (on behalf of the Archdeacon) who was accompanied by Kay Berrington and Andrew Turpie (Church Wardens). The report was complimentary with no significant concerns.

Inspection comments about Routine & Legal matters

- Registers are in good order.
- The Terrier & Inventory and Log Book are in order.
- Test certificates – for electrical installations etc. - all present in the Log Book.
- The Certificate of Employer's Liability Insurance is displayed in the church porch.
- Copyright licenses cover all necessary needs and are current.
- The parish MAP is in progress towards its goals
- PCC employees have written contracts of employment.
- The exterior remains well maintained
- The interior of the Church was clean, neat, tidy and welcoming
- The grounds around the church are well maintained



Quinquennial Inspection: This took place in January 2019 by our new architect. We are still waiting for the completed report but on the day of inspection, no noticeable issues were identified. The general overview was that everything looked good both in the main church, new halls, church grounds and 161 with all areas being well maintained. There will be some recommendations, none of which we are thinking will be of major concern. The report, when it arrives, will be available from the Church Office if anyone wishes to read

it. BIG will add any required and recommended actions from the inspection, to our Annual Maintenance Plan.

Ecclesiastical Insurers Inspection: With the completion of the new halls, Gerry Healy paid us a visit to view the halls, grounds and main church. He also inspected all our relevant legal documentation. He provided us with a small list of aspects we need to ensure are in place and BIG has been busy completing tasks e.g. additional smoke detector in lower floor of the Upper Store Room now that we have a loft space in there.

Additional BIG matters:

- New heating system in church is proving to be money well spent.
- Money was needed to be spent on removing two trees on the north lawn, due to decay. BIG is mindful too of the H&S issue of the difference in height of the north path and north lawns and it is in the plan to address this matter as soon as funds become available but until then we will maintain the gardens keeping the layout simple but neat and tidy.
- Additional storage space has been created in the Upper Store Rm. We are extremely grateful to Fanie Lessing and Vandon Grimley for constructing an excellent loft space for us to store long term

items e.g. Christmas decorations. More storage space is needed and BIG is considering how best to provide this for ease of access by church groups.

- New screen projector and larger screens for the main pillars in church have been purchased which provide clearer images
- The PV panels continue to provide a source of income for us.
- Work has been done on the Lower Store Room, formerly the boiler room
- The old toilet in the back corridor has been removed to create the official Vestry
- HRG, along with BIG are continuing with final Fit Out tasks in the new halls and we aim to complete in the next few months.



Policies: BIG is tasked with making sure the following policies are maintained:



- Food Environmental Health Thank you to Margaret Ryan, our Kitchen coordinator and who ensures we are kept up to speed with kitchen Health and Safety
- PAT testing Thank you to John Betteley for arranging this
- Safeguarding Thank you Penny Cooper and Kathryn Hughes who have faithfully kept on top of this much needed provision. Penny stepped down from this role during the year.

- H&S matters e.g. Risk Assessments, Fire/Emergency Evacuation Policy and Procedures. We are grateful to Amanda Janes for her expertise and support in helping us ensure we have all things in place. No evacuation practice took place in church during the halls building work but this will resume once we have finalised the Policy and Procedures documents.

All policies are held in the church office as well as electronically.

In conclusion: A huge thanks goes to all the servant hearted people who give of their free time and energy to maintain our church/halls/161 site. BIG could not complete the many tasks on our remit without so many church family members who help complete the skilled and unskilled jobs needing to be done.

We look forward, to what God has for us and our local/wider community, now that the halls have been completed. It is joy and privilege to have such buildings and for it to be used in so many different ways by so many people. We have much to thank God. Our desire, of course, is that God's purposes, for people's lives, will be played out in the various parts of each place in our buildings and that as one 11-year-old girl recently commented 'A modern building for modern people, who will come and get to know the Lord Jesus!' And that's our prayer for today, tomorrow and in future years.



Andrew Turpie, Kay Berrington (Churchwardens), Rachel Bennett (Chair of BIG)

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

1. At time of writing, the state of **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks** is:

- **83** people have current DBS clearance
- **50** have attended Deanery training
- **15** have completed online training
- **3** people attend Diocesan training

2. Safeguarding Developments:

In May 2018, our Safeguarding Lead, Penny Cooper, resigned and since then this role has fallen to Richard Hibbert. However, at its March 2019 meeting the PCC were pleased to appoint Pauline Carter to this role.

In July 2018 the Church of England published a Parish Safeguarding Handbook. This brings into one place the key safeguarding responsibilities for parishes that are outlined in the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. and is designed to support the day to day safeguarding work of parishes. The handbook signposts to more detailed guidance that can be accessed as required.

In September 2018 the PCC approved a parish statement on domestic abuse. This outlines how reports of domestic abuse should be dealt with and is based on guidelines from the Church of England and in November 2018, the Vicar, Children's Minister, Centre Manager and the Trainee Youth Worker were all issued with work mobile phones and the Youth Minister's mobile phone contract was renewed.

We are all aware that safeguarding awareness and training needs have become increasingly necessary, and many members from Christ Church have attended face to face training, and some have completed the on-line modules [see above]. This is for the protection of staff/volunteers, as well as the people we work with.

All of PCC members are charity trustees and because Christ Church runs children's and youth work and sometimes works with adults with care and support needs all of our trustees are DBS checked.

