



Christ  
Church  
Orpington



# Annual Report 2016-2017



# **THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

will take place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 after lunch in the church hall

## **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes and matters arising
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Appointment of Deputy Wardens

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Minutes and matters arising
2. Electoral Roll report
3. Review of Standing Orders para 2b.  
(The APCM is required to review periodically whether to continue with the present clause that, after 6 continuous years, PCC lay members must stand down for at least one year before being eligible for re-election. Alternatively, the APCM could decide that lay members should serve for 3 years, with one-third retiring each year. The PCC has reviewed the clause and can see no reason why a change would benefit Christ Church.)
4. Secretary's report on the work of the PCC
5. Annual report 2015-16
6. Elections
  - Deanery Synod representatives
  - PCC representatives
  - Sidespeople
7. Appointments
  - Welcomers
8. Treasurer's report and appointment of Auditor
9. Report on Unity Church
10. Any other business
11. Closing Prayer.



## **PCC Secretary's Report for the year 2016-7**

It is the duty of the minister and the parochial church council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish. The functions of the PCC include cooperation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC met six times in 2016-7 and, not surprisingly in view of its functions, covered a wide range of topics. As usual, however, finance has been the most time-consuming topic. The PCC has been grateful for regular reports from the skilled and enthusiastic members of the Finance Committee, especially when the PCC has been working towards the major expenditure of the lighting project. The PCC has also been grateful for regular reports from the Lighting Committee chaired by Alan Goddard on the progress of our proposals through the diocesan approval procedure. The PCC agreed last autumn that part of the Gift Day proceeds should be used for the lighting project, so that the money set aside in the church repair fund would not be totally pre-empted. Some of the money held back can now be used for the boiler replacement.

The PCC continues to agree standards for the whole church in equal opportunities, the protection of children and the protection of vulnerable adults. It sets accounting standards for the handling of money, and agrees standing orders for the conduct of its own business.

During the year, the PCC received oral reports from Jo Gavin and Andrena Palmer; the PCC expressed their appreciation of the wide range of activities provided for children and young people. There were also written reports on Deanery Synod meetings; on developments at Unity Church, where the Bishop's Mission Order continues to operate; on giving to missions; on worship and technology; and on human resource matters.

Thanks to all these reports, the PCC is well briefed on what is happening in the church and is in a privileged position to discuss with Jay the church's priorities. Currently the PCC is preparing to contribute to the

Bishop of Rochester's initiative in drawing up a strategic action plan for the whole diocese.

Don Bower  
PCC Secretary

## Hall Bookings

This year has seen my first full year in charge of Christ Church hall bookings and I have very much enjoyed taking on the role. Christ Church has an excellent administration and maintenance team who work well and supportively together.

As to the regular hirer bookings: these have been maintained and there has been positive feedback from the hirers as to the uptake of the various classes etc. Some of the regular hirers have been able to take advantage of increasing numbers attending their classes by expanding their number of sessions – most notably Baby Sensory and Campbell Pilates. Although Rochester Diocese are gradually decreasing their regular sessions with us, they are continuing to support the church by hosting various one-off events with us.

We now also have a couple of new hirers that are regularly using our facilities. These include Cabrini House using the Undercroft for an activity session and we are also now supporting the Orpington Christian Counselling Service.

The halls continue to be regularly used by the local community for their various celebrations, remembrances and charitable fund raising events.

### GIVE THANKS!

- for the opportunity that the church has to be able to provide an outreach service to the local community through the hiring of the facilities and to be a part of their festivities,
- for the fellowship that all working with the various groups and the organisation of these groups have as they work together,
- for Jim and the amazing resourcefulness that he has displayed in very challenging circumstances these last few months especially with the boilers and various electrical equipment.

### PRAY FOR:

- Jim in his work maintaining the building and managing the various repairs and improvements as they are required especially with regard to the ongoing maintenance of the lights which require the use of ladders,

- the continued correct balance of church and local groups using the premises.

Jacqui Roberts



## Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod representatives are Rev Jay Colwill, Kate Munro, Muriel Spooner and Anne Springer. There were 2 main meetings in the last year, plus a Synod Summer Social and a Deanery Quiet Day in July.

The main focus of both meetings was the diocese initiative "Our Conversation; Our Future", where Bishop James encouraged all the churches in the Rochester Diocese to become involved in a prayerful review of our mission in this world, and more particularly in our parishes. A toolkit for responses has been published dealing with 3 main questions:

1. What may the Holy Spirit be saying to us about our area?
2. What do we currently spend our energy and resources on?
3. What do we need to change about who we are and what we do?

The current Lent Course prepared by the Diocese engages with these questions, but all responses in any format are welcomed by the diocese by Easter 2017. Further information is available on the diocesan website [www.rochester.anglican.org/strategy/conversation](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/strategy/conversation).

