

# **ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH**

## **BARTON SEAGRAVE**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 2018**

*(Registered Charity Number 1130426)*



**PRESENTED TO THE**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**16<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

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**St. Botolph's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

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**Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Vestry Meeting at 7:45pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 8:00pm in church

Opening Prayers and Welcome

Vestry Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017
3. Matters Arising
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Election of Deputy Churchwardens
6. Electoral Roll

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017
2. Matters Arising
3. Election of Parochial Church Councillors
4. Appointment of Independent Examiners
5. Election of Sidespersons
6. Annual Reports
7. GDPR
8. Chairmans'
9. Any Other Business
10. Date of Next Meeting

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# St Botolph's Church

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## **Minutes of St Botolph's Vestry Meeting held in Church on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

61 parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Revd Mark Lucas.

### **1. Apologies:**

Rob Cowan, Judy Cowan, Helen Tilney, Graham Tilney, Derek Wade, Carol Jackson, Veronica Loo, Paul Loo, Paul Gosling, Ali Gosling, Nick Johnson, Claire Johnson, Rev Robert Bashford, Tina McMillan, June Eastwood, Harry Eastwood, Mary Haynes, Liz Pegg, Lindsey Burch, Debbie Palmer and Nick Evans.

The meeting opened with the hymn "How Great Thou Art".

Revd Lucas spoke on 2 John. He said that this letter showed that early on in the life of the church, people were inclined to drift away from God and go their own way. As an apostle John felt responsible for writing to them to tell them to stand firm in their faith. In v 5 & 6 he tells us that God wants us to love one another and then explains that love is walking in obedience to God's commands. In order to do this and to know what God requires we must look at the Bible which is central to the teaching at St Botolph's.

Rev Lucas went on to express concerns about the direction in which the Church of England is heading. The Church of England is based on Scripture, tradition and reason which are incorporated into the 39 Articles which are still the foundation stone of the Church of England. There are many within the church today who do not want to keep to these and Rev Lucas warned, as does the apostle John in this letter, that we must be wary of novel interpretations and adaptations which may not be in line with Scripture. He encouraged us all to pray for the Church of England and all the Bishops especially this year, to pray for unity and that the church would always act in love where love is to follow the commandments of God.

Prayers were said in small groups.

### **2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held 18th April 2016.**

The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record.

### **3. Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Election of Churchwardens.**

Rev Lucas spoke about the value of having a team of Church Wardens and that he was grateful for all their hard work.

Nominations had been received for Peter Jackson, proposed by Jim Roughton, seconded by Ken Ansdell and Ken Ansdell, proposed by Jim Roughton, seconded by Peter Jackson. Peter and Ken were unanimously elected to serve for the coming year.

### **5. Election of Deputy Churchwardens.**

This is an internal decision and it was decided to leave this until the first PCC meeting.

### **6. Electoral Roll.**

Tina Noble reported that at the end of the past year the number of parishioners on the electoral roll was 262. By April 2017, 7 new people had been added to the roll, and 6 people had come off it, so the total number on the roll was now 263.

The Vestry meeting ended at 8.12 p.m

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## **Minutes of St Botolph's Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Church on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

61 parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Revd Mark Lucas.

Apologies are as for the Vestry Meeting

### **1. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2016.**

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

### **2. Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. Election of Parochial Church Councillors.**

Rev M Lucas expressed his thanks to all who sit on the PCC.

Four members of the PCC had come to the end of their term of office, namely Jim Roughton, Martin Adamson, Joe Griffiths, Richard Sewell. A further place was vacant due to Ken Ansdell accepting the post of churchwarden after the APCM last year.

The following nominations had been received:-

Robert Smith, nominated by Gemma Griffiths, seconded by Joe Griffiths  
Asha Silk, nominated by Andrew Thomson, seconded by Paul Gosling  
Kate Curnock, nominated by Judith Edwards, seconded by Bob Edwards  
Louise Adamson, nominated by Penny Wright, seconded by Kirsty Clark  
Jem Palmer, nominated by Derek Wade, seconded by Jane Wade

There being 5 nominations and 5 vacancies all were unanimously elected to serve for the next 3 years.

### **4. Election of Deanery Synod Members.**

Rev Lucas gave a brief description of the place of Deanery Synod within the structure of the Church of England and explained that because of the size of our electoral role we were entitled to 6 places on Deanery Synod.

The following nominations had been received:-

Joe Griffiths, nominated by Derek Wade, seconded by Jane Wade  
Dan Baynes, nominated by Pippa Evans, seconded by Nick Evans  
Adrian Keach, nominated by Carol Keach, seconded by Bob Edwards  
Peter Jackson, nominated by Ken Ansdell, seconded by Jim Roughton  
Maurice Haynes, nominated by Mary Haynes, seconded by Derek Sibson  
Julie Lucas, nominated by Claire Johnson, seconded by Nick Johnson

There being 6 nominations and 6 vacancies all were unanimously elected to serve for the next 3 years.

### **5. Appointment of Independent Examiner.**

Alan Deans was nominated to be Independent Examiner again and was unanimously elected.

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## 6. Election of Sidespersons.

Rev Lucas explained how important the role of sidespersons is especially with regard to welcoming newcomers.

A couple of changes were necessary to the published list as follows:-

- Karen Snape should replace Ida Snape
- Claire Bell had been omitted from the list in error.

With these amendments those on the list presented in the Annual Report booklet were unanimously elected.

## 7. Annual Reports.

Revd Mark Lucas referred to the reports in the Annual Report booklet.

### 7.1 Finance:

David Wright presented and explained the financial accounts for the year to 31st December 2016. There was a deficit of £9,798 split between restricted funds – surplus of £13,149 - and unrestricted funds – deficit of £22,947.

Income was down by £868 on 2015 but expenditure was up by £15,103. David presented charts to identify the sources of income and areas of expenditure.

#### Income headlines :-

- A gift day had been budgeted to raise £8000 but raised only £3000
- Income from legacies were down
- Over the last few months of 2016 planned giving was seen to be dropping
- Wedding Fees were up on previous years
- Rents had been increased on the flats but it cannot be guaranteed that there will be full occupancy during any year.
- Investment income had remained static

#### Expenditure headlines :-

- Mission payments had remained stable. We are also now contributing to Rock UK
- Our Parish Share had increased to £125,000
- Repairs had been necessary to Rectory Cottage
- Church Management costs had increased due to new legislation on pensions

#### Budget 2017:-

The aim of the Finance Committee is to always ensure that expenditure can be financed through a balanced budget or with prudent use of existing reserves.

A deficit budget of £35,000 has been set for 2017 which the Finance Group had decided should be partly funded from our reserves. It is anticipated that £9,000 will be funded from the Property Fund and £11,000 from the Legacy Fund.

A further £8,500 of work to the church and buildings will not be carried out unless funds are forthcoming.

This leaves a shortfall of about £6,000 which may have to be funded from the General Reserve. A chart was shown of all the fabric work it was hoped to carry out in 2017.

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## **Conclusion:-**

- The financial year for 2016 ended in a deficit position.
- We continue to have a financially challenging year for 2017.
- We are planning to use reserves to cover the Fabric costs.
- We are still showing a funding shortfall for 2017.

Questions were asked as follows:-

M Haynes – in view of the fact that the diocese is short of money was it likely that St Botolph's would be asked to increase their Parish Share?

Rev Lucas said the Parish Share is set by a formula. Although Diocesan income had fallen last year, St Botolph's would not be asked for a further contribution.

J Rouse – Looking at the state of the economy generally will we have to consider radical ideas so we are not continually drawing on our reserves?

David Wright said that for the first time those involved in the various areas of expenditure had been asked to fill in budget requests and the figures budgeted are a result of these requests.

We are looking at obtaining funding from other sources e.g. Ken Ansdell had obtained a grant for the fitting of the alarm on the Church roof.

Rev Lucas reminded everyone that the church is a charity and PCC members are trustees. Charity guidelines do not recommend setting a budget deficit but it was felt that we had to do so given the expected expenditure. The Diocesan Stewardship Advisor would be with us in the near future and hopefully he would advise on how this deficit could be tackled.

Rev Lucas told the meeting that the church has been offered a gift of £10,000 for Youth and Children's ministry but it came with conditions. For every £1000 the church raises the donor will match it up to £10,000. This could possibly be for another worker – how the money would be used would be decided at a later date.

## **8. Any Other Business.**

- a) Rev Lucas reported that this would be Rev Adams last APCM as he was coming to the end of his curacy with us and would be moving to be vicar in a parish as yet unknown. He has permission to stay until Christmas to help cover Rev Lucas's sabbatical. Rev Lucas said how wonderful it had been to have both Nigel and Jo on the ministry team and how grateful we all are for their work among us. He asked Rev Adams to say a few words about their time here.

Rev Adams spoke of the many encouragements he and Jo had found at St Botolph's, how much there was to give thanks to God for and that it had been a privilege to work here. He cited the following areas of ministry:-

- i) The Gospel is always preached faithfully
- ii) Both he and Jo felt able to worship God when they came here – there is a sense of God's presence, helped by the many talented musicians
- iii) There are so many faithful servants working in so many ways and he picked out 2 areas in which he and Jo have been particularly involved.