Kathryn Hughes and Pauline Grimley, Safeguarding Administrators

OUTREACH IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Members: - Steven Allin, Margaret Baron, Kay Berrington [Chair], Mhairi Brown, Penny Gilham, Cheryl Grint, Richard Hibbert [Vicar], Pat Mathias, Judy Miller, Andrew Russell, Helen Russell, Sue Templeman, Sarah Walker [Secretary]

This year the Outreach Impact Group has continued to reach out to the local community, offering a variety of opportunities for those seeking a new or increasing understanding of the Christian faith. In order to gain an understanding of new ways of reaching out, particularly to the unchurched, three members of the group completed the one-year Diocese of St Albans Mission Shaped Ministry Course and others have attended Diocese Vision days.

Since heading up recent Alpha courses we were delighted that four of the leaders agreed to join the group. Their passion for outreach and first-hand knowledge of using the new Alpha materials has been invaluable. Three evening and two daytime Alpha courses have been held over the

course of the year. The daytime courses have been particularly welcomed by seniors and young mums.

Following a challenging year, a most exciting outreach opportunity came with the completion of the Halls and the opening Celebration Day which OIG and FIG jointly organised. Everyone in the Parish was invited to explore the halls and enjoy the many activities held throughout the day. There was a wide range of displays both from existing church groups and local community groups. Food, drink and music accompanied the activities that were taking place. Approximately 500 people attended the day, with many from the local area.



Christmas continued to be an opportunity for outreach, different styles of services were held. We continued our outreach to Devon Park, an area targeted on our church Mission Action Plan, with another 'Carols in the Orchard'. This year about 180 attended and enjoyed mulled wine, mince pies, glow sticks, carols and good conversation with members from CCB.

Other outreach opportunities have included the Marriage Course and Parenting for Faith. More recently a Pre-Lunch Club group 'Food for Thought' was introduced. This provides an opportunity for seniors to discuss everyday issues and have conversations about Jesus.

Please pray for all who have been involved in any of the above activities and also that God will show us where he wants us to focus our outreach in the forthcoming year.

Sarah Walker, Secretary of Outreach Impact Group

MISSION IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Romans 10 v14 ¹⁴ *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?* ¹⁵ *And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?*



MIG's role is primarily 'mission' focused and most of the budget is spent on a small number of projects that are church planting, or bible translating or directly Gospel centred. Christ Church, together with other partner churches has sent and supports three Mission Partner families overseas: Rob and Ruth in the Middle East, Marc and Hilary in Benin and YP and Jude in Belgium. In addition, the Church supports 'Impact in Schools', here in Bedford and a number of other projects here and overseas.

Hilary and the Team are translating the bible into the Monkole language in Benin in French West Africa. The translation team is now focusing on the careful checking of the translation work with the objective to have the text ready for type setting by March 2020. Marc runs bible studies and preaches in the local churches.



In July 2018, Christ Church hosted a mission weekend at which our three main overseas partners and their families visited the Church and gave a series of presentations on their work. These were very well attended and helped to raise the profile of the work.

In the UK we support a local charity 'Impact in Schools'. The aim of impact is to "Help Teachers, School Children and Young People learn more about the Christian Faith". It provides support in the following three ways:

EDUCATIONAL: Christian Storytelling in assemblies, class groups and for seasonal events and RE curriculum lessons.

PASTORAL: Self Esteem groups for boys and girls and 1:1 mentoring support

RELATIONAL: Linking with the local Christian Church community and supporting Christian young people in schools through Christian Unions and clubs.

MIG supports 'Home of Hope' orphanage in Malawi and every other year, a party of young people visit Malawi to encourage the children and support the work there.

MIG now has a smart new notice-board in the Hub, so please keep up-to-date and see what is happening. MIG's top priority is to support our Mission Partners, so please pray for them and Christ Church supported projects.

Photos: Marc at a church service; the translation team of Hilary, Pastor Samuel, Pierre and Philemon and our Ann Roberts visiting Jude and YP who are church planting in Belgium

Duncan Mountford (Acting Chair)

YOUNG PEOPLE'S IMPACT GROUP REPORT

The Impact Group consists of 7 members: 5 church members, 1 youth minister, 1 children's minister. YPIG meet every month with a focus on growing our young people's work in our church and local community. It serves all those between 0-22 years. There have been a number of changes to YPIG in the last 12 months. Paul Boulter resigned as Chair in July 2018 with Mhairi Brown taking up the role in September 2018. A further 3 members have stepped down from YPIG since September 2018 but continue to serve in different areas in the church.



The team have a passion to see God's kingdom grow through our children and young people, reaching out into our community, showing God's love and saving grace to all. Prayer is an important part of our service so have now commenced alternative prayer meetings to devote time in prayer, seeking God's vision for the young people of Christ church.



The Children's Minister, Becky Gynn, has continued to build relationships with the local primary schools. This has included facilitating occasional assemblies and weekly lunch time value clubs. 'Open the Book' style sessions and one-day holiday clubs (over Christmas and February half term) have attracted an average of 20 primary children. The Youth Minister, AJ Wade, has regular youth sessions aimed at different age groups to meet the needs of the young people. The team have supported the HOPE events in Bedford which gathers the young people attending churches from across the town. Jess Walker has increased the work she does with the youth team whilst she studies at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. YPIG have the responsibility to manage the young people's budget. We delivered our ministry and activities within budget in 2018 and expect to do so in 2019.