There will be a Bishop's Visitation to the Deanery in October and details about the programme are being worked out. The Parishes of Keston and Biggin Hill have joined the Orpington Deanery and our February 2017 meeting took place at Keston. It is always a pleasure to visit other churches in the Deanery and to learn about their work and activities in their area.

### GIVE THANKS!

- for the ways in which the Gospel is being proclaimed in the Deanery.
- for the good relationships, which are being built up.

### PRAY FOR:

- the changes which will happen as clergy retire or move elsewhere.
- the continuing community outreach and involvement.

Anne Springer

## Church Warden's Report

### GIVE THANKS!

We give thanks for the deputy wardens and for others who help and give of their time, especially Derick, Pieter, Pat and Mel. We are grateful for how well we have got on with each other and worked together throughout this last year.

We also give thanks for the privilege of seeing so many different ministries in action as we “do our rounds” on a Sunday.

We give thanks for how much we see people growing in faith and visibly helping each other.

### PRAY FOR:

That the lighting and power project meets the needs of everybody at church, including the replacement of the hall boilers.

That the spiritual growth of the church continues.

That the warden team continues to serve in love and support of each other, including during any changes in personnel.

Dave Humphries and Len Gardiner

## Annual Accounts 2016

### Summary version

All are welcome to attend our services. The electoral roll is updated annually and comprises 235 members, an increase of 3 since last year. The breakdown is:

Male = 86, Female = 149;

Resident in parish = 123, Resident outside parish = 112.

The average weekly attendance during October (when the annual count is done for the Diocese) was 148 adults aged 16 or over and 54 young people aged under 16 (2015: 146 & 36).

### Income

Total receipts for the General Fund were £261,608 and are detailed in on the following page; these were slightly down on last year's £265,186. Total Voluntary Income (giving, legacies & tax recoverable) was £195,177 compared to £197,536 in 2015. Other activities generated £55,125 income compared to £57,728 in 2015. The income from the hire of the hall decreased slightly in 2016 to £32,775 compared with £33,274 for the previous year, income from the café continued the decreasing trend however at a gentler pace at £18,716 (£19,109 in 2015). For 2016, cafe income exceeded expenditure generating a surplus of £1,014.

The planned giving, including tax recoverable to the General Fund by envelopes and standing orders to the General Fund remains extremely important to the Church. Of the £195,177 receipts, £146,227 was gift aided giving (including Gift Day), £30,432 was non-gift aided giving, £8,518 open plate and £10,000 legacies. We are very grateful to those who give in this way as it enables the church to set a realistic budget. In Advent, a special offertory was held where £36,455 (including gift aid) was given to the General Fund and 20% of the amount was then shared between Kondoa Bible School and the Latvian Bible School. At the same time commitments to new or increased standing orders were received from several people, which should assist Church finances in 2017.

We are grateful to the estate of Mrs Janet Bower for a legacy of £10,000.

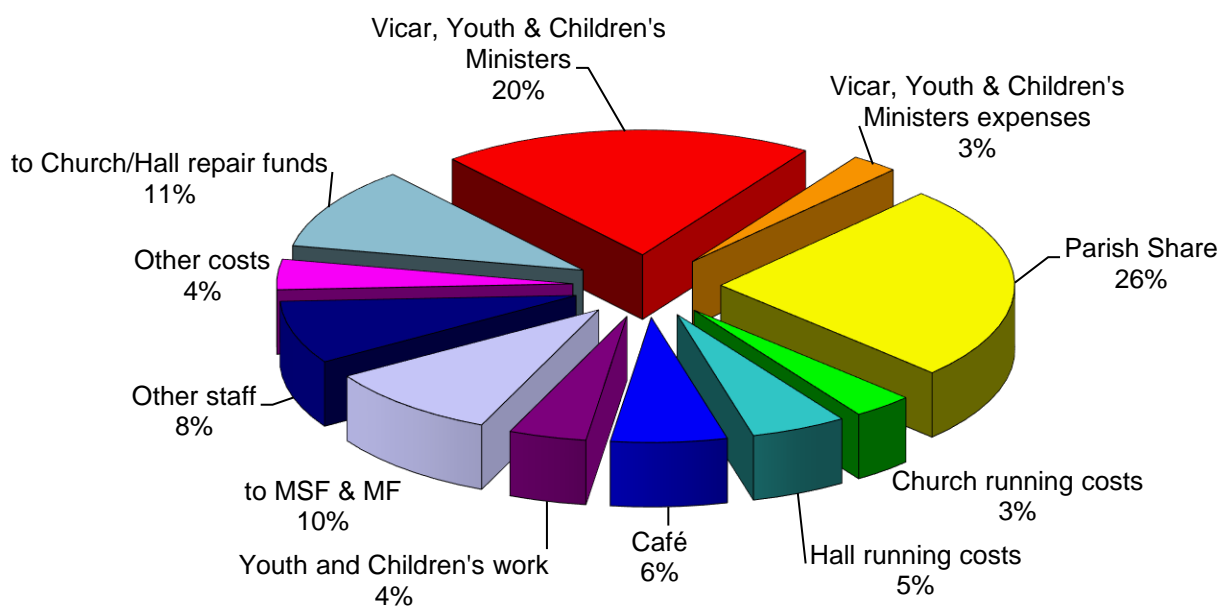
### The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2016

