



Christ
Church
Orpington



Annual Report 2017-2018

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will take place at Christ Church on Sunday 22nd April 2018 at 1.15 pm
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. Secretary's report on the work of the PCC.
4. Annual report for the year 2017-18
5. Elections of:
 - i. PCC representatives
 - ii. Sidespeople
6. Appointment of Welcomers
7. Treasurer's report and appointment of Auditor
8. Report on Unity Church
9. Vice Chairman's Report
10. Any other business
11. Closing Prayer

PCC Secretary's report to the APCM 2017-8

This year has been unusually busy. The PCC usually has six meetings each year, but this year there have been ten.

The four extra meetings were all concerned with the appointment of a new vicar following Jay's announcement in December of his forthcoming departure. In January the PCC met the Rev John Fisher, Patronage Secretary of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, who explained the legal procedure which had to be followed; he also encouraged the PCC to start thinking about their priorities for the future. In February the PCC held an Awayday with the Leadership Team to think further about their priorities and the person needed to help us meet them. Further meetings were held to approve a Parish Profile for issue to applicants and to answer a series of legal questions.

The PCC also had a major emergency to deal with in the autumn when the gas supply failed. The Standing Committee met and decided that, since it was not safe or legal to restore the gas supply until repairs had been carried out, the gas supply should stay turned off. The PCC agreed the appointment of a consultant to report on the situation; they also approved the necessary expenditure. With the consultant's report, Andy Howard, Alan Goddard and Jim Callaghan were able to do the necessary repairs and restore the gas supply.

During the year the PCC has received regular reports from the Finance Committee, including the outturn for 2017 and the budget for 2018. There have also been reports on children's and youth work; on Deanery Synod meetings; on developments at Unity Church; on giving to missions; on a legacy policy; and on human resource matters.

In June the PCC attended a course run by the Church Pastoral Aid Society entitled "Making PCCs Better". The course led the PCC to

introduce three innovations. First, to improve communications with the congregation, short reports on PCC meetings are now published in the Sunday notice sheet; the PCC has also taken steps to keep the congregation informed about the search for a new vicar. Secondly, the PCC agreed a list of five areas of responsibility it aims to cover in its meetings. Thirdly, the PCC agreed its own Code of Conduct.

The events of 2017-8 have underlined the importance of the PCC. There is currently room on the PCC for more members so that all parts of the congregation can be represented.

Don Bower
PCC Secretary

Hall Bookings

Another year has quickly passed in my role of hall bookings administrator. There have been various challenges this year with the heating system and the plumbing and electrics but the bookings were (thanks to Jim) largely unaffected.

As to the regular hirer bookings: these have been maintained and there have been some additions. There has been positive feedback from most of the hirers with regards to the uptake of the various classes but there have also been challenges for some of our long standing hirers with their attendees. Things seem to have improved for them however as the year has progressed. The Rochester Diocese ceased their regular sessions with us (as they are now able to hold these in-house), but they are continuing to support the church by hosting various one-off events.

New hirers that are regularly using our facilities include an adult art class, an additional baby and toddler class, a language support group and Caroline Bailey's ceramic group.

The halls continue to be regularly used by the local community for their various celebrations, remembrances and charitable fund raising events. Indeed there has been, as ever, a constant stream of general enquiries. We have had a number of funerals that have taken place at the church including long standing members of the church and a couple of weddings. Generally we do not now permit evening events for non-church members. However, this does not seem to have caused an issue with the number of events that have taken place.

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 celebrations and remembrances,
- 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 any repairs which require the use of ladders,
- our efforts to support Jim by locating people who can assist with church access during the evening and at weekends,
- the continued correct balance of church and local groups using the premises.

Jacqui Ko

Deanery Synod Report 2017-2018

The Deanery Synod representatives during the interregnum are Kate Munro, Muriel Spooner and Anne Springer.

There have been 3 meetings of the Deanery Synod since the last APCM. The first was in June 2017 where there were 2 presentations from Christianity Solidarity Worldwide and the Salvation Army Anti-Human Trafficking Unit. Both of these were very interesting and highlighted the way in which Christian outreach can help people throughout the world and in the UK.