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- a) The growing and developing of evangelism. E.g. Sports quizzes, Foundations weekend, breakfasts, Knit & Natter, Made with Love initiative and the various seekers groups.
- b) Seniors work which offers opportunities for people to get involved and then increasingly more so. Each Thursday offered an event – Coffee Shop, Pilgrim's Venture, Potter's Place and Firm Foundations.

Rev Adams said it was wonderful to see these things sustained by our wonderful God. He thanked Mark, Andy and the team for everything he had learned here and also thanked everyone who had worked so hard to make the above ministries happen.

Rev Lucas asked us to pray for Nigel and Jo as they search for another post to continue God's work.

- b) Rev Lucas thanked Rev Clark for all his work during the year and asked him to say a few words about the Youth and Children's Work.

Rev Clark quoted from Colossians 1 v 28:- "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ."

He told the meeting that working with children and young people is not about the few years we have them under our care – it's about seeing them mature and continue growing so that in years to come they will still be living for Jesus and taking on leading roles in the churches of the future.

Our database currently shows that we have 110-120 children and young people we see regularly – not including schools work or holiday club. This shows God's generosity to us and that there is much for which to thank Him.

We have a fantastic team of leaders who serve faithfully. One to one Bible Studies are being developed with Link – these can have a huge impact on the lives of our young people.

He asked the congregation to pray for the children and encourage them.

Rev Lucas asked that the congregation pray for Andy as he heads up this work.

- c) A Keach wanted to express thanks to all who provided refreshments at the events held by the church.
- d) M Haynes said no mention had been made of our musicians. Rev Lucas said we were very grateful to them for their commitment each week and we are also grateful to the many, many volunteers who contribute in any way however large or small to the ongoing running of the church.

- 9. Date of Next Meeting.** Rev Lucas suggested that the date for the APCM next year should be 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The meeting ended with sharing the grace at 21.08pm

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## 1. Rector's Report 2017

God is gracious, and He continues to bless us despite ourselves. May the glory go to Him alone.

### Some highlights of 2017:

- In our Sunday morning sermon series, we concluded our journey through Luke's gospel on Easter Day. This has been both a challenge and an encouragement as we have encountered Jesus first hand, through Luke's eye-witness account. We followed this with a short series from Nigel Adams entitled, "work in the light of the gospel." We then considered the Apostle's Creed, before looking at Haggai to take us up to Christmas.
- In our evening services we began the year looking at 2 Peter before launching into 2 Samuel. After 2 Samuel we took a look at Obadiah to take us up to Christmas.
- During Lent we considered God's Transforming power: Transforming Gospel, Transforming Lives, Transforming Relationships, Transforming Community, and Transforming History. An opportunity to consider the power of God to bring about real and lasting change.
- In May we welcomed Bishop Donald as our preacher at an evening service. We continue to support and pray for Bishop Donald as he serves, under God, as our bishop.
- Prayer ministry has continued over the year, although that offered at evening services continues to be disappointing in take up. The prayer room in Church House continues to be used for organised prayer events as well as for private prayer. I'd love to see this ministry grow as we continue to face the challenge of being 'Good News for Barton Seagrave'.
- In early September we enjoyed a church weekend away at the Frontier Centre. We enjoyed great fellowship and were privileged to learn from the ministry of our dear friend Wallace Benn.
- We continue to face a constant financial challenge and related challenge of personnel to fulfil all the ministries we would like. God is good, and it seems that in 2017 we ended the year with a, roughly even, position on the accounts.
- We have enjoyed visits from some of our regular mission partners, as well as other guests. This year from Slavko Hadzic. In September we hosted a celebration event for Harvest for the Hungry. St Botolph's continues to be a leading contributor to this ministry.
- In July Nigel and Jo Adams left us as Nigel was appointed Vicar in Braintree, Essex. We have benefited hugely from their ministry and we continue to pray for them as they look forward to their unfolding ministry in Braintree. We pray that God will continue to bless them.
- We continue to pray for the future 'Hanwood Park' development in the parish, which is beginning to take shape. The diocese have been very supportive and have agreed to make an appointment of a pioneer minister in due course. Hayfield Cross school continues on the new development, although it looks like it will be some time before houses reach the

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school site itself. It seems the diocese were unusually ahead of the game in building the school!

- Barton Park development, also within the parish, is nearly complete, only a small number of houses still to build. A village community centre has been built and opened on the development. An opportunity for future mission?
- It is always a joy to see people called to service for God. It's hard to lose those who are keen and dedicated but when God calls who are we to argue? This year Lucy Adams took a year out in Christian service with TEAR fund. We continue to pray for other members of the congregation exploring God's call on them.
- During the year, between July and November, I had the privilege of taking Sabbatical leave. After 23 years of ordained ministry this was a very welcome opportunity for refreshment, exploration and renewal. I am grateful for the encouragement and support of the parish and the diocese in this.

It continues to be an enormous privilege for me to work throughout the year with our outstanding team of preachers: Andy Clark, Robert Bashford, Wallace Benn, Martin Adamson, Dave Liggins, David McClatchy, and James Tennant. This year we have also been joined by Tony Johnson who has moved to the area. We are truly blessed that God has given us such a gifted and able team.

A big thank you must also go to those who have served on the PCC and its sub-groups, you are a great group of people without whom we could not operate. I am especially thankful to Ken and Peter (Wardens); Bob and Andrew (Deputy Wardens), Adrian (Honorary Warden), David (Treasurer) and Kate and Jo (Pastoral Assistants) for your tireless service.

Finally, I could not write a report without recording my thanks again to Paul who keeps us all under control. He is unflappable!

And may God continue to bless us as we look forward to another year serving Him. May His name be glorified in all we do and are.

To God alone be the Glory!

Mark Lucas - Rector

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## 2. St Botolph's Church Sidespersons 2017

Our church is blessed to have so many people who are prepared to give their time in order that the church services and all our other activities run smoothly. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who do volunteer to help out in whatever capacity however, it is a requirement that those persons who have offered to act as sidespersons are approved at the APCM. The list below lists those who have indicated that they are willing to carry out the role of sidesperson during 2018 and we would ask that you approve this list.

### Sidespersons at March 2018

Martin	Adamson	David	Jacobs
		Maryna	Jacobs
Graham	Bell	Eileen	Mason
Claire	Bell	Sharon	Mason
Ellie	Burch	Margaret	McDonald
Lindsey	Burch	Tina	Murphy
Toby	Clegg	Tina	Noble
Jenna	Colson	Anne	Pegg
John	Cresswell		
		Neville	Read
Gwen	Done	Beryl	Read
		John	Russell
Geoff	Fawkes	Maureen	Russell
Jean	Fawkes		
Tim	Fawkes	Asha	Silk
Sandy	Frost	Karen	Snape
Steve	Frost	Alice	Spence
Ali	Gosling	Andrew	Thomson
Paul	Gosling		
		Elaine	Walker
David	Heggie	Roger	Walker
		Jacqui	Ward
Carole	Jackson	Simon	Wills
Peter	Jackson	David	Wright
		Flora	Wright

## **3. Kettering Deanery Synod Report 2017**

There have been four meetings of the Deanery Synod this year and we have had the privilege of welcoming a variety of visiting speakers.

### **3.1 February 2017 – Barton Seagrave**

1. Tribute paid to the late Angie Cooksley who was Deanery Synod member for many years and was on the Standing Committee and also on Diocesan Synod.

2. Guest speaker, Rev. Canon Roger Knight. Spoke about his intended prayer walk from Higham Ferrers to Naseby in aid of Motor Neurone Disease from which his wife died. This will take place between Ascension and Pentecost to coincide with 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Eucharistic services at Higham and Pipewell. All welcome (as are donations).

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Roger-Knight6>

3. Deanery Mission Statement (aka Growth Action Statement)

Brought to the Synod's attention. Any additions or comments to the Standing Committee.

4. Rev. Mark Lucas and Dr Nigel Aston spoke on the proceedings of the General Synod including

a) the unfinished debate about clergy robes. This Canon was accepted through to the final stages.

b) a debate about the evils of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals. There was unanimous support for a London diocesan motion which condemned the way these machines are operated and regulated, with some terrifying tales of gambling addiction and the effects it has on some lives. This motion began in a Deanery Synod and it will now be sent to Parliament as General Synod items go to Parliament.

c) Marriage and Same Sex Relationships After The Shared Conversations: a report from the house of bishops. The Bishop of Norwich moved: 'That the Synod do take note of this Report.' The motion was lost after a counted vote by Houses. The House of Bishops voted 43 in favour and 1 against, the House of Clergy voted 93 in favour and 100 against with 2 abstentions. The House of Laity voted 106 in favour and 83 against with 4 abstentions.

Where now? The Bishops will bring a new report. A statement will be issued in July.

5. Planning for 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

### **3.2 May 2017 - Geddington**

1. Copies of the Deanery Action Statement were circulated. Rural Dean asked that this document be taken to the PCCs for discussion and feedback.

2. "Thy Kingdom Come". Rev Rob Bewley went through the programme of events for this nationwide series of prayer, praise and activities. It begins with an Ascension Day service at SS Peter & Paul and ends with an afternoon of activities on the Market Place in Kettering on the Saturday before Pentecost.