2015		2016	
£	<u>Income</u>	£	
	<u>Donor Income</u>		
107,797	Gift Aid	114,874	
33,209	Tax Receivable	31,353	
22,871	Non-Gift Aid	30,432	
7,333	Open Plate	8,518	
625	Small Donations Scheme	-	
<hr/> 171,835		<hr/> 185,177	7.8%
	<u>Other Voluntary Income</u>		
<hr/> 25,701	Legacies	<hr/> 10,000	
25,701		10,000	
	<u>Other Incoming Resources</u>		
456	Magazines	408	
5,345	Fees	3,634	
33,274	Hall Lettings	32,775	
19,109	Café	18,716	
161	Bookstall	58	
6,853	Children/Youth	7,466	
1,185	Miscellaneous	2,254	
<hr/> 66,383		<hr/> 65,311	
1,269	Investment Income	1,120	
<hr/> 265,186	<b><u>Total Incoming Resources</u></b>	<hr/> 261,608	-1.3%

## The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2016

2015		2016	
£	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	£	
5,346	Ministry Costs	6,130	
39,346	Youth Ministers	45,063	
13,565	Children's Minister	13,040	
3,243	Children's Administrator	3,273	
6,619	Hall Bookings Administrator	7,158	
	Support Services		
8,765	Administrator	8,850	
7,812	Caretaker	6,702	
64,348	Parish Share	71,016	
11,371	Church	9,303	
16,714	Hall and Grounds	14,615	
18,726	Café	17,702	
163	Bookstall	-	
2,738	Evangelism/Education	2,145	
7,933	Children/Youth	8,565	
1,985	Depreciation	2,065	
7,516	Other Parish Costs	5,606	
1,124	Independent Examiner	1,098	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
217,314	<b><u>Total Expenditure</u></b>	222,332	2.3%
47,873	<b><u>NET SURPLUS/&lt;LOSS&gt;</u></b>	39,276	
<u>-30,697</u>	Transfers, CRF + MSF	<u>-57,802</u>	
17,176	Net movement in fund	-18,526	

## General Fund expenditure in 2016



The net result for the general fund for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £39,276; of this £27,802 was transferred to the two missionary funds and £30,000 to the Church Repair Fund. After adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward at 31<sup>st</sup> December for the General Fund was £172,795; down £18,526 on the previous year.

### Konodoa

As our links with the Diocese of Konodoa grow, the church is keen to raise funds to support the Bible school and other projects there. In 2016, in total we were able to send £16,650 to Konodoa.

### Fund totals at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016

Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds		Total
General Fund	Church Repair Fund	Above & Beyond Fund	Specific	Missionary Support Fund	
172,795	101,063	3,520	8,165	100	285,643

<b>Missionary Expenditure -Restricted Funds or Designated Fund</b>					
<b>2015</b>		<b>Specific</b>	<b>MSF</b>	<b>A&amp;B</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
<b><u>Support Agencies</u></b>					
1,955	Church Pastoral Aid Society	815	1,400		2,215
414	Crosslinks	273			273
1,958	London City Mission	473	1,400		1,873
1,742	Church Mission Society	230	1,400		1,630
135	Interserve	199			199
240	The Children's Society	322			322
100	Churches Together in Orpington		100		100
100	Street Pastors (CTiO)		100		100
-	Barnabas Fund	1,001			1,001
1,578	Release International		1,400		1,400
1,578	Missionary Aviation Fellowship	290	1,400		1,690
3,603	Spinnaker	1,333	1,400		2,733
4,408	Tearfund	392	1,400		1,792
50	Unity Church, Ramsden				
	Rochester Diocese for Zimbabwe, Tanzania & Estonia		797		797
18,173	Rochester Diocese for Kondoa, Tanzania	15,250	1,400		16,650
	Latvian Bible School	3,500			3,500
1,988	Orpington Foodbank	80	600	500	1,180
50	Macmillan	303			303
163	Church Army	83			83
	Christian Aid	130			130
	Red Cross	76			76
75	Calais refugees				
50	Red Nose Day				
2,050	Community Club				
40,410		24,750	12,797	500	37,250
<b><u>Personnel</u></b>					
2,236	Jim & Katie Whitear (YWAM)	901	1,000		1,901
1,328	Nick & Helen Smith (AWM)	290	1,000		1,290
2,494	Viktor & Ester Petrenko	354	1,000		1,354
1,140	Peter & Veronique Moodie (Paris)		1,000		1,000
	Tim Hyde (Church Army)	75			75
	Ed Abernethy (retiring collection)	300			300
	Rev Dozie Moneme (retiring collection)	504			504
7,198		2,424	4,000		6,424
	Just Giving costs	36			36
	Reimbursement for Altar Falls	218			218
47,608	<b>TOTAL</b>	27,428	16,797	500	44,725