The focus of the November 2017 meeting was on the Fostering and Adoption initiative being supported by the diocese in conjunction with 2 organisations, the Diagrama Foundation and Home for Good. Richard Williams, the Diocesan Finance Director, also spoke about the challenges facing the diocese and the aim to be able to break even by 2020.

February 2018's meeting was open to all and the theme was Spirituality. It was led by Susanne Carlson, the Diocesan Advisor on Spirituality. She pointed out that prayer is at the heart of Christianity and brings faith to life. A prayer pack was given out to each representative to help us explore the 12 different ways of praying. These may be helpful for use in house groups.

GIVE THANKS!

- for the successful visitation of the Bishop last year,
- for the continuing good fellowship within the Deanery and the provision of new clergy who have taken up their new positions.

PRAY FOR:

- those parishes which have vacancies in the Deanery,
- continuing outreach into the communities the Deanery serves.

Church Warden's Report

Pieter Van Rooyen and Dave Humphries give thanks for another good year.

It is easy to focus on Jay's departure as being the highlight of the year, as we turn from supporting a vicar in his ministry to a period of interregnum and a recruitment process. However, this would not do justice to the wonderful year that we have had and how much we have been blessed as a church fellowship during this time.

We give thanks for the deputy wardens, Derick Theodoulou and Coral Knight. Pieter, Dave, Derick and Coral have enjoyed serving together. We have different skills and personalities, which has been valuable in enabling us to cover a range of things needing to be done.

We also give thanks for the privilege of seeing so many different ministries in action as we "do our rounds" on a Sunday. We have been able to oversee and support a vast number of these ministries which are led by others, helping practically and prayerfully as needs arise. We are pleased to see ministries flourishing, from the more obvious ones to the less so.

We have heard testimonies of people visiting Christ Church and coming back because someone was smiley and friendly over coffee after the service. We conclude that this is an important ministry too! Also, we are delighted by the faithful and devoted service of our welcoming team, our communion assistants and our sidespeople. We know that people appreciate the warmth of welcome that they receive week in and week out at Christ Church.

We give thanks for seeing people growing in faith and visibly helping each other.

We are seeing God raising up people who are gifted in preaching, adding to the number in our fellowship who already preach well and have blessed us through this for some years. This is an exciting development.

Our attendance numbers have held up reasonably well. We are pleased to see new people coming and staying, which is fantastic and we want to give such people a special mention and welcome. For the 10.30 Sunday morning service, we average about 140-150 adults in the building and the number of under 16s can sometimes bring our total nearer to 200.

PRAY FOR:

- spiritual and numerical growth of the church,
- the warden team as it continues to serve in love and support of each other.

Annual Accounts 2017

Summary version

All are welcome to attend our services. The electoral roll is updated annually and comprises 232 members, a decrease of 3 since last year. The breakdown is:

Male = 89, Female = 143;

Resident in parish = 113, Resident outside parish = 119.

The average weekly attendance during October (when the annual count is done for the Diocese) was 156 adults aged 16 or over and 50 young people aged under 16 (2015: 148 & 54).

Income

Total receipts for the General Fund were £254,497 and are detailed in on the following page; these were slightly down on last year's £261,608. Total Voluntary Income (giving, legacies & tax recoverable) was £194,783 compared to £195,177 in 2016. Other activities generated £49,702 income compared to £55,125 in 2016. The income from the hire of the hall increased slightly in 2017 to £32,948 compared with £32,775 for the previous year, income from the café continued the decreasing trend at £14,475 (£18,716 in 2016). For 2017, cafe income was more than expenditure generating a loss of £2,948.

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 £194,783 receipts, £142,732 was gift aided giving (including Gift Day), £20,910 was non-gift aided giving, £10,516 open plate and £20,625 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 £7,320 (including gift aid) was given to the General Fund. At the same time commitments to new or increased standing orders were received from several people, which should assist Church finances in 2018.