Christ Church continues to run various other children and youth groups throughout the week. More details can be found in the respective reports provided by the Youth and Children's Ministers.

Mhairi Brown, Chair Young People's Impact Group

YOUTH MINISTER'S REPORT

I have now been the Youth Minister here at Christ Church, for 18 months now. In that time, we have seen a few changes, both in the number of young people we are seeing and the groups we are running here at Christ Church.

J Team meets comfortably in one of the upstairs meeting rooms. Generally, the atmosphere is quite relaxed and "lounge-like". A topic or Scripture is presented including how it is relevant to the young people and in our current world and culture. Often, if it has grasped one or more of the members of the group's interest then good discussions develop - this is not uncommon. Not everyone is always grabbed, but everyone is encouraged to contribute as they feel able. Our prayer is that the Christian faith and what Jesus has said and done is understood to be relevant to people in our world today which is so different to the world of the Bible, but with people's fundamental needs actually being the same.

Will Rawes

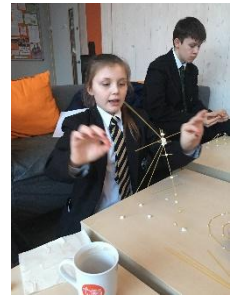
ASK, is a group where the years 10-13, It is a new group which started at the end of last year. It's where young people can come to a safe and welcoming environment, where they are able to ask questions about faith, God and religion. We have been using a few different resources, in particular, two books. One called *Tricky*, and the other *The Think Tank*.

Rooted is a group aimed at young people, who are in school years 10-13. The group runs on a Tuesday evening from 5:30-7:15pm. The current number of young people that attend, varies between 3-9 young people. Those that attend share a meal together, provided by volunteers. After the meal, we go upstairs to one of the new rooms in the halls, where we may play a group game.

We then have a discussion on life issues, which aims to consider the affect of the issue on the lives of the young people and their friends now, as well as in the future and how God fits into every area of it. We have also just finished watching the Youth Alpha series, which enabled us to have some great conversations.

Ignite is informal after-school club for Years 7-10 and is run by AJ, Jess Walker, Rachel Bennett and Jude Hamilton. We provide food, active games, craft, hanging about and an increasingly intentional reflective Christian slot towards the end of each session.

The number of children attending varies from 2-8 and our intention is to all muck in together to provide a safe and welcoming space for young people to chill out after school.



Popular games currently are dodgeball and we recently constructed sculptures out of crisps and voted for them according to various set categories. The leaders meet to discuss their own spiritual state and to pray for the children before each session. We are very excited about how the group is developing in terms of depth of relationships and we are just about to pilot a buddying system for each young person, should they so wish. It's all about acceptance and getting to know each individual young person personally so that they experience the love of God through us.

Jude Hamilton

Connect is our drop-in youth group that runs every Friday night from 7:15 pm until 9pm. We have a variety of games, music, films and an Xbox so that the young people can pick and choose activities that interest them. This group takes place in the Hub, allowing us to use the kitchenette to provide drinks and snacks. The main purpose of this group is to reach out to young people of all ages, Connect was created with 11 to 18 year-olds in mind, allowing us to begin to build relationships. Even if the young people who attend don't come to any other groups or services, Connect is a place for young people to belong. With social media and constant pressures surrounding them, they need a place to be able to breathe and relax. The environment we create allows them to be expressive and energetic but also to relax.

Jessica Walker

Hope is essentially an evening service for young people. There are hosts, games, a time of worship and pizza. This allows them to meet other teenagers from the Salvation Army, Kings Arms, Three Rivers Church, Bromham Baptist and many more churches from this area. It allows them to see that they aren't the only person in their school pursuing faith and that they aren't alone. Connect allows us to inform the young people of events like these to keep building relationships and stir curiosity.

Jessica Walker

We have been getting more involved in **school's work**, for example, St Thomas More School. We have been involved in helping with a Tuesday lunchtime group, co-leading the Alpha course for Sixth Formers and a Wednesday lunchtime worship group. In addition, we have gone into Castle

Newnham School to help run some RE lessons on the topic of Easter and we are looking to do further activities with them.

AJ Wade, Youth Minister (Written by AJ Wade, unless otherwise stated)

CHILDREN'S MINISTER'S REPORT

Values Club

Over the past year I have been running lunch time clubs at Castle Newnham School three times a week. I work with school years 1 to 6 (ages 5 to 11) looking at the school's Values and how we can better emanate them in our daily lives. Their current Values are Friendship, Respect, Compassion, Effort, Responsibility and Self-control. I am able to bring a Christian perspective to how those Values are relevant in my life. We learn through playing games, making crafts, hearing stories, object lessons and more. Since September Jess Walker has been joining me for the school years 5 & 6 (ages 9 to 11) group, in this group we have also looked at how to have good self-esteem (respect for yourself).



'I like that it feels safe and is really fun' Year 3 student. 'I wish Values Club was every day' Year 4 student. 'I like that I've made new friends at Values Club' Year 5 student. 'Values Club has given me some ideas of ways to deal with tricky situations' Year 6 student.