In addition, £238.74 was raised by a door-to-door collection by Christ Church members in support of Christian Aid.

We hope this summary version of the 2016 annual accounts is helpful. A full version will be available at the APCM.

## Unity Church

God never promised us an easy life, but he did promise to be with us as we step out in faith in His service. We have continued to see Him at work in another exciting year at Unity Church.

The biggest change over the year was the retirement of Ray Bell as our leader. He and Carole served us faithfully and effectively for over four years, and we are so grateful to them for their hard work and inspiring leadership. Dave Bell was appointed church leader in October, and we are already benefiting so much from the gifts that he and Kate are bringing into the church. We look forward with eager anticipation to what God will do at Unity under their leadership.

Last May, 23 adults and 22 young people and children attended the Regions Beyond, Fusion weekend at the Norfolk showground. Although we had to break camp early to avoid a forecast gale, it was still a rewarding and challenging event.

We have seen growth in many areas of the church. Our work with children and young people has been particularly exciting, with increased attendance at our two Sunday groups, and the launch of a new midweek parent and toddler group, ToddleTots. The latter has already attracted a total of 13 adults with babies or toddlers since its launch in January. These bring the challenge of finding enough leaders to run them. Although the attendance at our midweek teenagers' group, Pulse, had fallen towards the end of last year, we have now begun to see an increase in new young people attending. Richard Dowling, who was responsible for the project left the team in December to begin working at a school closer to his home and this has given us new opportunities to develop this group and to use it as an opportunity to disciple our young people. Two events, a Halloween alternative party and a silent disco, were very successful in attracting children and young people who are not usually involved in the church. Sadly, the Youth Mentoring project has come to an end to a large extent, as support for the project is not forthcoming at The Priory now that it has become a Harris Academy. There is still some mentoring of students at Kemnal Technology College.

Our adult groups have also grown, especially Men Utd, which now attracts a number of non-Christians to our social events every two months. Knit and Natter continues to gather 8-10 ladies each week; some of these do not attend church.



Some possible new ministries seem to be opening up, such as supporting families at Manorfields and providing meals at church for those in need. If we are to get involved in these areas, we need even more volunteers to lead and staff them.

We have been so grateful to Christ Church for your continued support, in prayer and in practical ways such as helping us with our music on Sundays. It has been a joy to see some of you attend our Sunday meetings, and we hope you will continue to come and encourage us.

### GIVE THANK!

- for the ministry of Ray and Carole and for bringing Dave and Kate to become our new leaders.
- for growth in our work amongst adults and children.
- for His provision for our needs.

### PRAY FOR:

- wisdom in knowing where to focus our resources to have maximum impact on the Ramsden Estate.
- more people willing to take an active part in the life of the church, such as in our work with children and young people and in the possible new projects.
- growth in our mission on the Ramsden estate and that we would see people saved and added to Unity Church.

Our love to you all

Peter and Lynn Price

## Children's Ministry Vision

The vision for Children's Ministry is **Sowing seeds, growing together and changing lives.** We have the wonderful opportunity of helping children to know Jesus and to grow together in faith. We can change and enrich their lives by encouraging them to have a loving relationship with God. Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

I am pleased to report that Children's Ministry has been doing well this year; there has been a few changes, a couple of volunteers have moved to Youth work or stepped down and through God's grace new people have stepped forward. We do however have a need for more volunteers in a number of our Ministries especially if we are to reach out more and serve our community. We currently have 61 children on our Sunday groups register (3 more than last year), however only a few attend every Sunday and on average we see between 25-30 children each Sunday. Last year we had 9 children leave Explorers for Pathfinders and 9 are leaving us again this year. A large number of families meet on a Wednesday at Tea and Toys and we have been inviting them to events throughout the year with some small successes. This year we visited 5 schools through Spinnaker, meeting with over 1,400 children fortnightly and telling them about God's love as well as a number of events like Holiday Club, Christingle and Family Together reaching out to our community.

Our Year 6 Explorers (and some Year 5's) as well as myself and our Explorer leaders Andy & Tracy joined the Pathfinders on their annual Youth camp where we all learnt more about Christian virtues and had a great deal of fun abseiling and doing bush crafts! The campfire was magical and very spiritual and Andrena also used a new prayer space resource that was great!