We are grateful to the estate of Mr Eric Francis for a legacy of £20,625.

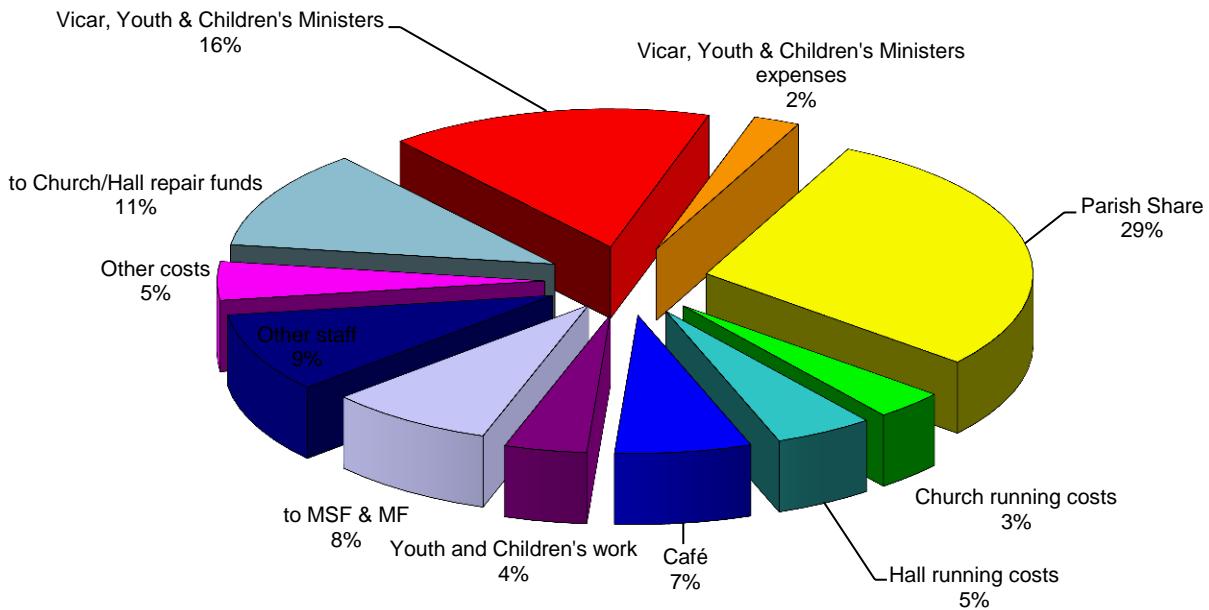
The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2017

2016		2017	
£	<u>Income</u>	£	
	<u>Donor Income</u>		
114,874	Gift Aid	111,210	
31,353	Tax Receivable	31,522	
30,432	Non-Gift Aid	20,910	
8,518	Open Plate	10,516	
<u>185,177</u>		<u>174,158</u>	-6.0%
	<u>Other Voluntary Income</u>		
<u>10,000</u>	Legacies	<u>20,625</u>	
10,000		20,625	
	<u>Other Incoming Resources</u>		
408	Magazines	334	
3,634	Fees	2,279	
32,775	Hall Lettings	32,948	
18,716	Café	14,475	
58	Bookstall	363	
7,466	Children/Youth	6,067	
2,254	Miscellaneous	2,378	
<u>65,311</u>		<u>58,844</u>	
1,120	Investment Income	870	
<u>261,608</u>	<u>Total Incoming Resources</u>	<u>254,497</u>	-2.7%

The General Fund - Year Ended 31st December 2017

2016		2017	
£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£	
6,130	Ministry Costs	4,749	
45,063	Youth Ministers	31,097	
13,040	Children's Minister	13,831	
3,273	Children's Administrator	3,339	
7,158	Hall Bookings Administrator	7,318	
	Support Services		
8,850	Administrator	9,059	
6,702	Caretaker	7,699	
71,016	Parish Share	74,600	
9,303	Church	8,903	
14,615	Hall and Grounds	12,572	
17,702	Café	17,423	
-	Bookstall	137	
2,145	Evangelism/Education	2,271	
8,565	Children/Youth	7,155	
2,065	Depreciation	1,727	
5,606	Other Parish Costs	3,734	
1,098	Independent Examiner	1,170	
<u>222,332</u>	<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>206,784</u>	-7.0%
39,276	<u>NET SURPLUS/<LOSS></u>	47,713	
<u>-57,802</u>	Transfers, CRF + MSF	<u>-47,669</u>	
-18,526	Net movement in fund	44	