Becky Guynn

Open The Book



Open The Book made its first visit to Castle Lower School, as it was called then, in September 2015 with the presentations being on a monthly basis during term time. Since then, the school has merged with Newnham School and the former Castle Lower School is now known as Castle Newnham School (South Site). Inevitably with the formation of the new school federation, the appointment of a new headmaster at the South Site and ongoing changes to the school timetables, assemblies, etc., these have

unfortunately meant that our visits to present Open The Book are now slightly less frequent. Whilst we would obviously like to think that the frequency of our visits could revert to as before, it should be borne in mind that Open The Book is only one part of the good relationship our church enjoys with the school. Some of our team also assist with the Open The Book Holiday Club events and at the Open The Book presentations at Goldington Green Academy.

Graham Thomson

Messy Church/Sunday/Crafts

Messy Church runs on the 3rd Friday per after school home time. We welcome mainly lower school aged children and their families. It is exciting that we also welcome new families each time, with some coming from Morning Out. Word of mouth is the main driver for new people, as

families have been told about the fun that is had as well as the delicious cooked meal that comes each month.

Numbers vary between 30 and 40 children along with parents/guardians. We enjoyed sessions in Church during building work and now enjoy the greater flexibility afforded by the new halls. Huge thanks to the kitchen team. A typical Messy Church session begins with a drink and snack and colouring sheets to introduce the overall theme for the session. We move through to the Church at 4pm, where we share a story and songs and then back into the halls to make related crafts and games. Church comes next for 10 minutes of worship. The hall then beckons, with tables groaning with a wholesome, nutritious and child friendly meal. Families depart at 5:30pm and the cleaning fairies then do their magic.



We have a great team of willing volunteers who undertake a large variety of jobs. We have a small core team to plan the session, together with regular helpers for children's activities, worship and the catering and clean up teams. Others contribute by the generous donations of cakes for pudding. Yet more volunteer to cut and prepare activities in advance. Each month more than 20 members of Christ Church contribute to the running of the session: thank you

Messy Sunday meets at 2:45-4:00pm on the 2nd weekend of the month to allow families to explore Biblical themes more deeply.

With similar aims we hold family **Messy Craft/Messy Family Fun** sessions during school holidays, various days 11:00am-1:00pm. Different families come to these, Facebook, posters and word of mouth drawing people.

Gillian Lindley

Morning Out

Morning Out has enjoyed taking place in the new halls and has had a good number of new parents join since September. We continue to attract around 90 children and parents each week, some have been attending for years. One parent wrote "Morning Out has played such a lovely part in our lives for the past four or so years and continues to do so!"

With Bible led craft and story time the group have learnt about Epiphany and Candlemas in recent weeks. We have a great team who help in the kitchen, leading the singing and talking with parents. One mum wrote "I would love to say a huge thank you to all the ladies who help at Morning Out making the teas and chatting with the mums. They couldn't be friendlier."

Jen McAdam

Little Fishes



Little Fishes restarted in the autumn on Wednesday afternoons term time. It is a group for babies under 1 and their parents and carers. We started with 5-week course about sharing faith with your baby called Starting Rite. We now sing songs, talk, have drinks and biscuits/cake. We hope to have guests in to give talks sometimes. It is a very friendly group.

Wendy Pegg

Time For Tea – *A group for children with special needs or disabilities and their family meets some Saturdays throughout the year.*

Team – thank-you so much for being you – for the many and varied gifts (and baking and flowers) you bring to the afternoons both in preparation and on the day.

Interested in knowing more or joining us..?

Music, parachute, snakes, dogs... just some of our visitors

Enormous thanks to St Andrew's Church for allowing us to run Time For Tea in their halls during the Christ Church halls build.

Families – amazing, humbling, supportive, close, sharing of themselves and ideas, advocates

Open space for running, wheeling, crawling, hiding

Refreshment galore– for the stomach and soul!

Time to 'be' as a family

Ephesians 4:16 - From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Activities for all – paint, mess, space, music, bubbles, playdough, tents, beanbags, balls.

Rachael Rice

Crèche

After just over a year meeting in the Vicarage, crèche was very excited to return to the church building and the new halls in September. We had a quiet start and I have to be honest in saying that since returning, most weeks were equally quiet and we did not have many little ones joining us.

When the halls were completed it was always the intention for a new group to start for the 3 to 4 year olds called Diddy Disciples. Diddy Disciples is an amazing teaching resource for children encompassing the churches year and suitable for the liturgy of any church. It also happens to be the brainchild of Jen McAdam's sister Rev. Sharon Moughtin-Mumby. A group of us met with Sharon in October and afterwards it was decided that crèche and Diddy Disciples should merge. By doing this we can support each other and have sufficient leaders and helpers for each week of the month.

Our crèche helpers are still involved and there is, as always, a warm welcome for babies and little ones with or without their carers. We hope and pray that it won't be long until Christ Church is full of families on a Sunday morning.

Christine Snape

Diddy Disciples – *Sunday Mornings during 10:00am Service for babies to 5-year olds*

Diddy Disciples started in November and has had a great start. Each week we start the session by singing a welcome song to each child and parent. We then all take part in an interactive story time where we re-enact a story from the Bible. This half term we are learning about John the Baptist. Each week the children take part in a creative response to take home. To finish the session we sing a song about taking God's love into the world and share the peace. We currently have around 9 children in the group, with the age ranging from baby up to year 2.

Jen McAdam

Explorers – Sunday Mornings during 10:00am Service for ages 4 to 8 years old (School Years R to 3)



Over the last term Explorers have been looking through history at some of God's champions, people who stood up for God and served Him whatever other people said, at times when nobody else was standing up for God. We have explored the lives of characters like David, Noah, Timothy and Esther.