Prayer requests for Children's Ministry:

- Please pray that the children continue to grow and develop their faith and we are able to show them God's love.
- Please pray that volunteers are willing to step forward to share their gifts and support these ministries.
- Please pray that we are able to reach out to people living locally and build a bridge to the Church encouraging families and children to become part of our worshipping community.

At **Tea & Toys** it has been another very successful and busy year. Paula and the team with help from Sophie Askham, Jim Callaghan and myself have been doing a fantastic job welcoming families and ensuring a engaging environment for the little ones. We do however really need new volunteers to support us. Paula writes 'We give thanks to God for another busy year in Tea and Toys with many new families coming along. As well as giving the children the chance to hear Bible stories and play in a fun and friendly environment, we aim to be able to form good relationships with the parents/carers that enable us to demonstrate the love of God. Many thanks to Pauline Dugard, Maureen Grandini and Janet Gardiner who faithfully help each week. However, we have relied heavily on Jim Callaghan and Jo Gavin this past year and are grateful for their support. Please pray that more volunteers will come forward to help with setting up/clearing away or with refreshments so that we can continue to provide this worthwhile chance to witness to families living in our community.'

**Crèche** continues to flourish under the leadership of Sarah Beston, providing a fantastic introduction to church for our 0-3 year olds.

**C**rèche has been very happy to welcome new children into the creche on Sundays.

**R**eadng, playing, enthusiasm, friendly, joy.

**E**xtra noise and accompaniment through the wall into church reminds the congregation that the littlest members of the church family are present!

**C**olourful story sacks help us to share some Bible stories with the children at the end of each session.

**H**eating has been a problem in the coldest winter months.

**E**xcellent support has been given by the creche volunteers and we are thankful for new members to the creche team.

Please pray that more families join our Church, so we can see more little ones thrive in this loving environment becoming part of our Church family and growing closer to Jesus.

This year in **Climbers and Explorers** the children have been looking in the Old Testament at Exodus and Joshua as well as learning about Mission – God on Mission and Jesus on Mission, how God has a plan for our salvation through Jesus and how we as Christians can be part of

that plan by reaching out and showing others God's love through both our actions and words. They too can spread the good news about Jesus.

The **Climbers** team led by Caroline Rous continues to provide quality teaching and fun activities for our children. Caroline writes 'The number of children attending each week varies between 6 and 12 and we have only a few regular attendees. Their ages range from 3 to 7. The current format of the session includes the Climbers prayer which we open with each week, an action worship song, game, teaching, craft, recap and prayer to finish. The children enjoy the different activities and the short and varied activities keep their attention. Lorna Kenny has joined the team to teach and Rachel Dunkerley is a regular helper. Sophie Askham has taken on the role of leader and alternates with Caroline Rous. Maureen Grandini, Elmare Samuels and Paul Calvett continue to do excellent jobs with craft, teaching and helping respectively. Pray for the children who come to Climbers that they may continue to enjoy the sessions and perhaps be able to come more regularly. Pray for the Climbers team to be able to continue to do an excellent job.'

**Explorers** are blessed to have a fantastic team of dedicated teachers, craft leaders and helpers and whilst we lost one of our helpers who has moved to Youth we have gained three new team members this year. Mandy is also providing us with a dedicated SEN resource twice a month and this is a real blessing. We have tweaked our reward scheme for attendance giving rewards to those children who come 10 or more times a term and we also have on the spot prizes for showing Christian values; the children can choose a gift for themselves or an item for food bank. We have been highlighting the importance of prayer in our small groups and as well as our Prayer Bear the children made lovely Prayer crosses for each group using cardboard tubes, the children can write their prayers and roll them up and pop them into the cross. The children have also led prayers with me within our all age service.

**Outburst** lead by Sharon Russo, Sue London & Pip Allen is where all the children in Climbers and Explorers join together held on the first Sunday of every month. **Sharon writes** 'This year we tried something a little different. We have been looking at the 'Bigger Picture' and focusing our lessons on prayer. We have been looking at The Lord's Prayer in greater detail and encouraging the children to pray regularly and understand what they are doing and why. The introduction of signing

The Lord's Prayer in the service has been a great success allowing the children to be a part of the service. The praise and worship in the Outburst sessions has been great with the little ones playing percussion instruments, some members of Big Bible Band joining in and even some of the older children from Pathfinders leading the actions. Truly an 'Outburst' of God's love and joy! Outburst has been running for more than six years now, and Sue London, Pip Allen and I feel it is time to hand this ministry over. Please pray for wisdom as to how to best use this time to benefit all the children and pray for new leaders to come forward. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my lovely, faithful team: Sue, Pip, Dave Fargie, Ali Sleath, Sara and Sophie Askham and Lyall. God's Blessings.'