General Fund expenditure in 2017



The net result for the general fund for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £47,713; of this £21,189 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 31st December for the General Fund was £172,839; up £44 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 2017, in total we were able to send £11,095 to Konodoa.

Fund totals at 31st December 2017

Unrestricted Funds			Restricted Funds		Total
Designated		Above & Beyond Fund	Missionary		
General Fund	Church Repair Fund			Specific	Missionary Support Fund
172,839	42,600	-	9,540	-	224,979

Missionary Expenditure - Restricted Fund				
2016		Specific	MSF	TOTALS
	<u>Support Agencies</u>			
2,215	CPAS	352	1,500	1,852
273	Crosslinks	405		405
1,873	LCM	320	1,500	1,820
1,630	CMS	153	1,500	1,653
199	Interserve	126		126
322	The Children's Society			
100	Churches Together in Orpington		100	100
100	Street Pastors (CTiO)			100
1,001	Barnabas Fund	389	100	489
1,400	Release International	493	1,500	1,993
1,690	Missionary Aviation Fellowship		1,500	1,500
2,733	Spinnaker		1,500	1,500
1,792	Tearfund	461	1,500	1,961
	Rochester Diocese for Zimbabwe, Tanzania &			
797	Estonia			
16,650	Rochester Diocese for Kondoia, Tanzania	9,595	1,500	11,095
1,180	Orpington Foodbank	500	600	1,100
3,500	Latvian Bible School			
303	Macmillan	100		100
83	Church Army	105		105
	Compassion Child	300		300
76	Red Cross			
130	Christian Aid			
	Living On	150		150
	Community Club	250		250
	CVM	99		99
	Evangelical Alliance	151		151
	Ventures	227		227
	<u>Personnel</u>			
	Isobel Murphy (WBT)	1,732		1,732
1,901	Jim & Katie Whitear (YWAM)	231	1,000	1,231
1,290	Nick & Helen Smith (AWM)	208		208
1,354	Viktor & Ester Petrenko	2,148	1,200	3,348
1,000	Peter & Veronique Moodie (Paris)		1,000	1,000
75	Tim Hyde (Church Army)			
	Pat Blanchard	150		150
	Tiago Gouveia	760		760
300	Ed Abernethy (retiring collection)			
504	Rev Dozie Moneme (retiring collection)			
6,424		5,229	3,200	8,429
36	Just Giving costs			
218	Reimbursement for Altar Falls			
44,725	TOTAL	19,405	16,000	35,405

We hope this summary version of the 2017 annual accounts is helpful. A full version will be available at the APCM.

Unity Church

We have seen another exciting year of growth at Unity Church. Although the numbers on Sunday mornings have remained similar, we have seen many new people from outside the church at other events.

One highlight was the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Church of Unity (as it was then) on the Ramsden Estate. We ran a Family Fun Day on the Saturday afternoon and had a special celebration service on the Sunday. The Fun Day included games, food and a bouncy castle, and we saw about 200 people enter our grounds. Despite the odd very sharp shower, the event proved very successful. The Sunday Celebration was a special occasion (over 100 people attended!) where we looked back at what God has done and began to think in faith about what he will do. We have also seen more people from outside the church coming to our regular groups, such as Men United.

Our work amongst children and young people continues to be a major focus. 19 teenagers went to Solid, a Christian camp in Essex for a weekend. The weekend involved a number of activities including jet-skiing, climbing, silent discos amongst others; this was a great opportunity for the young people to have fun but also to engage in worship and hear the gospel. Attendance at our teenage group, Pulse, has been pretty consistent and we are continuing to work with a group of around 8-10. We have seen growing maturity in our young people, and it is exciting to see them developing their own gifts. Our ToddleTots group (for people with small children) has been more challenging; we have a couple of very loyal families but have struggled to see this ministry grow and are desperately in need of other volunteers to make this ministry more sustainable. Both of these ministries are a key way of reaching the unchurched.