3. Guest speaker, Dr Paul Buckingham, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance. Paul spoke of the Bishop's 5 year plan for growth (we are half way through), and explained why it was so important for each parish/benefice to pay its parish share in full. This will enable new



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ministers to be funded which is vital for quickly filling vacancies as well as for existing clergy stipends and pensions. There is a growth in numbers in the Diocese (Peterborough is one of two dioceses which is growing) but it is documented that new members will not participate fully in stewardship for about five years.

Paul reminded us of the people on the diocesan staff who can help in all aspects of parish life.

A Q&A and discussion session followed regarding ways of giving, information to parishes from the diocese, the need for the priest and the PCC together to be talking regularly about giving.

4. Election of officers: Peter Jackson (Barton Seagrave) as the new lay chair. Other lay members to be Michael Truman, Sarah Pelling and Gwyneth Mellors. The position of Deanery Treasurer remains vacant.

### **3.3 September 2017 – Kettering St Mary's**

1. Rev Hannah Jeffery and Peter Jackson introduced themselves as the new Rural Dean and the new Lay Chair.

2. John, Bishop of Brixworth spoke on the subject of 'Mutual Flourishing' and handed round a paper on 'The Five Guiding Principles' (copy attached for those unable to attend) which curates are required to adhere to.

He spoke of three challenges:

- i) The progression of women is too slow – there is only one woman on the diocesan senior staff.
- ii) An adequate provision for those opposed to women's ministry.
- iii) How we live when theological issues divide us.

3. The position of Deanery Treasurer remains vacant. Please pray that someone will be willing to serve.

4. A report on General Synod by Dr Nigel Aston. Human sexuality dominates the current sessions.

5. "Thy Kingdom Come" feedback from Rev. Dr. Rob Bewley.

### **3.4 November – Kettering St Michael's & All Angels**

1. Neil Bradley was co-opted onto the Deanery Synod and was elected unanimously as Deanery Treasurer and Kettering Deanery Synod's representative on the Diocesan Board of Finance.

2. Guest speaker, Andy Bissex talked about the work of the Bible Society and its purpose to help Christians to use the Bible personally and to share it with others. It is involved in Bible translation in partnership with other organisations. It produces various formats – tracts, full versions, digital editions, Bible for dyslexics.

Andy also spoke of the Bible Society's work overseas and here at home – supporting converted Muslims, a Bible bookclub, reflective study programmes, storytelling in primary schools.

3. Hannah Jeffery spoke of how we can engage with Synod and how we can share good practice to work more closely with each other.

Gwyneth Mellors  
Deanery Synod Secretary

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## **4. St. Botolph's PCC Annual Report 2017**

### **4.1 Terms of Reference**

St Botolph's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, Revd Mark Lucas, in promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, promoting the mission of the Church, as well as pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical matters in the Parish.

The PCC also has the responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric and land of the Church, Church House, Rectory Cottage, and the land upon which stood the old Church Room.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended. The PCC is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission under number 1130426.

The Church Representation Rules (Rule 9(1)(b)) require "an annual report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally" to be received by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting..

### **4.2 Objectives, Aims and Achievements**

Comments on the Church's objectives, aims and achievements for the year, and plans for the future are set out in the Report of the Churchwardens.

### **4.3 Membership**

Members are elected by the APCM for a period of three years and can also be co-opted by the PCC. The appointment of the PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served on the PCC:

Chairman: Revd Mark Lucas

Ex-Officio members:

Deanery Synod members: Dan Baynes  
Joe Griffiths  
Maurice Haynes  
Peter Jackson  
Adrian Keach  
Julie Lucas

Churchwardens: Ken Ansdell  
Peter Jackson

Curate: Revd Nigel Adams

Associate Minister: Revd Andy Clark

Reader: Derek Wade

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Other PCC members: (date for re-election in brackets)  
Secretary: Veronica Loo (2019)  
Treasurer: David Wright (2018)

Deputy wardens: Robert Edwards (2019)  
Andrew Saville (2018)

Other members: Louise Adamson (2020)  
Rob Cowan (2018)  
Kate Curnock (2020)  
Graham Farrier (2018)  
Victoria Hutchinson (2018)  
Nick Johnson (2018)  
Jem Palmer (2020)  
Asha Silk (2020)  
Robert Smith (2020)  
Helen Tilney (2018)  
Jane Wade (2019)

## 4.4 Church Attendance

The number of people on the Electoral Roll was 263. The average weekly attendance taken over a four week period in October 2017 was 179 people aged 16 and over, and 39 children aged 15 and under.

## 4.5 Organisation

The PCC met 5 times during the year with an average attendance of 15 members. Much of the work of the PCC was done through various groups, namely

- Standing Committee
- Fabric Task Group
- Business and Finance Task Group
- Evangelism Task Group (including More Than Gold and Women's Ministry)
- Missions Task Group
- Hanwood Park Task Group
- Health, Safety and Fire Safety Committee

and a variety of working groups, as the need arose.

## 4.6 Risk Management

The Health, Safety and Fire Safety Committee is tasked with reviewing the Safeguarding Policy and establishing systems or procedures to manage risks. The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Martin Adamson.

## 4.7 Main Objectives of the Year and Major Topics of Discussion

Every PCC meeting includes reports from all of the Committees and Task Groups as well as reports on the Deanery and Diocesan Synod meetings. Topics included the following:

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- Adoption of the Safeguarding Policy, and training in safeguarding
- Evangelism events, including Christmas events
- Church finance
- Church involvement in the Hanwood Park development
- Redecoration and repair of Church House, including renovating the entrance hall
- Works required by Quinquennial Report
- Tenancies of the Church House flats and lettings of Church House
- The churchyard and grounds, and re-siting of bins
- Replacement of the Church safe
- Tower re-organisation proposals
- Potential use of the former Church Room land
- Use of media by the Church

Meetings were chaired by Revd Mark Lucas and, during Revd Mark Lucas' sabbatical, by Peter Jackson and commenced with a bible reading and a time of prayer. All items on the agenda were discussed. Every member had the opportunity to express his or her opinion.

## **4.8 Financial Report**

The accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 are included in the papers assembled together for this Annual Report and reference should be made to the Treasurer's "Financial Review" for an appreciation of the Church's financial position.

## **4.9 The Future**

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control. Fresh ideas regarding the exercise of these duties are always welcome, and decisions are made after prayerful consideration. Anyone aged 16 or over and on the Electoral Roll is eligible to stand for nomination as a PCC member and is encouraged to do so.

signed on behalf of the PCC  
by Revd Mark Lucas

**5. St. Botolph's Accounts 2017**

*Registered Charity Number 1130426*

**St Botolph's Church**

**Barton Seagrave**

**Financial Statements**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

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# St Botolph's Church

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# St Botolph's Church

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## Financial Review Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

*The attached Accounts give information required of the Parochial Church Council by law as good stewards of monies received and paid.*

The Financial statements are set out in pages 4-8 of this report.

We have had a challenging year in many ways, as we started the year with a budgeted shortfall of £35,088, which was to be funded from contributions from restricted funds, the general fund and match funded income.

The actual outturn for 2017 shows a surplus of £8,461, a movement in year against that budgeted of £43,549 (£35,088 + £8,461 = £43,549) this was due to a reduction in expenditure, against the budget, of £33,198 and additional income in year of £10,351.

There were a number of minor variances against budgeted expenditure over the year, but the large saving was in the main due to spend on property repairs being only £11,617 against a budget of £43,600. Whilst this has helped the financial situation for 2017, it only defers the pressure to future years and work budgeted for still needs to be carried out.

The additional income of £10,351 was realised by funds from the gift day that hadn't been budgeted for, a one off legacy and higher than expected fees for weddings and funerals. We had also budgeted for a Holiday Club in 2017, which as it didn't take place reduced the level of expected income.

Expenditure has been well controlled throughout the year, though if the cost of property repairs are excluded, then overall costs are slightly higher than last year with our increased contribution to the Parish Share being the main cause. Also, the deferral of property repairs will only put the financial pressure into future years.

In reviewing the accounts, other points come to view:

- Planned giving has fallen against last year's actuals by **£632** and also fell short of the planned budget for 2017 by **£3,668**.
- The income from fees for Weddings and Funerals continued to be in excess of planned budget, but expectations for 2018 are that levels will reduce.
- Major repairs to the Church and Church properties cost **£ 11,617** (2016 £20,956)
- Giving to Missions from unrestricted funds was **£ 20,034** (2016: £20,426)

At the end of 2017 the

- General Fund is in deficit by **£ 52,579** (2016: £38,383) and the
- Staffing Fund is in surplus by **£ 26,952** (2016: 13,619)

***NB: These are funded by the remaining funds as detailed on Page 6.***

The year ahead sees continuing financial challenges, but the budget set for 2018 shows a slight surplus against the general fund with a planned use of other designated funds. We will continue to apply tighter financial management in the hope that we will be able to bring the Church Finances into balance for 2018 and start to correct the deficit on the general fund. This will require strong financial stewardship, but at the same time ensuring that resources gifted are used a way that will bring glory to God.