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Outburst team for all their dedication and commitment to this wonderful ministry. Following discussion with the Jay, Andrena and the Leadership Team we have decided this could be an opportunity to use this time for a new vision, **Sunday Serving**, and that is to try to integrate our Explorers and Pathfinders into the adult worship once a month whereby they are involved in leading and serving alongside the adults as part of the worship. Climbers and Creche would continue to run to ensure that our youngest continue to receive age appropriate teaching. This will, we hope, encourage the older children and young people to feel part of the wider church family and get them used to participating in a church service on a regular basis. Often young people can leave church when there is no longer a group or role for them. Hopefully this can be avoided and they will grow up serving.

Over the summer, we had a fabulous time at our **Guardians of Ancora Holiday Club**. The children went on a treasure hunt each day to find story treasures from the Bible and bring the light back into the city learning all about Jesus. We had a fantastic time. To be more accessible to family's that don't come to church on a Sunday morning we have run some events on a Sunday afternoon. So, the fun of Holiday Club continued with our **Holiday Club Reunion** afternoon, with crafts, a service and food; it was wonderful to see so many families returning for a fun filled afternoon of crafts, a special service and food!

This was followed up by a fantastic **Light Party** at the end of October to continue with our Light theme 'Jesus Light of the World' and provide

an alternative to Halloween. As well as a short service, we had crafts, a treasure hunt in the dark, sparklers and S'mores and Jay made a lovely chilli to go with jacket potatoes.

For the **Christingle & Families Together at Christmas**, we were really blessed to have a dedicated team of volunteers working with and supporting the children in a wonderful Christingle presentation. This year we continued with the Jesus Light of the World theme and our oldest children took the congregation on a camping trip up a mountain where they learned how Jesus brought light into a dark world and retold the story of Jesus' birth whilst our Climbers and Creche children with help from Explorers acted out the nativity. On the morning of our rehearsal we had a lovely time with families having breakfast, making crafts, assembling Christingle bags and playing games together.

**Family Together – Mothering Sunday.** We have just held a Family Together afternoon to prepare for Mothering Sunday. The theme was Gift of Love about giving a gift to say thank you as well as sharing a gift (talent) with their Mums and the congregation during the Mothering Sunday Service. We are inviting the Highway Choir through Caroline Bailey and Liesel Stanbridge to join us on Mother's Day to sing a song for their Mum's.

Craft has played a big part in these events and Tracy van Rooyen and Maureen Grandini have put in a huge amount of effort in helping me to prepare for these events. Jay has been great at making the food and we are also blessed with a team of regular volunteers who help make these events possible. We have been successful in that we have seen some families that we don't normally see on a Sunday morning, but the challenge still remains on how we can reach out to our community.

### **Big Bible Band.**

BBB have been thriving under the leadership of Sharon Russo. She writes 'We have been so blessed this year with opportunities to play at Holiday Club 2016, playing together for the Christingle service and now we are practising to play something special for Mother's Day. God is so good. He has answered our prayers and I can now welcome Naomi May who is helping me with the rehearsals.' Please pray for new members to replace those moving up to JwJ; and for the children, that they are blessed as they use their musical gifts to worship God and they continue to grow.

## **CTiO**

**Moving on Up** (for Year 5&6) was a great event at All Souls in Pratts Bottom last summer. We had games, drama, worship and discussions to prepare the year 5's for their final year of primary school and Year 6's to leave for secondary school. We hosted **Big Breakfast Goes United** at St John's welcoming nearly 70 children and adult helpers from across the churches in Orpington on Saturday. This was a wonderful opportunity to teach the children that we are all unique and different and loved by God and we should love each other.

**Spinnaker Schools Work.** I have been visiting The Highway leading Christian assemblies and Pratts Bottom as part of a team I put together to support them following Penny Avann's retirement. My involvement is now less as I have stepped away to allow the local team to take over. Caroline Rous has also been visiting Hillside, Chelsfield and Warren Road schools providing assemblies. Here is a quote from Caroline 'Our current assembly theme is 'Happiness is' and is based on the Beatitudes and how Jesus demonstrated them in his life. We also talk about how the children can follow Jesus' example and teaching in their lives. This series will be continued next term as well as a continuation of last term's theme, 'Free Time' which encourages children to try new activities in their free time, as well as telling linked stories from the Bible.'

We also had a wonderful visit to Christ Church from Years 1 & 4 where the children learnt that the church is all about the people and the parable of the Two Builders.

It is so important that we have these opportunities as today so many children are growing up in families that do not attend church and this is their only chance to learn about Jesus. Please continue to pray for us throughout the year ahead as your prayers are an invaluable support to our work. Pray for the schools we visit and pray that the children will learn more about God and His word and be curious about him.