Staffing our ministries remains a challenge. Many of our congregation struggle with balancing multiple roles, yet there always seems to be a need for more workers. Jenny Warrington, who has served us so well in many ways, especially leading worship, has moved on to train for ordination. This leaves us with only two people able to take the instrumental lead in worship, both of whom are also involved in children's work. We are very grateful to Christ Church for providing us with support in our worship.

In our desire to reach out to the community, we are planning a series of Connect Events, primarily aimed at all ages. We have held two meals after our services to invite others to, and plan to continue with these in the future. We will shortly be launching a Christians Against Poverty Job Club, to help the unemployed in the area, and hope that other churches in Orpington will want to support this through prayer, finance and with volunteers.

Regions Beyond is holding another weekend event, and many members of the congregation will be going. We hope that, like last time, it will encourage people to grow in faith and service.

The prayer and support from Christ Church has been vital throughout the years since we joined the relaunched Unity Church; thank you. We do hope that some of you will be moved to visit us again, either at a service or one of our events, and details can be found on www.unitychurchorpington.org.

Our love to you all
Peter and Lynn Price

GIVE THANKS!:

- for the vision of those people who planted the church on the Ramsden Estate 50 years ago,
- for the opportunities God is giving us to reach out to people on the Ramsden Estate.
- for a real sense of community in our services and events.

PRAY FOR:

- God's Spirit to be at work in every member of the congregation and tangibly present in our meetings.
- the resources to be able to staff every ministry God wants to see at Unity.
- for Unity Church to be relevant to the needs of people throughout the Ramsden Estate, so that we see more and more people coming to faith in Christ.

Children's Ministry

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. We have had a number of events which have been really well received and attended. Some volunteers have stepped down this year but others have joined the team. There is a willingness to help out. However due to increasingly busy lives fewer people are willing to undertake the roles that require preparation beforehand for example teaching and craft. We do have a need for more volunteers in a number of areas especially if we are to reach out more and serve our community. We currently have 50 children on our Sunday groups register (this is a fall in comparison to last year), also only a few attend every Sunday - we see only 20-25 children each Sunday as society has changed and more sports and activities are taking place on a Sunday morning. Last year we had 8 children leave Explorers for Pathfinders and 11 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 1400 children fortnightly and telling them about God's love as well as a number of events like Holiday Club, Christingle and Families Together reaching out to our community.

To be more accessible to family's that don't come to church on a Sunday morning we have run some events on an afternoon – Holiday Club Reunion, Families Together Light Party and Doug Horley Circus Praise Party. 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 and we are also blessed with a team of regular volunteers who help make these events possible.

At **Tea & Toys** it has been another very successful and incredibly busy year. Paula and the team Pauline, Maureen, Steph, Janet, Janice and myself, with help to set up from Jim Callaghan, have been doing a fantastic job welcoming families and ensuring a engaging environment for the little ones. We do however always need new volunteers to support us. Paula writes 'We continue to run some very busy sessions with many new families registering each term, most through word of mouth which is very encouraging. As ever, we are extremely grateful to the very faithful band of volunteers who give up their time willingly each week. It would be impossible to run without them. As this maybe one of the rare occasions that many of our families interact with the church, we pray that they will see God in all that we do and say.'

Crèche continues to flourish. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sarah Beston for all her hard work as Creche coordinator. She continues to help on the rota but due to family commitments had to step down from this role; we are extremely grateful for all that she has done and continues to do. She has handed over the leadership into the capable hands of Veronica Andrews who is doing a great job, providing a fantastic introduction to church for our 0-3 year olds. Our dedicated crèche team continue to faithfully care for the children, allowing them to explore through play, and story time in a nurturing environment.