It is a constant challenge to be wise stewards of the resources we have and also to be bold in the cause of the Gospel. Through the continued development of new homes in our Parish we have opportunities as never before to reach out to our surrounding community.

We pray that God will provide the resources, human and financial in the years ahead.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:

May we bring Glory to God in all we do, day by day, week by week.

*David Wright (Treasurer)  
27<sup>th</sup> February 2018*

# St Botolph's Church

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## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees (PCC) of St. Botolph's Church, Barton Seagrave

### Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees

This report on the Financial Statements of St Botolph's Church for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out on pages 1 to 7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 43 of the Charities act 1993.

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

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

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

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

#### Independent examiner's statement

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

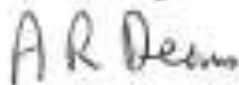
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act: and

- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met: or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Alan Deans  
Kettering  
Northants

2 March 2018



# St Botolph's Church

## Statement of Financial Affairs (Income)

Year Ended 31st December 2017

	Actual 2016	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2017	Budget 2018
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
<b>Receipts from donors</b>					
Planned Giving (Bankers Orders)	110,650	13,985	97,975	111,960	114,000
Planned Giving (FWO)	10,945	876	10,056	10,931	11,000
Other Planned Giving (Tax Efficient)	0	470	-	470	600
Planned Giving (Non Gift-Aid)	3,669	198	1,073	1,271	2,000
Collections at Services	5,008	20	5,883	5,903	6,000
Non-Recurring/ Non Gift-Aided Income	928	-	5,464	5,464	500
Non-Recurring/ Gift Aided	2,430	-	1,399	1,399	2,500
Gift Day	3,310	-	3,860	3,860	5,000
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	33,497	3,786	29,804	33,591	36,000
	170,436	19,335	155,515	174,850	177,600
<b>Other voluntary receipts</b>					
Legacies	0	-	5,000	5,000	0
Warkton Contribution	966	-	655	655	800
One off Grants	0	-	-	0	0
Income - Rectory Walk	3,129	3,840	-	3,840	4,600
	4,095	3,840	5,655	9,495	5,400
<b>Activities in furtherance of the councils objects</b>					
Fees for weddings & funerals	12,694	-	9,614	9,614	5,000
Coffee Monies	1,026	438	408	846	800
Bookstall sales	538	-	605	605	600
Ch hall lettings PCC objects	7,837	-	9,687	9,687	8,600
	22,094	438	20,314	20,752	15,000
<b>Income from investments</b>					
Bank & building soc interest	478	-	322	322	400
Rent Church House Flats	6,232	-	10,065	10,065	8,000
Rectory Cottage	9,600	10,017	-	10,017	10,100
	16,310	10,017	10,387	20,403	18,500
<b>Other receipts</b>					
Other Funds Generated	0	-	-	0	1,000
Parish weekend	496	-	3,380	3,380	3,000
Holiday Club - income	1,385	-	44	44	2,000
Events and Activities Income	5,132	1,562	3,749	5,311	4,000
Misc Income	2,943	747	2,202	2,949	7,700
	9,956	2,309	9,375	11,684	17,700
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>222,891</b>	<b>35,939</b>	<b>201,245</b>	<b>237,184</b>	<b>234,200</b>

# St Botolph's Church

## Statement of Financial Affairs (Expenditure)      Year Ended 31st December 2017

	Actual 2016	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2017	Budget 2018
Fund raisers - expenses	0	-	-	0	-
<b>Missions</b>	20,427	3,105	20,034	23,139	20,000
<b>Activities relating to the work of the Church</b>					
Honoraria and Bursary	850	-	1,050	1,050	850
<b>Staff Expenses</b>	8,099	-	7,358	7,358	3,600
<b>Youth and Children's work</b>	2,934	-	3,415	3,415	7,700
<b>Outreach Expenses</b>	4,569	-	3,222	3,222	6,450
<b>Womens Evangelism</b>	0	-	-	0	250
Upkeep of services	370	-	774	774	750
Audio, Powerpoint & Music	1,779	-	756	756	1,000
<b>Church House Running Costs</b>	15,935	-	12,184	12,184	15,284
Fees for Weddings & Funerals	5,892	-	5,368	5,368	2,500
Bookstall purchases	409	-	1,059	1,059	750
Parish weekend expenditure	460	-	2,327	2,327	3,000
	41,297	-	37,513	37,513	42,134
<b>Church management and administration</b>					
<b>Office Salaries</b>	12,742	-	13,139	13,139	14,883
<b>Church Running Costs</b>	7,987	840	7,424	8,264	8,860
<b>Office and Admin Costs</b>	11,847	2,539	7,752	10,291	6,410
Council Tax Flat 1	1,003	-	-	0	1,000
<b>Property Repairs</b>	20,986	7,861	3,756	11,617	32,300
	54,565	11,240	32,071	43,311	63,453
Parish share	116,400	-	124,760	124,760	128,000
<b>Total Payments</b>	232,689	14,345	214,378	228,723	253,587
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	-9,798	21,594	-	13,133	8,461 - 19,387
<b>Total Funds Brought Forward</b>	211,555	-	-	201,757	-
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	£ 201,757	£ 21,594	-£ 13,133	£ 210,218	£ -

# St Botolph's Church

## Funds Movement Summary

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

		Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Carried Forward
<b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>					
Apprentice	Apprentice Fund	4,000	0.00	0.00	4,000
Pensions	Pension Fund	-	1,312.00	0.00	1,312
Bell	Bells and Belfry Fund	- 101	0.00	0.00	-101
Choirfees	Choir Fees Fund	573	75.00	42.00	606
Makeplay	Make and Play Fund	607	1,586.87	1,647.45	546
Organ	Organ Fund	126	0.00	0.00	126
Potters	Potters Place Fund	655	130.00	0.00	785
Share	Shareplan Fund	2,704	791.25	2,939.25	556
Propres	Property (restricted) fund	30,990	17,255.70	8,700.98	39,545
Staff	Staffing Fund	13,619	13,748.00	415.25	26,952
Welfare	Fellowship Fund	960	0.00	0.00	960
		£ 54,134	£ 34,899	£ 13,745	£ 75,288
<b><u>Designated and Unrestricted Funds</u></b>					
General	General fund	- 38,384	200,183.20	214,378.00	-52,579
Soup and Sandwich Lunch	Pilgrims Fund	254	50.85	0.00	305
Prophold	Property Holding Fund	71,298	1,396.85	0.00	72,695
Coffeeshop	Coffee Shop Fund	487	654.28	434.33	707
RectWDes	Rectory Walk Designated Fund	78,812	0.00	0.00	78,812
Sarajevo	Sarajevo Fund	1,966	0.00	166.00	1,800
Wolf	Michael Wolf Legacy Fund	31,589	0.00	0.00	31,589
Youth	Youth and Children's Projects	1,601	0.00	0.00	1,601
		£ 147,623	£ 202,285	£ 214,978	£ 134,930
	<b>Total Funds</b>	£ 201,757	£ 237,184	£ 228,723	£ 210,218

# St Botolph's Church

## Balance Sheet

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

		Year	Year
		31/12/2016	31/12/2017
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Fixed assets	Church House / Rectory Cottage	135,000	135,000
Fixed assets	Buildings depreciation	- 62,760	-62,760
		<b>£ 72,240</b>	<b>£ 72,240</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
	Alliance & Leics Current Acc.	28,284	33,245
	Alliance & Leics Instant Res.	3,644	15,765
	Internal Orgs Bank Acs	1,500	1,447
	Central Board of Finance	100,000	100,000
	Cash in hand	92	107
	Accounts Receivable	2,735	5,666
		<b>£ 136,255</b>	<b>£ 156,230</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
	Agency Collections	923	5,015
	Accounts Payable	5,815	13,238
		<b>£ 6,738</b>	<b>£ 18,253</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>£ 201,757</b>	<b>£ 210,218</b>
<b>Held in Funds as Follows:</b>			
<b>Restricted Funds</b>			
	Apprentice Fund	4,000	4,000
	Pension Fund	-	1,312
	Bells and Belfry Fund	- 101	-101
	Choir Fees Fund	573	606
	Make and Play Fund	607	546
	Organ Fund	126	126
	Potters Place Fund	655	785
	Shareplan Fund	2,704	556
	Property (restricted) fund	30,990	39,545
	Staffing Fund	13,619	26,952
	Fellowship Fund	960	960
		<b>£ 54,134</b>	<b>£ 75,288</b>
<b>Designated and Unrestricted Funds</b>			
	General fund	-38,384	-52,579
	Soup and Sandwich Lunch	254	305
	Property Holding Fund	71,298	72,695
	Coffee Shop Fund	487	707
	Rectory Walk Designated Fund	78,812	78,812
	Sarajevo Fund	1,966	1,800
	Michael Wolf Legacy Fund	31,589	31,589
	Youth and Children's Projects	1,601	1,601
		<b>£ 147,623</b>	<b>£ 134,930</b>
	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£ 201,757</b>	<b>£ 210,218</b>

*Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and signed on it's behalf by Revd. Mark Lucas (PCC Chairman)*

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

**1. Accounting Policies**

- a) The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2005. The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, using the accruals basis.
- b) Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restriction regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.
- c) Restricted Funds represent funds of the PCC which can only be used for specific purposes.
- d) Income Tax recoverable under Gift Aid is not recognised until received.
- e) The Freehold Property in use by the Church is based on a historical valuation less depreciation.