**Jo Gavin Children's Minister**

## Youth Ministry

I am happy to share this report and speak about the year we have had in Youth Ministry which saw 14 young people be confirmed, 23 young people attend camp and plans afoot for a mission trip to Germany in October 2017!

**Pathfinders** – On a Sunday morning we meet in the Undercroft with those in years 7-9. We build relationships with the young people while our focus is teaching the Bible and developing a foundation of Biblical knowledge and attitudes – and we have great fun whilst doing this! Last term we had our confirmation classes and thought about “Big Questions” in John’s gospel. This term we have learned about Persecuted Christians and have watched a Christian apologetics film, “*God’s not dead*”. After Easter, we will look into the Old Testament and male characters; Prophet Isaiah, Joseph and Daniel to name a few. The number of young people who attend Pathfinders can vary each week; we have 16 on the register and we regularly attract around 8 young people. We currently have 2 young people who serve with the tech team and several young people have been involved with all-age services and play with our bands, BBB or JWJ. We look forward to welcoming 9 new Pathfinders from Climbers after Easter!

**Juice** – On a Sunday evening overlapping the evening service, we have a Bible study group for young people in years 9+. Juice is more focussed on discipling young people and encouraging them as they grow in their faith. In Juice, we often use similar material to the Pathfinders, but our discussions often have very different outcomes. This term we welcomed a visitor from Release International to speak to the young people about their work with persecuted Christians. Currently we have 18 young people on the register, and welcome 6-10 young people each week. We currently have 4 young people who serve with the tech team and several young people have been involved with all-age services and play with our bands, BBB or JWJ. Some of our young people in Year 9 have started attending Juice already, and we look forward to graduating 5 Pathfinders to Juice after Easter!

**ReD.** – ReD. is our Friday after-school youth discipleship group. This is our busiest, loudest and most boisterous group – but also the one with



the biggest laughs! We have a big focus on playing games and having fun together and allowing the young people to express themselves in a safe space. Part way through the session we have a time of fellowship and a discussion topic. Each week we welcome between 10-20 young people and it's a wonderful community outreach opportunity, but difficult to disciple with few helpers to run this as a small group. We have a volunteer in the kitchen who prepares a meal for us and clears away, and two other volunteers and myself – and taking child protection adult to child ratios into consideration, with three adults we have to stay together. This Easter the Year 8 and 9 pupils will move to the group on Saturday evenings, and I look forward to having a group with Year 6's and 7's. We hope that we will retain a similar number of young people.

**ReD. + (Saturday)/Base** – On alternate Saturday's we have ReD. + for those in Year 9+, followed by Base. This time last year we used our Saturday sessions to paint the youth rooms, and it is unfortunate that we had a flood at church which has left the Undercroft sofa room out of bounds for the past year. We're all excited for when the new carpets and furniture arrive and we can reclaim our space! ReD. is the discipleship group and we continue to have discussion and questions over food, but Base remains as an open youth club with games and activities.

**FN@TB** – is a small, special youth group for young people who find large or noisy group activities difficult to cope with. This group has 10 young men who attend very consistently. Jo Colwill coordinates a group for young adults (18+) who previously came to FN@TB but are now either working, looking for work/at college or uni. They have a Facebook group where members can post suggested activities and then they meet up for trips to the cinema, meals, anime film night, mah-Jong/games nights! Jo reports “It has taken over a year for them to start arranging their own meet ups, but this has now started to happen and they have arranged and met up without facilitators several times. We have a few who will be ready to join this group who'll move on from FN@TB soon, and have started to invite them to appropriate get togethers already as a 'bridge'”. Please contact Jo for further information on this group: [jo.colwill@ntlworld.com](mailto:jo.colwill@ntlworld.com).

**Grounded/Plus Group/TNT** – Unfortunately these areas of ministry with young adults has ceased, but I remain in contact with several of these young adults, and I hope that each young adult knows that I care for them.

**Special events** – We have hosted several family events; a summer BBQ and Christmas meal which were a great success and well attended. We have taken young people to Soul Survivor Church Watford for their Saturday celebration and to see LZ7, a Christian rap band. In February, we took 23 young people to Downe for our Youth weekend. This was a great time away - learning about Biblical Virtues and having fun exploring the outdoors. I am in liaison with Jim and Kate Whitear working with YWAM in Hamburg, Germany and we are planning to visit with some Year 12/13 pupils in October half term and join in their mission opportunities with migrant families.

**School's work** - I attend Bishop Justus twice each week; leading morning worship in form groups on a Wednesday morning and co-leading a lunch-time club on Monday's. This is a new group working alongside John and Josh from Chislehurst Youth for Christ and we welcome 10-15 young people each week.

I attend Orpington College as a **College Pastor** on alternate Wednesday's.

