REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

This is the annual report of the work of Christ Church, Birkenhead Parochial Church Council [PCC] for 2017, as required by the Charities Act; for presentation at the Church’s Annual General Meeting on 22rd April 2018.

1. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

* **Bankers:** Santander Bank
* **Quinnquenial Architect:** Graham Holland & Associates
* **Independent Examiner:**  Colin Dooley
* **Usual Sunday attendance: 58**

1. PCC MEMBERS AS AT 2017 AGM:

**Ex officio**

Reverend Karen Freeman [Incumbent]

Rita O’Loughlin [Churchwarden]

John Barrett [Churchwarden]

Judith Newburn [Pastoral Worker]

Allan Goode [Deanery Synod Representative]

**Elected**

Mary Kirby Andrea Hendrick Paul Rees Irene Joyce Jan Burkhill

1. AIMS AND ORGANISATION

Our aims as a Church: **to worship God, share Jesus, serve the community.**

**To Worship God –** to meet together as Christian believers to worship God, to pray and to grow in our faith through exploring the Bible.

**To share Jesus –** to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to those among whom we live; and to be concerned with the world-wide mission of God’s church.

**To serve the community** – to show the love of Christ through service in the local community.

1. REVIEW OF MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED.

The PCC met seven times throughout the year including the AGM in April 2017.

Main items dealt with by the PCC are as detailed:

* *Cause for celebration:* Allan Goode made a big transition from Lay Reader to Curate. We were delighted when Allan was ordained as Deacon, at Chester Cathedral in July. He will serve as Curate here at Christ Church. The PCC wishes him well in his ministry. [Funny thing is he insists on wearing his collar the wrong way round]
* *The main focus :* Throughout 2017 the main focus by the PCC was that the finances for the church were very healthy. Following our ‘Parish Giving Initiative’ we were able to increase our Parish Share to the Diocese and to maintain the increase throughout the year.
* *‘Believe in Birkenhead’ :*  The commissioning service held at Christ Church was well attended and it reflected the diversity of the whole Birkenhead Deanery. Various visits by the Most Revd. The Archbishop of York. John Sentamu, and Bishops from Chester Diocese around the Parish and across the Diocese were well received. The Archbishop was also keen to visit New Ferry following the explosion which changed people’s lives.
* *New hymn books:* The new hymn books were bought and the PCC agreed that the choice of ‘Hymns Ancient and Modern,’ was indeed a ‘good one’.
* *Missions and Outreach:* In May the Ministry team organised a ‘teddy bear’s picnic’ which was an invitational outreach event for young families and Baptism families. It was attended by around 60 parents and children. Marion Worth designed a leaflet listing all services at Christ Church and this was distributed around the Parish via Prayer walks and members of the congregation. Also there was a meeting at the ‘Spire’ Wallasey to promote ‘Christ’s Passion for Wirral’ which is taking place next Easter 2018.
* *Commemoration of the end of WW1 in 2018 :*  It will be 100 years since the cessation of conflicts known as ‘The Great War’, and there will be a week-long Festival in November next year [2018] to mark this centenary. There will be a focus on Wilfred Owen the War Poet, as most of you are aware that he worshipped here at Christ Church. Songs of Praise will take place here and there will be many other events between the 5th and 10th November – further details will be available next year. Also it was agreed by the PCC that we would seek to restore the War memorial and place a plaque commemorating Wilfred Owen near the memorial. The Lower Vestry is to be re-named the Wilfred Owen room also. Paul Broadhurst has supplied the PCC with a briefing regarding the War Memorial Restoration and plaque and the PCC agreed to support him to seek funding bids for these initiatives.
* *Other events* ***–*** The PCC was pleased to recognise the hard work and commitment of a number of Church members in organising various events throughout the year, such as a Carol singing event in Oxton village and outside Sainsbury’s Prenton, Organ Recitals, Christmas lunch, Christmas Fair, Summer Fair, Oxton Secret Gardens Day, Heritage Open Day
* *Thanks go to:* our Churchwardens Rita and John, our Treasurer, Paul Broadhurst for Organ Recitals and Sunday services, Joan Goodier for her piano playing, Gill Wilson for her Bible Reading ministry at the Green Shop and organising the Fellowship Group, Jan Burkhill for organising the catering, Joyce Morris for donations from sale of cards, Irene Joyce for sale of clothes /pens for Church funds. , Sides-people, tea/coffee makers, the ‘Flower Team’ and cleaning teams, the music group, magazine editor, the *‘handymen’* for all those jobs seen and unseen, and all the special people of Christ Church for just being part of one lovely family.
* CHURCH GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Meet and Eat – 1st and 3rd Monday in the month

Tots Spot – continued to meet regularly during term time throughout the year.

Christ Church Fellowship– meet on alternative Tuesday afternoons

‘Kids Aloud’ Fridays 3.45

Music Group – met for practise on various evenings

Other church groups and organisations continued to use the rooms downstairs for their activities throughout the year.

1. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS Please refer to separate Treasurer’s report

**Jackie Harness [Administrator]**