**2. Fixed Assets** comprise 2 Freehold properties:

- Church House
- Rectory Cottage.

The Book value of these properties does not reflect current market value.

**The Property Holding Fund finances both properties.**

**3. Employees**

- (a) The average number of employees in the year was 2 (2016: 2)
- (b) The total remuneration of employees amounted to **£15,635** (2016: £15,527).

**4. Independent Examiner**

The Independent Examiner, Mr. Alan Deans, received no fees for his services, but a donation was given to a The Railway Children fund of £50.

**5. Parish Share**

2017                      2016

**Full amount paid:**                      **£124,760**                      £116,400

**6. Honoraria:** The Treasurer, Mr David Wright received **£500**. (2016 £,500).  
The Musical Director, Mr Graham Tilney received **£300** (2016: £300)

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## 6. Churchwardens' Report 2017

### “Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” Psalm 96 vs 9 (King James version)

Again, we have had a busy year in the life of the Church in 2017, and we are thankful to the Lord for His continued guidance to our congregation. Despite the loss of Nigel and Jo Adams' sterling work following their move to Braintree in July, and Mark's absence on Sabbatical, we have continued to benefit from clear Bible based teaching each week from our clergy and lay preachers, as well as joyful and uplifting worship led by our talented musicians.

2017 saw the continuation of various Church based Outreach activities with special emphasis on work with senior members of the congregation with Pilgrims Adventure (now Firm Foundations, a more study related meeting), Potters Place and Soup & Sandwich events. Unfortunately the ever-popular Children's Holiday Club could not be arranged for July, so it has been decided that a reformatted event will be held at Easter this year instead, and this was confirmed at the January PCC meeting. No doubt more detail will be written in other reports.

The 2017 annual parish weekend proved a great success, with a good attendance on both days where we enjoyed good teaching and worship. Despite the showery weather, the Hog Roast provided a tasty highlight followed by impromptu entertainment down by the bonfire. Our thanks to Bob and Judith for being key figures in organising this event, and to Helen Hawkins, Philippa and Carly Simper who stepped in at the last minute to provide children's programme when Matt Simper was unfortunately injured and unable to attend.

The Churchwardens can and do sit in on many of the meetings held by the various task groups and, whilst reports from these groups have been included separately, it is worth briefly highlighting here a few key points relating to the running and upkeep of our church and its buildings.

- The Finance Group has a responsibility to try and set a balanced budget, and has done so in some previous years by including a provisional amount within its income forecast for receipts from a “Gift Day”. However, for 2017 it decided to highlight the need to try to increase our income and provide better management of our resources, so the group issued a budget which indicated a possible deficit of +£6,000 unless steps were taken that could cover this amount.

The Treasurer's report will show the details of the accounts for 2017, but in summary despite having a “gift day” we still fell short of balancing out the accounts. This year the Finance group has again set a balanced budget which does rely on a Gift day being held, but there is a need to have a proper “Stewardship campaign” in 2018 and the Chair of the Finance Group will be looking at this with the clergy.

- Fabric Group meets regularly to ensure that our buildings and grounds are looked after. In order to minimise the financial impacts of the budget shortfall noted above, the Fabric group has deferred some of the desirable but non-essential maintenance works such as redecoration and the like that we would have started in 2017, to a period when our finances are more favourable. The work of the Fabric group over the last year can be found in a separate report but it is appropriate to note some key things that have happened or are about to happen within the church buildings
  1. The Church Architect has produced some alternative options to meet the PCC's brief of what to do with the Tower area. These are being considered and prepared for discussion at PCC, and progress will be made soon once forwarded to the Diocese for its comments/approval.

# St Botolph's Church

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2. In the Church grounds we have seen the replacement both the front and side gates, undertaken by KBC.
3. The hallway in Church House received much attention in the summer. Despite the setbacks from local officialdom, we now have a “temporary” ramp and new platform and steps up to the Fellowship room, which all users have much appreciated. A permanent fix to suit KBC Planning is being sought, to overcome the faults of the previous Victorian “bodged” floor which was rotting from direct contact with the earth beneath. Our thanks to the team of volunteers who laboured long and hard to remove rotten wood, sand, earth and concrete, especially Rob Cowan, Kieran Nunley and Martin Simper.
4. The 5 yearly Quinquennial survey of the Church has been carried out, with a number of relatively minor works (mainly to the cover flashings on the roof), identified for attention in the near future.

Given the constraints on Church Finances, the Wardens and Deputy Wardens would jointly like to thank all who have helped in the past with such practical offers of help in Garden clearance, and warmly welcome such help in the future, when needs arise.

We wish to thank those members of the congregation who regularly serve as Sides persons, in Catering, Cleaning, and roles handling money, organising rotas, etc, as well as the other myriad tasks which are necessary to keep the activities of the Fellowship happening.

The Churchwardens, Peter and Ken, together with the Deputies Bob, Andrew, and former Warden Adrian have met regularly with the Rector to consider issues that affect us all in our church life. Along with the members of the PCC we try to reflect everyone's views in the ways that the Church and Services are run, so please approach any one of us with your comments and we will try our best to provide a solution and answer.

Finally, the Churchwardens of St Botolph's and St Edmunds met together in early February 2018 with the Rector and members of the staff team who were available, to consider issues raised by the congregations of St Botolph's and St Edmunds. Time was spent looking at ways of improving communications, to avoid the pitfalls of diary clashes and double booking. Time was also spent discussing strengthening how Clergy interact with the church family, both after services and by way of home visits. It is hoped that by closer coordination we can reduce some of the recently experienced problems that were raised by members of our congregations. However, whilst the wardens are working closely with our Rector, issues can't be addressed unless we know about them. So if you have concerns please raise them with one of us, and we shall do our best to take them forward and resolve them.

Peter Jackson & Ken Ansdell  
Churchwardens

## **7. Annual Fabric Report 2017**

We are blessed to have the buildings we use, to enable us to worship and serve God. Due to their age, they inevitably require a lot of regular maintenance and repairs, in addition to any improvements to the fabric to meet future needs. As a group, we seek to minimise costs where possible, by undertaking work ourselves. I would like to thank all in the church who have given of their time and offered their skills this year. It is much valued and appreciated.

This year we have continued to make improvements to the front and entrance to Church House. During the spring and early summer, the front window sills and porch were stripped and all the internal window and door frames painted. All the internal walls in the hall and landings were painted. Over the summer holidays, a dedicated team gave a lot of their time to improve access through hallway



# St Botolph's Church

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to the Fellowship Room. The bulk of the work involved creating a new ramp, new steps and extended raised floor. The work also included relocating the cupboards and replacing the main radiator. In the coming year, we plan to provide new floor finishes, carpeting of the stairs, and new lighting in the hallway.

Every five years, we are required to undertake a Quinquennial Survey of the church by an approved architect, to ensure that our church is kept in good repair. Our appointed church architect has now completed his survey. He has identified a number of elements of work that need to be undertaken. Most are minor, including repairs to stonework, repointing, lead flashing, and roof repairs. These are typical of a church of this age, but will require a systematic process of repair, ideally undertaken at the same time. This will form part of the program of works for the coming year. The Survey also included testing of electrical installations, which led to being advised of a number of improvements. These have now been undertaken by a local electrician.

Following the clearance of the space beneath the tower area last year, we have been working with our church architect to develop plans and options as to what could be done with this space. This has included looking at potential options for relocating the screen, providing a servery, toilet, and improved vestry. The architect also considered the potential for creating an external porch, but has advised that this will not be achievable due to the external architecture. The proposals will help us to be better informed about what we could do in the future, if as a church we decide that we want to proceed with the work. One element of work we have needed to undertake this year was to replace the old defective safe. This has now been replaced with a smaller, more functional safe.

In terms of our external space, we have prepared plans for a bin store within the kitchen garden of Church House, to meet the requirements of our insurance company. The proposals will also involve improvements to the garden and resurfacing the adjoining parking spaces. In order for the works to proceed, we have needed to obtain planning and listed building consent. This has now been obtained and we will look to do the works in the coming year.

Other work has included continuing to undertake maintenance within the churchyard, including the land of the former church room, and deciding how to use and manage this land in the future. There was also a need to line the flue in Rectory Cottage to prevent fumes from the downstairs fire entering the upstairs rooms.

Fabric Group

## **8. Finance Group Report 2017**

The details of the finances for St Botolph's Church are contained in Section (5) 'St Botolph's Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017' of this APCM Report.

As our Treasurer has identified, the church ended the year with a surplus of £8,461 but we must recognise that this is due in no small part to the level of property repairs that still have to be completed. We have a duty to properly maintain all the buildings in our care and we must be in a position to fund repairs in the future.