**Fusion** – is the name for Youth Ministry as part of Churches Together in Orpington. Last September, along with Nelson and several local Children's and youth workers/minister's we ran a prayer space at Bishop Justus School. This year we have bought a new prayer space resource called "Open" that we look forward to taking into other schools and youth groups.

**BBB/JWJ** – we have 2 bands with children/young people led by Sharon Russo. We have played during all-age services at Christ Church and look forward to Holiday Club.

**GIVE THANKS!**

- for a successful confirmation service,

- for amazing volunteers who come each week to support the young people.

PRAY FOR:

- more volunteers so that we can disciple the young people in smaller groups,
- the seeds that were sown during children's ministry to be nurtured; to continue to grow and blossom.

Andrena Palmer

# Vicar's Report

Once again, Christ Church has had an eventful year! Whilst reflecting upon the last twelve months, I think God has called us to 'commission' and 'sending out'. I will write more about how this has been particularly true for individuals in the life of our church, but their example can be a spur for each one of us.

Before coming to this theme, let me write about "A Vision for our Next Season of Life!" At last year's APCM, we launched a vision document (in the shape of a book-mark). It is a visual reminder to us about what our priorities are:

## **Our Strengths**

Isn't it good that we are a community of all ages with ministries for many sectors of that community.

## **Our Weaknesses**

Isn't it a pity that people who don't fit into small groups/ministries can feel isolated.

## **Our Opportunities**

Wouldn't it be good if we were better at reaching out to, and including, newcomers/people on the fringe.

## **Our Mission Statement** (*Our purpose/reason to be here.*)

Devoted to Christ, Dedicated to Community

## **Our Vision Statement** (*How we want to be described 5 years from now.*)

We long to be an 'above and beyond church' (worshipping Christ above all things – going beyond these four walls in mission).

*From these flow our priorities:*

## **Our Priority Goals**

**IN:** Develop a stronger follow-up process for newcomers/those who have not attended Christian community for a period.

**OUT:** Being out/visible in the community and serving it.

**THROUGH:** Transform our paper-based and social communication approach.

**UP:** Use our Sunday afternoon/evenings as a significant gathering time.

I write these again to remind you of them, or perhaps to share them with you for the first time. The four words **IN, OUT, THROUGH & UP** have informed the last twelve months for me. We have a brilliantly supportive leadership team and PCC, who have thought about how we can grow in effectiveness in these four priorities. Important steps have been taken to do this. We have become better at following up newcomers and organised outreach events that can attract our community in (a successful barn dance and “magical” night.) In addition, a great team of people have led regular visiting around our neighbourhood and had meaningful conversations door-to-door. Through these, and our already-established ministries, we can continue to make an impact in our community.

It is important, that as we continue to proclaim the unchanging good news of Jesus, in a changing culture, we seek to reach out, disciple and pastor each generation.

On the theme of ‘commissioning’ and ‘sending out’, I have seen this in three key individuals this year. The Rev’d Dozie Moneme was licensed to the parish of St. John, Ravenhead (Liverpool Diocese). His example of first seeking to serve Jesus in a ‘foreign land’ (the U.K.) and then stepping out in faith again by making a big geographical move from south-east to north-west England is a powerful witness. Will we listen to God and go outside of our comfort zone? Rev’d Dozie did, and we rejoice at what God is doing through his ministry.

Ed Abernethy joined Christ Church as a student worker in the area of youth ministry. Under Andrena Palmer’s leadership, he grew in confidence and skill in this area. He too was commissioned and sent out to serve at Christ Church Beckenham as their youth minister. For a number of years, the youth ministry at Christ Church Beckenham has been struggling. Yet, under Ed’s leadership, it is growing again. We can rejoice to be part of Ed’s development and the church’s growth!

Jenny Warrington- who has served Christ Church (and now Unity Church Ramsden) in many ways had her own call. She went through a discernment process to test a call to full-time ordained ministry. After a rigorous discernment and selection process, she was selected for training for ministry at St. Augustine's College (based at West Malling) to be ordained.

I share these three stories with you with as examples of individuals who have listened to God, been commissioned and then sent out. This discernment, commissioning and sending is not just for those of us in full-time Christian ministry. (Matthew 28:18- 20) Each one of us is commissioned by Jesus and sent out! Every day, we can enter the 'mission field' of our neighbourhood, workplace or town. Each time, we can act out our new identity of 'salt and light' (Matt 5:13-14) or not! Yet, if we do see ourselves as Christ followers who are sent out, we can have a dramatic impact upon our communities.

So, in 2017, (and I will speak about this more on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April) will we grasp the chance to play our part in reaching out to others and welcoming them into a relationship with Jesus Christ? Thank you for your support of the church's ministry this year! Year by year, God is growing His church.

Jay Colwill