Veronica writes "The crèche has enjoyed another exciting year, watching our little acorns grow! Our regular children have also been joined on several occasions by some new babies and we've been delighted to welcome visitors during baptism services too. Despite the challenges of technology (TV monitor) and heating (lack of!), this hasn't stopped the children from using all of the rainbow room's facilities to the full. We are very blessed to have a wonderful team of volunteers: Carol, Denise, Janet, Marion, Renia, Ruth and Sarah who give up on average one Sunday a month to look after the future leaders of our church! Jacqui and Lorna will be joining the team soon – thank you ladies. Please pray for their continued support, patience and commitment as we couldn't do it without them. Thanks also to Wilmine, Kerry and Liu who were also on the crèche rota last year but have moved on elsewhere. We look forward to another enjoyable year and hope to welcome more new families into our church.

This year we changed our teaching to Roots to follow the lectionary so that **Climbers and Explorers** have been following the same teaching as our Young People and Adults. This helps parents to chat with their children about what they have been learning and discuss their ideas with them. It also encourages an emphasis of one church family journeying all together.

Sunday Serving - we really want the children and young people to feel they belong as part of the wider church family and give them an opportunity to explore their God given gifts and talents and find their calling serving others. On the third Sunday of the month we have started a new initiative Sunday Serving, this is when Explorers and Pathfinders join the main worship and they are involved in leading and serving alongside the adults as part of the service or supporting the children's groups. They can be involved in worship (singing or playing in the band), prayers, reading, drama, welcoming, teas and coffees and tech. Climbers and Creche continue to run on those weeks to ensure our youngest continue to receive age appropriate teaching. So far this has been really well received and a number of our children and Young people have been involved please pray that this continues.

The **Climbers** team led by Caroline Rous continues to provide quality teaching and fun activities for our children. Caroline writes: A Climbers session consists of prayer, songs, games, teaching through storytelling and craft, based on "Roots On The Web" sessions. The children are engaged and listen well. We are thankful for all the helpers who make Climbers a fun place to be. Our numbers have dropped so we pray for more children to join us and attend regularly.

Explorers are blessed to have a fantastic team of dedicated teachers, craft leaders and helpers I am incredibly grateful to them all. We are currently in need of a craft leader; however, I have been preparing the craft and we have a helper who can help me during the session We have been highlighting the importance of prayer in our small groups with regular prayer activities; we made a lovely prayer wall in one of our sessions. The children have also led prayers with me within our all age service and Sunday Serving. We have also been blessed with a number of young people helping in Explorers. We currently have 5 who help on a regular basis

Over the summer we had a fabulous time at our **Guardians of Ancora Holiday Club – Treasure Seekers** and the fun continued with our **Holiday Club Reunion** afternoon, with crafts, service and food. The children went on a treasure hunt each day to find story treasures from the Bible and seeing the treasure of God's word and learning all about Jesus. We had a fantastic time and it was wonderful to see so many families returning for Holiday Club Reunion 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. We looked at Creation and God first bringing light to the world. This provided an alternative to Halloween, as well as a short service we had crafts, treasure hunt in the dark, sparklers and S'mores and Jacket potatoes. The event was really well attended and I had lots of positive comments from parents which was fantastic.

Doug Horley Praise Party – this was an event at CCO run with Churches Together in Orpington. We had a circus rig set up in the church, with aerial hoop, juggling, puppets and a wonderful Christian message. Over 200 children and their families came and enjoyed a fabulous evening with us.

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 the theme was Paid in Full, the children and young people shared the good news of Jesus' birth and ultimate sacrifice to save us all. We raised over £500 for Children's Society through the collection, helping those children in really difficult and tragic circumstances. On the morning of our rehearsal we had a lovely time with families having breakfast making crafts, assembling Christingle bags and playing games together.

Spinnaker Schools Work. We continue to visit fortnightly Chelsfield Primary, Warren Road Primary, Harris Primary Academy Orpington and The Highway Primary schools. All the schools are welcoming and value Spinnaker's assemblies. This last year we have delivered assemblies on the themes of Free Time, Key Ideas and Storyteller using Bible stories

and relating them to the children's lives. We thank God for the schools' engagement and pray that this may continue. We also pray that God's message will reach, and be absorbed by, all the children we visit.