Our children have enjoyed exploring what they excel at, both as individuals and as a team (you may have seen this in the shape of badminton relays taking place as you've come to pick your child up after the service!!)

God has given each of our children the heart of a champion. Much like a good earthly father wants his children to be champions in whatever they undertake, our Heavenly Father desires that we, His children win in the game of life.

We have challenged our children to think of ways that they can be a champion for God and some of their responses were truly outstanding. 'I'm going to befriend the new girl in my class' to 'I'm going to pray each night to ask God to help me with my studies' to 'I'm going to unload the dishwasher to help my mum at home' are just some of the responses we had from them.

We pray that our children continue to seek God out and deepen their desire to go full throttle in and for Him.

Amanda Ottaviani

Passports – Sunday Mornings during 10:00am Service for ages 8 to 11 years old (School Years 4 to 6)

The Passport group takes children from the upper end of Explorers, now having an age range from Year 4 (8) up to Year 6 (11). During their time with us they cover the Passport challenges where the children study a range of essential knowledge areas (such as Who is God, Who is Jesus, Who is the Holy Spirit) through a range of interactive teaching and are then challenged to describe and explain these topics in their own words. Having been meeting at then Janes' House with grateful thanks we were delighted to move into the new halls where the bean bags have been a great hit. This spring term the children are joining with the rest of Explorers to hear from a range of mission organisations working around the world.

We have a well-established curriculum and it's such a strategic work that we would love to broaden and deepen what we can do for children and their families. Typically, there are 3-6 children and we have parents helping on a rota which gives a useful insight into how their children are challenged and cared for. I stay in touch with the parents (including those whose children don't come very regularly) by a regular group text message.



Martin Hamilton

WORSHIP IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Working together, our aim is to enable heartfelt worship and facilitate sung worship which has freshness, familiarity and quality.

We would like to thank all those who have served in the music, sound and AV teams for their commitment week in week out to our regular Sunday services. We are also grateful to those who serve as organists for the early Sunday morning and mid-week services. Thank you to everyone who took part in the evening Carol Service and to Min Min Peaker and Matt Jewell for leading the choir and band.



The photo was taken at our recent worship team breakfast which was an opportunity to spend time together outside of rehearsal time and to pray and worship together.

Carolyn Barnes, Chair Worship Impact Group

COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Last summer a group of church members met to draw up some terms of reference for a new Communications Impact Group (CIG).

The aim of the group is to draw together the various strands of communication in the life of Christ Church and develop a clear way to communication both within the church and externally.

Our aims are follows: -

To communicate in relevant ways to more people in our community and our church by

- providing excellent expertise, advice and resources in a focussed way
- growing the communications capability across CCB

The Halls build had a separate communications group which supported the build and linked communication to the church members and local community. Now the halls are fully open the original Communications Impact Group has been relaunched as a permanent Group. The new group met for the first time at the end of February 2019 to start planning the way forward.

Simon Berrington, Chair Communications Impact Group

FELLOWSHIP IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Current members: Sue Fearon, Sarah Hibbert, Wendy Pegg, Jill Leggat, Nesta Major, Claire Broughton Welsh, Rachel Bennett (Chair)

Graham Thomson stepped down at the start of 2019. We are grateful to God for his time of service on FIG and all he brought to the group.

Highlights of this last year:

- Monthly Sunday Walks
- Newcomers Tea Parties
- Beach Trip to Hunstanton
- Celebration of 60 years of CCB and the official opening of the new halls (with OIG)
- Cantamus Concert
- Talent Show



Our events were slimmed down during 2018 due to the halls rebuild but we are grateful that what was provided, was well attended. We are looking forward to what God has for us to provide opportunities for fun, food, fellowship, friendship and events when we can also bring family, friends, neighbours to join us.



Our terms of reference require us to provide welcome, to newcomers/visitors as well as events that offer fellowship opportunities for church members. FIG is ever grateful for the way our church family members help to provide the extra help e.g. baking cakes, hosting teas after the Sunday Walks. Thank you everyone.

Rachel Bennett, Chair of Fellowship Impact Group

RESOURCING IMPACT GROUP REPORT

RIG's remit is to consider how to resource the work of the church. The work covers the finances of the church, but RIG also seeks to ensure best value for contracts with suppliers. RIG also has responsibility for the financial aspects of the Hall Redevelopment. RIG also seeks to encourage the members of the Church to think about giving (time, talents and treasure), and to be responsible stewards of all that God has given us, both as individuals and corporately.

Ruth Janes has continued as Treasurer for the year. The role continues to be extremely demanding given the fact that this includes managing both the general church accounts and the HRG accounts, which with the build in progress for the whole of 2018 has taken increasing amounts of her time. I do most sincerely thank Ruth for all that she does. The church should be under no illusion as to how much work this entails.

As for the last few years, the HRG has been the main focus for the year. RIG has continued to guide the PCC in its decision making, ensuring that funds are available to meet all cash requirements, as well as having tight controls and governance – their effectiveness being demonstrated by the fact that an attempted fraud against the church was stopped with no financial consequences. Many hours have been spent looking at the insurance requirements for the new halls – particularly around the handover of the halls from the contractor to the PCC. I want to thank Mike Seamarks for leading this complex process, and ensuring we are in a good position going forward.