Our local population has grown significantly in recent years. It is expected to continue to rise, quite possibly at an even greater rate. This gives us a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel with others which is a challenge that I know we all want to take on. To stand still in terms of numbers today will cost us more each year due to rising costs. To reach out in love to those around us who need to hear of God's saving grace and mercy comes with a larger price tag. I am totally convinced that God wants to do great things here within Barton Seagrave and the surrounding areas and He calls on us to respond by giving. We can give our time, our talents and gifts, our love and friendship but, to do the job properly, we also need to give financially. I know there are many in the Fellowship who give prayerfully

# St Botolph's Church

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and generously and I know that for some it is just not possible to give more. However, I would encourage each and every one of us to prayerfully and carefully review our giving, in every way, and ask God to help us find the way to dig a little deeper for the sake of His Kingdom. You will have heard many times about tithing (giving 10% of your income) and, while that is Biblical and commendable, I would encourage everyone to think about increasing their giving by at least 5% (if you can manage more, praise the Lord!).

If all this talk about money is a bit depressing, I apologise. What we are called to do first is love God with all our heart, our soul and our strength and then to love our neighbours as ourselves. Let us resolve to love those around us as they've never been loved before and they can then receive the greatest gift ever; the salvation won and given to us freely by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Graham Bell

## 9. Children's & Youth Ministry 2017

St Bots Children's & Youth Ministry aims to be Good News for Children and Young people  
(in Barton Seagrave & beyond)



We want...

- to help children and young people:
  - o come to know and love Jesus as Saviour & Lord
  - o grow to maturity in their faith
  - o become active, serving members of the church
- to equip children and young people to:
  - o be lifelong followers of Jesus
  - o effectively share their faith with their friends and family
  - o live 'in the world' but not be 'of the world'
- in all these things to work in partnership with parents and carers
- the children's and youth ministry groups to be the highlight of the young people's week

God has been faithful in the children's and youth ministry over the past year and we are thankful to him for the children and young people we have the privilege of serving each week and for all the leaders & helpers who so faithfully serve among them. We recognise that most people who make a commitment to Jesus do so before the age of 18 so this ministry is strategically vital. In serving our children and young people well and faithfully we are investing for eternity.

### 9.1 Make and Play

Make and Play runs every Tuesday morning in term time and is open to any pre-schooler and their carer (parent, grandparent or child-minder). The aim of Make and Play is to provide a welcoming atmosphere and to introduce Jesus Christ into the lives of children and their carers.

The session starts off in the church building in a very informal setting where we have a sing-a-long followed by a short bible story. We have covered both Old and New Testament lessons in a variety of ways including drama; puppets, reading from books, singing songs. The group then move across to church house where we offer crafts and play time often themed to follow the bible lesson in church.

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The time in church house also provides us with a valuable setting to sit and have an informal chat with the adults present and learn about their lives.

At the end of the session we provide a snack for the children and drinks for the carers. Our time together ends with prayers.

All this would not be possible without an outstanding team: Pippa Evans, Jean Rouse, Fay Rowland, Barbara Bashford, Diana Griffiths, Brenda King, Barbara Heywood, Kim Phan, Liz Harper and Helen Clayton. A big thank-you must also go to our great team of Tea Ladies and Gentlemen who faithfully serve every week.

In 2017 we decorated the church for Mothering Sunday (thanks to Sandy Frost for artistic help here) to try and promote links between Make and Play and the rest of church family life. In May we held our annual big toddle in aid of Barnardo's and managed to raise over £200. Make and Play donated some money towards the toy bags held in church for young children to play with during family services. In November we held our annual cake stall for children in need and managed to raise £73.

Make and Play had two big party events in 2017, the summer party and the Christmas party (complete with Santa's grotto). At both these events we give out presents which include an age-appropriate book relating to the bible.

As a group with a large proportion of non-Christians we feel that more could be made of advertising other church events and providing a valuable link as an out-reach group.

Moving forward we would welcome more people to help with the bible story up front and would value prayer for the ministry provided by the group.

Helen Clayton

## **9.2 JAM Club (0-11 years)**

We continue to thank God for the children who come along to JAM Club. Currently there are three groups on a Sunday Morning. Crèche (0-3 years old), Bubbles (3 years old - school year 1) and Extreme (school years 2-6).

We have great leaders who help to run these groups. We are very grateful for all they do to help our children get to know Jesus better. There is always a constant need for more leaders. Please particularly pray for some male leaders as we feel there is a need for male role models.

### **9.2.1 Crèche**

First, I want to express my appreciation for all of our Crèche leaders who are doing a great job. It is encouraging to see more families join us each week and it's lovely to see our little ones beginning to interact with one another.

Crèche groups are amongst the most exciting and significant starting places for mission and evangelism and are sometimes sadly undervalued.

Our hope is that we can support our parents, grandparents and carers to help their little ones to grow in their faith and experience the love of Jesus Christ right from their early years; teaching children to pray even before they can speak in coherent sentences.

As a Crèche we read/role play or use toys to tell short bible stories and also have a great little music group that love to join in singing nursery rhymes and simple songs of praise to God.

All new families will be made very welcome.

Helen Laughton

## 9.2.2 Bubbles

In Bubbles we can have up to 11 lively children, each with their own wonderful character. It is such a privilege to see them grow in their faith journey. We use Scripture Union material and have been working our way through Genesis most recently with stories, crafts, prayer and play. A year ago we introduced prayer time to the children, they say their own prayers if they are comfortable doing so, either out loud or in their head. We do this each week now. You will find lots of toys in Bubbles too. We feel that time for play towards the end of the session is important at this small age and a good way for us to get to know the children. I give thanks for the fantastic team of leaders in Bubbles - Pippa, Sarah, Kim, Penny, Tracey and Claire who serve so faithfully.

Tina Noble

## 9.2.3 Xtreme

Xtreme has continued to flourish this year. The group has a core of regular members - about 8 children, and a number of others who come less regularly. We continue to attract new children to the group, which is a real encouragement. We use Click materials from The Good Book Company. The materials are engaging combining games, bible passages, drama, crafts, worksheets and memory verses. They provide a good mix of old and new Testament teaching, with all the teaching linked in a very practical way to how the children can live out their faith in their daily lives.

Nicola Farrier

## 9.3 1Eighty (School years 7-9)



The name '1eighty' comes from Mark 1:15 which is the first thing Jesus says in Marks Gospel. He calls us to repentance which can be described as 'doing a 180'. 1eighty is a lovely group of young people who meet on Sunday mornings during the 9:15 service and on Thursday evenings.

It has been encouraging to continue to see new people joining the group over the last year as we have seen over the past few years. Each week the young people grappling with what it means to be a follower of Jesus. 1eighty continue to be good at inviting friends along to events. Our prayer is that those who join would become committed followers of Jesus.

1eighty on Sunday mornings has been continuing to work really well this year. The numbers can vary greatly week by week but toast, Hot chocolate and various other yummy things seem to go down very well!!! The strength of a smaller group is that it gives more space for discussion. Those who come on Sunday mornings seem to be really grappling with their faith which is encouraging to see.

1eighty has a great atmosphere and they seem to have a great time together as we look at the Bible and learn and grow together to love Jesus more. They have enjoyed many things over the last year including thinking about 'The man who is God' from Mark's Gospel, 'The Big Clean Up' from Exodus and Jesus' 'I Am' sayings in John. Also our annual bonfire and fireworks party, Lazer Maze and many other things.

I am so grateful that we have a great team of leaders who serve faithfully each week.

## 9.4 LINK (School years 10-13)



Link meets each Wednesday and Sunday evening.

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We spend time each week growing to know each other better and the young people seem to enjoy spending time together. More importantly we spend time growing to know God better through his word. This year we have thought about what it means to really trust God when life gets hard from the book of Job, what the Bible says about how we relate to God and each other and what Paul teaches the Corinthians and us about being wise or foolish.

We have also enjoyed our yearly trip to the 'Sorted' conference in London and a great weekend away at Gaines Christian Youth Centre.

Over the last year some of the leaders have been reading the Bible 'one to one' with some of the teenagers on Sunday evenings. This has been really valuable and a great encouragement.

- Being involved in the wider church is a key part of the youth ministry vision and strategy and helps young people to see being part of a church family as 'normal' and important.
- In terms of our wider vision we aim 'to equip lifelong followers of Jesus'. We believe keeping this long term picture in our minds is vital to our day to day youth ministry.
- We long to see the young people of Link with all the pressures they face become ever more convinced of the truth of the gospel and for it to impact every area of their lives.

We give thanks for the small but committed team of leaders who serve our young people so faithfully.

## 9.5 Schools

We have had a number of opportunities in schools over the last year. Andy (after Nigel moved on) takes regular assemblies in the ever growing Hayfield Cross school. Both Mark and Andy have also been able to take assemblies and a few lessons in Barton school. Andy has also taken occasional assemblies in Isham school.

We also have had a few visits to the Church building over the year from various schools as part of their curriculum learning.

Opportunities for regular assemblies have continued at Bishop school. Andy has continued his more formal role mentoring the chaplain, and helping to advise the senior management on the spiritual aspect of school life.

These are all great opportunities for reaching out to our local community with the Gospel and we would dearly love to be able to do more than we are able.

We continue to need to pray for opportunities for the gospel amongst the 10,000 students at Tresham FE college. Please pray that God would in His time open up opportunities and that there would be people available who have the time to take these opportunities.