We also had a wonderful visit to Christ Church from Years 1 & 4 at the Highway 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.

Prayer Points

- Pray for volunteers, give thanks and as life is getting busier please pray that people are willing to continue to work with our children and step up to do new things. Please pray for new volunteers to join this important ministry bringing the next generation to God
- Pray for growth and that more young families that we meet either in schools, through events, Holiday Club or from Tea and Toys come regularly to CCO and grow in relationship with God
- Pray for our children and young people that they seek and find God's love for them, that they grow in relationship with Him and continue on their journey of faith throughout their whole lives.

Jo Gavin Children's Minister

Youth Ministry

Pathfinders – meet in the Undercroft on Sunday for those in school years 7-9. We build relationships with these young people whilst our focus is on teaching the Bible and developing a foundation of Biblical knowledge and attitudes – and we have often have great fun whilst doing this!

We are currently using ROOTS material and following the lectionary, but this term we will be doing Youth Alpha! The number of young people who attend Pathfinders can vary each week; we have 11 young people on the register, but we regularly attract around 8 young people.

We join with children's ministry in serving the church each month with music, welcome, tech and refreshments. We look forward to welcoming 11 new Pathfinders from Climbers after Easter!

Juice – meet on a Sunday evening, and our groups overlaps the evening service. Juice is more focussed on discipling young people and encouraging them as they grow in their faith. In Juice, we are also using the Roots material, but on the first week of the month we have a “Big Discussion” on various topics. We currently have 17 young people on the register, and welcome 4-10 young people each week. Many of our Juice young people come in the morning and serve with the tech team or children's ministry, and several young people play with our band, JWJ. I am a proud youth minister as 3 young people (and 2 children) have been Baptised over the past year.

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 most often! 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 15-25 young people and it's a wonderful community outreach opportunity; approximately 25% of those in attendance attend church on a Sunday. I find it extremely difficult to run this group and disciple young people with few helpers to run this as a “small group”, and if we have less than 3 volunteers then I have to cancel the group. We have a volunteer in the kitchen who prepares a meal for us and clears away, and ideally at least two other volunteers and myself – and taking child

protection adult to child ratios into consideration. This group also has a very mixed age group; Year 7 to Year 10, so ideally I would like to split via age group.

Unfortunately I have had to reduce the frequency of **ReD. + (Saturday)/Base** from bi-weekly to a monthly social activity which has included our ever popular Movie Nights with pizza and popcorn.

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 people, 4 of which have started coming since Christmas. Jo Colwill started the group BaseBook for young adults (18+) who have previously attended FN@TB. They have a Facebook group where members can post suggested activities and they meet up for trips and events.

In October last year I had pleasure in taking 3 young people and a young adult to work alongside YWAM in Hamburg, Germany, assisting the team in their mission opportunities with migrant families. I hope that the young people who came really feel that this was a worthwhile opportunity and saw how we can show God's love, even when we cannot speak the same language.

From October to December I worked alongside a student from Oasis College, but unfortunately due to poor health she has had to terminate her time with us. I have met with the HR committee and have put a proposal for an additional member of staff who will help with youth ministry.

Community 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 with the Chaplain. I attend Orpington campus of LSECO College as a College Pastor on alternate Wednesday's. I continue to meet Danny from OBC to consider joined up youth work activities and pray for young people in our churches and communities. We successfully ran a second prayer space at Bishop Justus School and look forward to taking this resource into other schools and youth groups. I am also the church ambassador for a charity called

FareShare, and I collect food parcels which we use to supplement the meals for Community Club.

JWJ and Drama – the two bands are now working as one and still going strong under the leadership of Sharon Russo. The bands play and dramatists act during special occasions and all-age services at Christ Church and we look forward to Holiday Club!

GIVE THANKS!

- for amazing volunteers who come each week to support the young people,
- For the facilities we have at Christ Church

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