The general church accounts for 2018 are at break even – which was a major turnaround from the position at November 2018 when a substantial deficit was forecast for the year. The 2019 budget shows a substantial, and unsustainable deficit to be addressed. RIG will be seeking to ensure that

the funds are available to enable the day to day ministry of the church to continue without financial constraint.

Some of RIG's roles are routine, but nonetheless very important tasks, examples being reviewing accounts and setting budgets. For 2019 we will be seeking other ways in which the resources of the church and congregation can be managed. Above all we want to support the Church in using our resources for God's glory.

Richard Lindley, Chair Resourcing Impact Group

CHRIST CHURCH PRE-SCHOOL REPORT



After a year in the church, Pre-school was pleased to be able to move into the refurbished bright and airy halls in September and it's fair to say that the children loved it from the word go! As expected, being in the new halls presented some teething problems and staff and church members are working together to iron out issues to ensure that we can deliver the curriculum to our pre-school children. We are looking forward to the Spring weather to be able to play outside more with lots of new toys as well as having a long-anticipated outside storage area.

As always, places are in demand. We currently have 52 children on the register, 26 of whom receive funding. Pre-school is nearly full and new parents

often say that they hear good things about us – always lovely to know that we are being recommended.

We are sorry that, after 15 years as Early Years Leader, Charlie is leaving at the end of April. She has led pre-school with dedication and enthusiasm and always with the children at the forefront of everything, giving them the very best pre-school experience. She has also been a great friend and a listening ear to many parents. Her hard work and sense of humour have been appreciated by all the staff – and her resilience has been admired by us all, particularly during the period of transition with the new halls where she came up with some interesting and innovative ways of dealing with things. We will miss Charlie so much – it's going to be very strange without her – we hope she won't be a stranger and will visit from time to time. Charlie will certainly be a tough act to follow but we will do all we can to welcome and help the new Early Years Leader.

Thanks, as always, to our Committee members for their help during the year and to all at Christ Church for your continued support of pre-school.

Clare Glendenning, Administrator

HOME GROUPS REPORT

Home group activity is alive and well at Christ Church Bedford. We have sixteen groups at present with around one hundred and eighty members in total, which is a significant proportion of the Sunday congregation.



Lent course of study together.

Most groups meet weekly on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening although there are two very popular day time groups. Most groups aim to include time each meeting for fellowship, prayer support for one another and Bible study. The sermon notes from the Sunday speaker are used by most groups as a basis for discussion and are much appreciated. During Lent the groups will be meeting in church each Wednesday to follow the

There has been the inevitable flux of membership numbers in most groups due to folk joining the church whilst others move away from Bedford. Heliotrope group has a new leader, Sandra Holes after Jude and Martin Hamilton stepped down. This group has been able to successfully welcome members of Red group after their leader, Marilyn Sykes moved away.



Most home groups are now supporting a missionary in prayer and by sending cards or gifts and keeping in touch. This is such an effective way of supporting our missionaries and we aim to encourage all groups to do the same.

The home groups are invariably welcoming and inclusive, striving together to seek God's will, claim His promises and live out their Christian faith, supporting each other along the way. They are an important part of the glue holding a large church community together.

Duncan and Susan Mountford, Home Group Co-ordinators

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

We continue as a group of about 20 dedicated visitors who care for those in need at any one time or as an ongoing service. We have also been grateful to a dozen or so people who have rallied round in a couple of medium-term situations to help someone back to being able to manage

Pat Mathias, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

FOODBANK REPORT

Foodbank continues to be busy with increased numbers coming. In 2018 444 vouchers were redeemed at Christ Church, an average of 8 a week, feeding 563 adults and 301 children. Across all of the distribution centres in Bedford 7388 were fed, an increase of 10% on the previous year.

My thanks to Susan Fearon and her team, the faithful helpers and our drivers Nigel, David and Michael, without whom we couldn't operate.

Thank you to all from Christ Church who contribute food etc. at our collection point in The Hub and at supermarket collection points every week. We now distribute from the small hall and the Hub is used as our waiting area. We had a few teething problems to start with, but now we have worked out the best way we find it a lot easier to set up with a more open and accessible space for our clients; the door opening and closing helps with unloading food, carrying bags and wheelchair access.

Margaret Baron, Foodbank Co-ordinator

HOSPITAL SERVICES TEAM REPORT

The Christ Church hospital chapel team continues to meet at Bedford Hospital on the 4th Sunday of each month to deliver the morning service. Working with Revd Nicola MacIntosh, the Bedford Hospital chaplain, the team members arrive with a range of skills to support this important ministry. The duties include phoning the wards to find out who'd like to attend, collecting patients in wheelchairs, providing the reading, prayers or sermon, operating the iPod which plays the music, or simply chatting with patients over a coffee, and making them feel loved and supported. Over the past few years there have been many occasions when patients have expressed how important this service is to them, often during a time of significant illness, suffering or anguish. Many important conversations and prayers are shared and we always leave feeling glad that we were there for those people at that time, and that God is using us to communicate His love to people, often during a very dark time of their lives.

Pauline Carter

PRAYER MINISTRY REPORT

The prayer team continues to be an important element of Sunday morning services. Sue Platt has been a tremendous support in scheduling the rota and ensuring that there is always prayer cover available.

As with so many other aspects of church life, the new buildings have created increased opportunities for coming together to pray and to learn about prayer. A room has been set aside for a prayer focus and this room is also used at the end of Sunday services to provide a quiet and confidential space for people to share and to receive ministry.