## 9.6 Eighteen-30



Eighteen30s provides regular bible studies for young adults in the church, and indeed for any 18-to-30ish year-olds in Kettering, who are seeking to learn from God's Holy word the Bible. The group meets weekly on Monday evenings. This last year we have migrated from meeting in the Link room of Church House to meeting in our own homes, this has allowed us the option to prepare meals to serve with our studies (for which we are especially thankful to Russ and Rosie Dooley who have clearly catered for us most often), and we feel like it helps us to bond as a group.

Over the last year, we completed our series of studies on The Holy Spirit, observing who he is, and his work in scripture compared to his work today. We have started a new series on the book of Revelation.



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We expect that the discussion-format of our sessions should allow for all of Revelation's most commonly queryable details to be exhausted by the end of the series around summer 2018.

Our core group of regular attendees has grown and remains strong, over the last year we have seen a number of new people coming to study with us. It is unfortunate that we cannot find a regular time which meets the demands of all working-hour schedules which are required today, so many of our friends are only able to attend occasionally. We are open to more growth and we are prepared to facilitate more prayer, food and bible studies in the coming year.

David McClatchey

Andy Clark (Associate Minister)

## **10. Missions Task Group Report 2017**

The Missions Task Group has the role of supporting and encouraging St Botolph's mission partners, of raising within the fellowship the profile of overseas and UK missions and of distributing the money allocated to it by the PCC in as fair and honourable a way as possible. During 2017, this role was continued.

The Missions budget has for many years been divided into 6 "pots". One of these pots has been designated for each of Crosslinks {work in Africa}, Overseas Missionary Fellowship International (OMF) {work in the Far East}, Transform Europe Now (TEN) {work in Central and Eastern Europe}, Church's Ministry among Jewish People (CMJ) {work in Israel} and a fifth pot divided equally between Scripture Union (SU) {work in England and Wales} and Rock UK, Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough {work in UK, but especially locally}.

"Pot 6", which is a little larger than the other five pots, is set aside for smaller and one-off donations, and for the sponsorship of people from St Botolph's who are undertaking ministry training of one sort or another. In 2017, Pot 6 was used to support Joe Noble (Gaines Centre), Derek and Jane Waller (CMS, Madagascar), Jovana Hadzic (Sarajevo University, reading Psychology, prior to training as a Christian Counsellor). In addition, smaller, one-off gifts were sent to Bridge2Aid (Dental charity) and Warmis (Mission in Peru, associated with Tear Fund).

Links with our mission partners were maintained – Andrew and Sarah Perrett (OMF), Slavko Hadzic (TEN), Pedro and Annu Santos (CMJ), Terry Clutterham (SU), Richard Sewell (Rock UK) and Nerena Neathercoat (Crosslinks).

During 2017, St Botolph's had visits from Slavko Hadzic (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Melanie Griffiths and Bob Northey from TEN's Head Office, and Gad and Liz Numadi – a farewell and thank you visit. A visit had been arranged from our newest partner, Nerena Neathercoat, on the day of "Carols on the Green", but unfortunately illness at the last minute prevented her from coming.

The Missionary SharePlan 2017 was designated for our Scripture Union partner, Terry Clutterham. As a result of the generosity of the SharePlan supporters, we were able to make a love-gift of £791.25 to Terry, for him to use on a SU project close to his heart.

Yet another record response to TEN's annual Harvest for the Hungry appeal meant that we were able to send a magnificent £5111.15 to TEN to help their partners provide desperately needed food parcels for destitute families. The year 2017 brought round the 25<sup>th</sup> Harvest for the Hungry project, which was started here in St Botolph's and quickly went nationwide. A special Harvest Supper was held the evening before Harvest Festival, with dishes representing typical foods from Eastern Europe. This was a very happy event, at which TEN presented the church with a special plaque, commemorating St

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Botolph's 25 years of support and commitment to the project. In due course, this plaque will be displayed in an appropriate place.

The Missions Task Group thanks the PCC and the St Botolph's Fellowship for their willing support of the work with overseas and home missions.

Derek Wade

## **11. Evangelism 2017**

### **More Than Gold**

Under the banner of 'More Than Gold', a sub-group of the Evangelism Core Group, we have been seeking over the last six years to develop the church's ministry, in particular evangelism, through sport.

Sport plays such an important role in the lives of so many people; in fact, it can be the central focus for some. A shared interest in sport can therefore be a great way to form and develop friendships, hopefully at some point allowing greater opportunity to share our faith. Whether you are an active participant, a coach, a parent of sporty young person or simply an armchair enthusiast, our aim is to provide opportunities to enjoy sport together and invite non-Christian friends and colleagues to join us.

### **2017 saw two main events.**

Our fifth sports quiz was held at Wicksteed Park, in October, presented by Christians in Sport and attended by 110 guests, at least half of whom were non-church members. A thoroughly enjoyable evening included a clear, relevant and topical gospel presentation, some great food, including substantial cake platters kindly donated by church family members, and a really accessible and professionally presented quiz. If you haven't been before, do consider joining us at the next quiz, scheduled for October 2018, and bring a neighbour, a family member or work colleague with you – or better still, a whole team!

In May, we took a coach load to Twickenham to watch the Aviva Premiership Rugby Final. This was a great opportunity to invite non-church friends and colleagues to enjoy some top-class sport together, and it is our intention to continue to organise similar excursions in the future.

We are delighted with the response to events held over the years but feel there is so much more we could do in the area of sports ministry. We are looking towards a change of emphasis as we move forwards and are currently planning ways to offer regular prayer support to church family members who are involved in any aspect of sport, as well as continuing to organise a variety of sporting activities. In addition, it is our intention to develop the ongoing monthly racket sports evening at Kettering Conference Centre.

Please contact any of the More Than Gold team with ideas, prayer requests or for further information: Martin Adamson, Jon Burrows, Andy Clark, Bob Edwards, Chris Hutchinson, David Jacobs, Nick Johnson, Jem Palmer, Heather Perry and David Wright.

More Than Gold Team

## **12. Lay Pastoral Ministers' Report 2017**

As a Lay Pastoral Minister, I have met with the staff team on Mondays to reflect on God's word together and pray for the week ahead and needs within the church family. It was a privilege to have had three years working alongside Nigel and Jo Adams, and since July 2017, we miss our regular fellowship with them. Their contribution to pastoral care was deeply appreciated by many in our congregation and we continue to pray for their present ministry in Braintree. The staff team was also diminished in 2017

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with Mark away on his Sabbatical, but following the departure of Nigel, Wallace Benn and Robert Bashford stepped in to provide valuable pastoral support until Mark's return.

The scope of pastoral care is extensive, and many members of the fellowship contribute to it across the age ranges, from working with children and young people to home groups, provision for seniors, bereavement support, visiting and preparation for baptisms and marriage. Regular events such as the Coffee Shop, Potters Place, Soup and a Sandwich, Firm Foundations, Afternoon Tea Services and Knit and Natter have all provided opportunities for befriending and getting alongside people.

## **12.1 Visiting team**

The visiting team has continued to support and encourage people during times of difficulty or illness and has maintained contact with several church family members no longer able to get to services or in residential homes. We have met to pray and update one another on a regular basis.

One of our long-standing members, Jim Rouse, has recently stepped down. We are grateful to Jim for the many years he has given to the visiting team, and more recently, to leading our meetings. Current members include Alice Spence, Nancy Williams, Gloria Smith and Kate Curnock. Please contact one of us if you know of someone who would appreciate a visit.

## **12.2 Baptism Preparation**

Eight families have requested baptisms in the past year and I have met with them in their homes for a three-week programme of baptism preparation. This involves presenting the gospel message, explaining the meaning of baptism and helping parents to understand the commitment they make on behalf of their child. For some, it is their first introduction to Jesus, the Christian faith and the Bible. It has been encouraging to see some of these families in church on Sundays and attending Make and Play.

## **12.3 Marriage Preparation**

A marriage preparation course entitled 'Marriage by Design' was held in June 2017, led by Roger and Rosemary Pedley and Martin and Philippa Simper. Three couples attended and the new model of running the course on a Saturday proved successful. A further course was scheduled for October but cancelled due to lack of uptake. However, the most recent course held in February this year went well and was attended by two couples who found the day worthwhile and the content helpful.

## **12.4 Women's Ministry**

In addition to the outreach events organised by the Women's Ministry Team, there are several regular groups for women.

## **12.5 Refresh (Report from Kirsty Clark)**

Refresh is for mothers with mainly school aged children: both primary and secondary although the group most definitely also benefits from a couple of wiser mums with adult children! We meet weekly in the Link Room in Church House from 9.30 – 11am on a Monday morning during term time, for Bible study, prayer and pastoral support.

This year we have looked at The Beatitudes; in the lead up to Christmas we explored how the Old Testament points to Jesus' birth; more recently we have enjoyed being challenged by various women of the Bible and are about to embark on the Just for Starters course.

Whenever there are newborn babies we give extra support for the family by providing meals. This year we have been delighted to adopt Cynthia Duckworth and Ali Gosling who kindly give up their time to provide a creche, enabling mums to engage more with the studies and have an hour or so's breather too!