We are also looking forward to the use of this new space to run a number of weekend seminars on prayer in the coming months, both to equip current and new members of the prayer team, and also to stir up the church to more regular, specific, and powerful prayer in the Holy Spirit.

James and Dianne Murphy

THE PRAYER PARTNER NETWORK

The Prayer Partner Network has over twenty Partnerships of church members. Most meet regularly to pray in a home; others meet as they able. For some, praying in this way has long been part of their life, while others find it an opportunity for first steps in praying together.

One of our prayer partners, Sandra Gardener, writes:

"I have been a Prayer Partner with Helen and Dawn for some years. We meet weekly to pray over issues that God has placed on our hearts. If an unexpected prayer need arises, we contact each other outside of our regular meetings, which has been a real blessing for us all. Being a Prayer Partner requires commitment to meet regularly and the need to maintain confidentiality about what we share with each other.

Our prayer topics have included the provision of jobs and housing, health issues and our children whilst at University, to name but a few. Whilst we realise God does not always answer our prayers, knowing that we are covered in prayer has meant that we have richly experienced God's love, peace and provision during some difficult times which has really strengthened our faith."

If you would like to join the Prayer Partner Network, review or welcome others into an existing Partnership, please contact me via the church office.

Kathy Priddin

LADIES' MINISTRIES

Ladies Late Breakfast

The Ladies Late Breakfast (LLB) is a bimonthly meeting which is an excellent opportunity for ladies to take time out from their busy schedules to come together for fellowship and, more importantly, to meet with God. There is a good mix of external and internal speakers from our own congregation to challenge, inspire and encourage all those present.



The LLB was blessed in January 2019 as it was the first time that we were able to take advantage of using our new halls for our meeting which worked really well. The LLB is a wonderful example of what Paul talks about in 1 Thess 5 v 11 “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing”.

Ladies Social Report

Ladies social events continue to happen every other month. In February & April 2018 we were meeting at the “puddin club” from 7.00-9.00pm for a glass of wine, a gin cocktail, non-alcoholic beverages & a choice of cheese board or a piece of delicious cake. Sarah Cottenden also had her cards & crafts displayed & available to buy.

Sadly, the “puddin club” closed so our next social was held on 7 June across the street at “Papillon”, 133 Castle Road, where we have continued to meet every other month from 7.30-9.00pm for non-alcoholic drinks & more delicious cake!

These evenings attract around 25 ladies, “Papillon” being a slightly bigger venue than the “puddin club”. Both proprietors have been very welcoming, opening their cafes for us to use, meet & get to know others from CCB & any friends invited.

Ladies Day

In November over 100 ladies of all ages and from different churches in Bedford attended a Ladies Day at Christ Church. Our guest speaker was Rev Fiona Gibson who spoke on the theme “The Light of the World”

We were able to use our fabulous new building to its full potential by offering seminars on subjects such as Worship and Music, the Homeless in Bedford and Women of the Bible and workshops in line dancing, flower arranging and singing! There was also an opportunity to browse the craft and book stalls and to purchase early Christmas presents and cards.

Perhaps most importantly, there was time and space for prayer and reflection.

Many ladies commented on how much they had enjoyed the day; particularly how challenging and inspiring Fiona's talks had been. They also valued the opportunity to meet up with friends and to make new ones.



The Ladies Ministry Planning Team

MEN'S MINISTRIES

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast continues to run each month at a new time of 9:00 to 10:30am. The normal pattern is to have breakfast and chat up to approximately 10:00am and then break away for a discussion about a topic relevant to men in Christ Church. Topics covered recently have included: -

- *Being a Christian in the workplace*
- *Stress at work and elsewhere*
- *Mental health and men*
- *Courage to share our faith*
- *At the meeting after Easter we will have a fresh look at what Easter really means to us as a church and individually.*

We returned to Christ Church halls from Fays café at the tennis club in October 2018 for our breakfast after completion of the building work when the new later start time was introduced. Numbers although not changing drastically are showing a small increase from month to month.

Men's Socials

Various men's socials have been organized over the past 5 months or so with visits to the rugby, pub nights and also a curry night. Other events are planned for the rest of the year. Attendance numbers vary and suggestions for new social evenings are always welcome.

18s TO 30s GROUP REPORT

The 18s to 30s group has continued steadily over the year, and we have recently welcomed some new members. Most people are settled into home groups, so we have started to focus on more social events with the aim of building relationships with newer members. Socials this year have included meals out, New Year's Eve Party, BBQs and more. The new format for evening services is very exciting for us as it offers a more contemporary style of worship, which many of our members enjoy.

We have started making plans for a weekend away later in the year and in the coming year will continue to build relationships and encourage one another in faith through fellowship.

Laura Jewell

KNITTING GROUP REPORT

The group meets every Wednesday afternoon during term time, and sometimes during the holidays as well. The venue has varied over the past year, starting in the lounge at Abrahams Close then moving into the church in September while the finishing touches were being put to the new rooms. We are now settled into Room 5 with tub chairs



chosen specially for us: comfortable but with arm room for our needles. We have made cushions for them - hopefully in keeping with the general colour scheme.



Numbers vary, with some new people joining after Christmas. We continue to knit (and crochet) for various charities and also for ourselves and have been asked to make a nativity set by Trish Horwood for her schools' work. One of the wise men is already complete, thanks to Rita. We are providing blankets for the Linus project but do tell us if you know of any other charity needing knitted blankets. New people are always welcome if only to chat over a cuppa.

Barbara Burbidge

GO4GOLD REPORT

Earlier in the year Claire Broughton Welsh gave us an insight into how God had led to the work she is doing today. We heard a very interesting account from Simon Barker on how Scripture Union was started 150 years ago from small beginnings and the story of a young girl who wrote out Bible notes for friends which laid the foundation for what we know today.

We enjoyed a varied Christmas afternoon with music, singing, poems and craft. In January we had a film afternoon complete with popcorn! Our February talk was given by Ruth Janes. An amazingly illustrated and informative account of her time in Malawi. In March we will join the World day of Prayer.

We look forward to another interesting and fruitful year.

Pat Mathias

LUNCH CLUB REPORT



Transition and Growth This past year has seen a major transition for Lunch Club from meeting at St Andrew's Church, to whom we owe huge debt of thanks and moving into our new suite of halls at Christ Church. There have been many challenges for those who are "Chef of the Day" to learn how to best use a brand new kitchen and all its equipment and for those who wonderfully serve the "Lunch Clubbers" in a way that can be done safely for all concerned and at the same time keep the informality and friendship of the meeting that has become part of Lunch Club's success.

There seems to be a year on year growth in the numbers attending Lunch Club. The average attendance is now of the order of 60+ folk with the Christmas event catering for 110 people where those numbers include the "regular and extra staff" that were "on duty" that day. Whilst the growth is to be applauded, it does raise an issue for us in that apart from a once a year event at

Christmas, it is difficult to see, with the current voluntary staffing arrangements, how it will be possible to manage any greater number than the current average level. We never want to turn anyone away but we have to be realistic as to how many folk we can entertain on a regular basis.

As always, I want to give thanks to all the Lunch Club "Staff" who give so generously of their time and talent. Also, I am so grateful to Pauline in the Office for her considerable help in much of the admin side, to the "Gavellers" and "Speakers" as well as those kind folk who after the meal has finished, help to put the tables and chairs away. Thank you. And finally, but most importantly, I am grateful to God who has given us the pleasure of sitting round a table together and enjoying the wonderful food that He has and continues to provide.

Sue Gundry.

HOLIDAY AT HOME REPORT



Holiday at Home 2018 was enjoyed by a large number of guests, over 45 each day. On Monday, Ann Gray did flower arranging, giving the results as raffle prizes. This was followed by John Braithwaite, talking about his work in Zambia. In the afternoon we were entertained by Peter Gardini, a local Christian magician.

Tuesday was the big day out to Woburn Abbey. We filled a 61-seater coach (including helpers). On arrival, everyone was free to wander the gardens, browse in the shop or sit over coffee enjoying the sunshine. Lunch was at the Woburn Hotel. We were treated wonderfully by the staff there. We returned to the Abbey for a guided tour of the house. A participant commented: "What a fantastic day at Woburn - beautiful weather, great company and such an interesting day altogether. I went round the whole 'house' and our tour guide was excellent. We had plenty of time to look around the garden."



On Thursday, Kevin Varty gave a very entertaining talk on Flanders and Swan, entitled "Joined at the Hippo". This was certainly a highlight for many. Edith Garea entertained us with a vegetable art demonstration. The afternoon was wrapped up by Min-Min singing for us.

Overall guests were very positive about the three days, saying things like "I felt very welcome."; "The activities were varied, interesting and fun." and "Delicious food and very friendly people."

Dorothy Summerfield

COACH HOLIDAY REPORT



In July 2018, 41 of us, set off for Llandudno, on our annual church coach holiday and we were truly blessed. The weather was perfect and the Welsh scenery beautiful. Visits included Mary Jones' Museum, Portmeirion, Conwy and Bodnant Gardens. Our guest speakers, who gave their testimonies, were inspiring! Friendships were made and ice creams enjoyed!



Chris Worrall

SHRINKING THE FOOTPRINT

Sustainability

'Shrinking the Footprint' is the brand the Church of England has adopted for its initiative to encourage churches to be more environmentally sensitive.

This year we have been concentrating on our church buildings:

The **new church heating system** is designed to optimise energy usage by heating up the church quickly for a set period, after which it cools down quickly, owing to the large surface area exposed to the outside. This is the most cost-effective solution we could find.



The **new church halls** are made out of sustainable timber which is low impact in terms of embodied energy (energy it takes to make the material compared to bricks and mortar). It also has a low end of life environmental impact compared to man-made materials. Either the panels will be re-usable or the wood can be returned to the earth as a form of carbon sequestration.

The **operating environment for the halls** has been designed with low environmental impact in mind. We are proud of our crockery and cutlery (not disposables) and our policy of asking hall users to take away their rubbish promotes low rubbish generation. Our tea and coffee are Fairtrade and we hope to have more individuals stepping forward to champion sustainability causes close to their hearts, all under the Shrinking the Footprint banner.

Our current challenges include how to **minimise the heating and lighting** of the halls building in order to be considerate to our neighbours and reduce energy consumption.

We continue to conduct regular **button travel surveys** to promote environmentally-considerate ways of travel to church. Surveys in June and November 2018 revealed that 60-70% of people travelling by car are using the castle Newnham care park and 40-50% of the congregation at the Sunday morning services are walking or cycling to church.

Jude Hamilton