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In June we had our second bring and share social event for the whole family which was again very popular. Then in December we enjoyed getting to know spouses better at a dinner party and then had a very soggy, snowy Christmas social with a bring and share lunch that managed to stretch to all our children too with schools being shut due to the weather!

It has been an exciting year; a privilege to see people's love and understanding of Christ grow, wonderful to see the group encouraging each other in their faith and fantastic to see mums want to pass on the gospel to those they know and love.

## **12.6 Wednesday Women's Bible Study Group**

For women of all ages, this group has had another good year, meeting weekly during term time from 9.30am. After a relaxed start over tea or coffee with the opportunity to catch up, we focus on Bible study and prayer from 10 – 11am. We have used the same study material as the evening home groups and include coffee mornings into our programme at various points in the year. New members are always welcome.

## **12.7 Knit and Natter**

We have been meeting on the third Tuesday of the month from 7.30 – 9pm in Church House and are beginning to have a regular core of knitters and natterers, although knitting is by no means obligatory! We recently enjoyed a presentation from Diane Acaster about the work of the Christian organisation, Breadline, supporting needy communities in Moldova. The group will be considering how we can contribute to their programmes by putting our knitting skills to good practical use.

Please see the Evangelism Task Group report for further information on both men's and women's ministry.

Kate Curnock

## **13. Music Report 2017**

With our service patterns remaining constant through the past year, this report is inevitably similar to last years' - with one large exception as you will read!

Musically we have operated at three distinct services, 9.15am, 11.00am and 6.30pm So the music at each service has a different character, recognising the skills and abilities of the individuals who provide the music.

At 9.15am Graham heads up the team from the keyboard and he is supported by several instrumentalists including, importantly, bass and drums, and a band of perhaps six regular singers who rotate the singing leadership. Practice for the service is held in church starting at 7.30pm on the Friday prior when there is the opportunity to learn new material which is then introduced into the Sunday services. As a Church, we are immensely grateful to have such a talented musician as Graham whose keyboard skills enable us to introduce songs which those with lesser skills would have difficulty in leading so competently.

Sadly, reporting music led by a choir for the 11.00am service will not make happy reading.

As long as we can remember, (and we have been involved musically at St. Botolph's for over 60 years), we have been able to provide a choir which, for many years was the envy of all local churches. It boasted highly competent singers - many of whom read music so that we always led our congregation with four part harmony hymns, as well as singing anthems to the congregation on feast days. For many of those past years we provided a choir at morning and evening services. Several years ago this reduced to once a Sunday at 6.30pm. Four years ago the choir was asked to move to the 11.00am service and successfully boosted what was then the lowest attended service. However numbers dwindled as

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members left, mainly due to ill health and, sadly, we were unable to attract newcomers. As a result, over the past year it has been difficult for members to come to either the pre-service practice or indeed the service itself and hence, regrettably we have had to announce to the congregation that we were disbanding the choir in its present form. We are, however, most appreciative of the faithful few who led our singing until the disbandment. It is our fervent hope that the lack of a choir won't result in smaller numbers coming along to the 11.00am service which is much appreciated by those who attend. It is also our hope that there may be an influx of folk who enjoy singing and would wish to commit to practicing and leading singing at the service in a newly formed choir. Please consider if you could play a part in helping us to achieve this aim. Sadly we now have to advise wedding couples that we can no longer provide a choir for their special day which must be a disappointment.

On the positive side, as we look back over this past year we must give our most grateful thanks to Judy, Joe and Carol for their keyboard skills in providing the music for the service and who will continue to do so. In addition Judy and Mary-Ann have helped out at Warkton when they have been unable to provide a keyboard player or organist. They deserve special thanks for this commitment. There are also times when we would benefit from having other keyboard players to call on, so perhaps you could consider if you could help in this way.

A small number of faithful singers have also led monthly Songs of Praise services at Country View and St. Anne's Nursing Homes which have been warmly welcomed by the residents.

After the gloomy report about sung leadership at the 11.00am service, Andy should be congratulated for his input to the music at the 6.30pm service where he has reported that "we have a faithful and fantastic bunch of musicians who work really hard to serve the 6:30pm congregation". We will be pleased to see the younger members who head up the singing and playing continuing to grow in confidence and ability.

Music is a biblically important part of all our services. It expresses our intimacy with God; it is a natural expression of our love for God; it serves to encourage one another and to glorify God. It is therefore not surprising that it is an area of our church life which is particularly prone to spiritual attack.

Please pray continually for protection for all who offer music at our church and pray for a development in the skills necessary to ensure this means of expressing our joy in knowing Christ. As it says in Ephesians 5:19 we are to "sing and make music in (y)our heart to the Lord."

Adrian and Carol Keach - Co Music Directors

## **14. Home Bible Study Groups 2017**

Home Groups tackled the "Letter to the Hebrews" in the first half of 2017. The writer's repeated selection of Old Testament passages, which he expounds and applies to Christian believers, draws attention in a powerful way to the Christ-centred focus of the whole Bible. We were reminded throughout the series that the original readers of this Letter were experiencing opposition and hardship as a result of their Christian faith and were tempted to give up. This made the Letter all the more relevant to us today, as pressures increase on Christians in our society to conform to the values of political correctness. The Letter's great encouragement to continue "looking to Jesus" came across as very timely for all of us.

Home Groups studied the Letter of James for the remainder of the year after the summer break. Its clear challenge to make sure that our Christian faith leads to practical action in our lives is something that we can never have too much of.

Since the beginning of 2018 we have embarked on a series entitled "These truths alone," looking at Bible passages from both the Old and New Testaments, in order to focus on important Bible truths that were rediscovered at the time of the Reformation 500 years ago. We are finding that this is by no

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means an academic exercise, as these are issues which are being challenged by many today both inside and outside the church.

Many thanks to all fellow Home Group leaders for their teaching and pastoral care – and to all who kindly open their homes to host these meetings.

There is room in some at least of the Home Groups for new members, so please let me know if that applies to you.

Robert Bashford

## **15. Potters Place Report 2017**

Where else would you find terrific Christian fellowship, the opportunity to take part in a lovely service of Holy Communion normally led by our Rector, a fantastic hot two course Lunch (£4) yes only four pounds! As much coffee and tea as you want and a diverse range of entertainment which for instance this year will feature among others, Ian Addis telling us about the life of Kettering author J.L Carr, our local counsellor Andrew Dutton; a professional presentation from staff at Deene House and Toby Clegg talking about old Barton Seagrave from his own perspective.

It has like most years been one of highs and lows. We have lost well-loved members some who have moved on and some who have passed on. We praise God for a very committed group which this year has included some new comers. We have to say a big thankyou to all our helpers and the dedicated cook teams which provide such lovely food.

'Potter's Place' Team

## **16. Afternoon Tea Services' Report 2017**

There have been four Afternoon Tea Services in the past 12 months plus the same group also support the Remembrance Day Tea Service. We have a short tradition service of Evening Prayer, with hymns and a short talk, in the Church. This is followed by afternoon tea in Church House with sandwiches and cakes. The Service and tea is, of course, open to all who wish to come but to facilitate some of our frailer friends to attend, transport can be arranged. The most popular Service continues to be on Advent Sunday and this year we welcomed several new members to the congregation. It is a practical way that we are able to show the love of Jesus. Costs are covered by donations. Thanks to all who make cakes and sandwiches, help within the Church with the Service and in Church House with the setting up, washing up and tidying up and chatting to our visitors.

## **17. Soup & Sandwich Lunch Report 2017**

When the Revd Nigel and Jo Adams left St Botolph's it was felt, by members of the CAMEO team of helpers, that it would be good to continue some of the work started by the Pilgrims Group. Our purpose was to encourage the development of friendships within the community and an opportunity to invite others to join us. A soup and sandwich lunch has been offered to those who attend our church and to the wider community from 12 to 2p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. Delicious homemade soups, prepared by Judith and Rob Cowan and selection sandwiches have proved to be popular. Although the numbers have fluctuated due to inclement weather and illness attendance has been averaging about 25 and costs have been covered by donations. It is hoped that this will continue and develop in the future and thank all of those who help both in a practical and spiritual ways.

## **18. Coffee Shop Report 2017**

We are very pleased to report that the Coffee Shop is growing in the number of visitors both from within the Church and from the community in Barton. So too is our team of helpers and we are very grateful to them for their regular support. During this last year we have been able to hold two charity events, one for the McMillan Nurses and also one for the Compassionate Friends. Apart from this all

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donations received at the Coffee Shop are put towards Church House expenses, and this year we have been able to fund new external lighting for the front porch area which will provide a better welcome to all visitors especially on dark evenings.

The Coffee Shop team

### **19. Flower Report 2017**

As usual the flower rota has worked well, a big thank-you to all who faithfully provide and place flowers in Church each week. Especially to Make & Play for the wonderful Mothering Sunday display and the Guides who always come up with different ideas for Advent.

There are always places for anyone to join us on the rota where most of us have a once a year slot. We come together on special occasions to decorate the Church such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas but if you can contribute greenery, flowers or help in other ways please speak to Sandy Frost if you are interested.

Sandy Frost