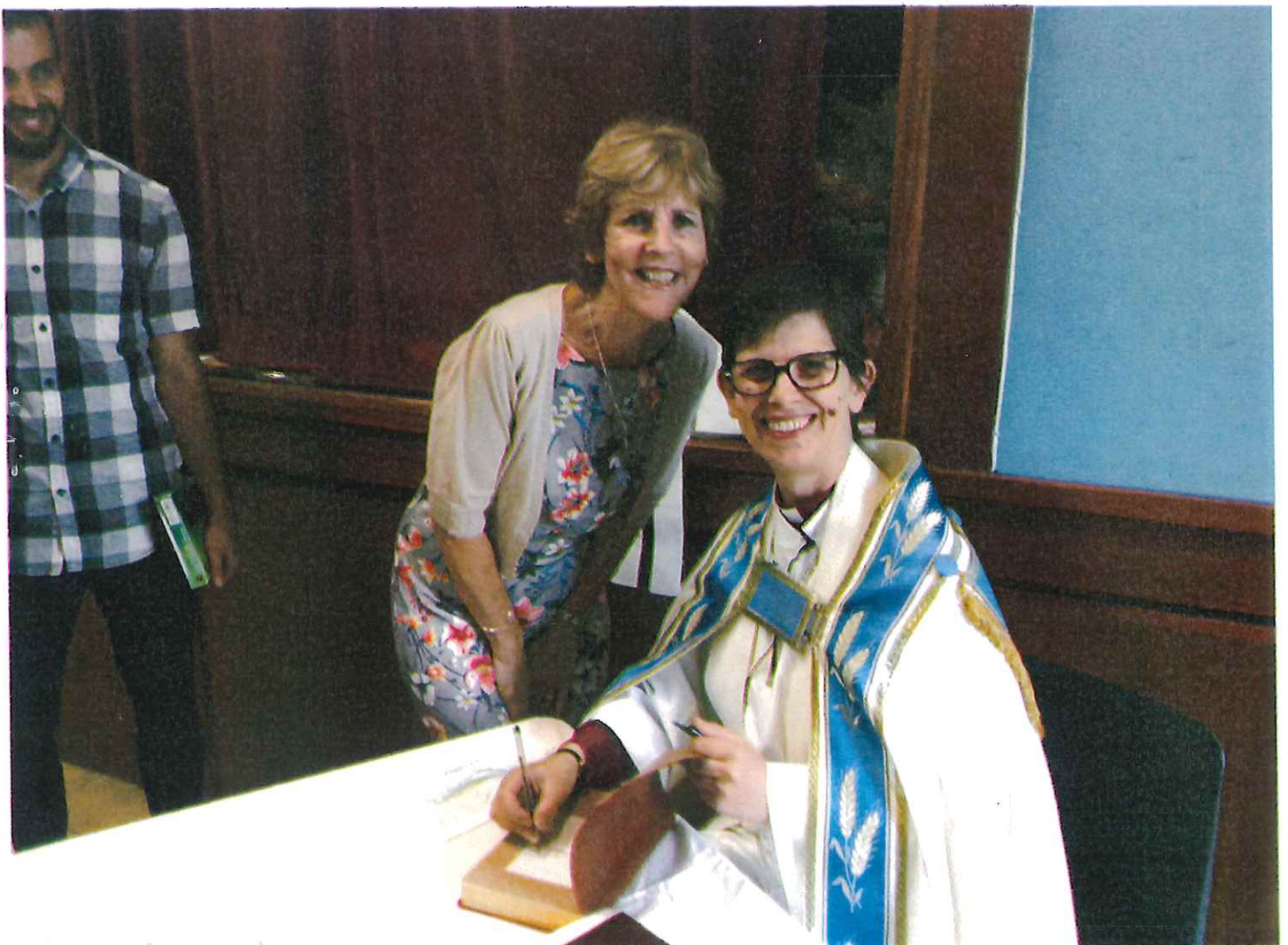


# **ANNUAL REPORT FOR ST MARK'S DUKINFIELD**

**for the year 2017**

(produced for the APCM 22 April 2018)







## ST MARK'S DUKINFIELD



### **Aims and purposes**

St Mark's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest in charge, the Revd Alison Cox, in promoting the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in this part of Dukinfield. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the St Mark's site - the church, hall and grounds.

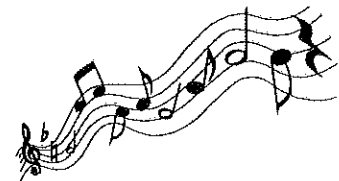
### **Objective and Activities**

We are committed to enable as many people as possible to worship at St Mark's and to become part of the church family here. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and makes suggestions on how the many services and activities can involve the many groups and individuals operating and living in our parish.

We enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our community through:

- worship and prayer
- pastoral care for people living in our parish
- missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Mark's Church and the whole site.



### **Achievements and Performance**

#### *Worship and Prayer*

We offer a range of services over the year so that people of all ages can enjoy different styles of worship. For example, we hold occasional Services of the Word, Prayers for Healing with Anointing with Oil and mid-week said communion services. We welcome children to join the choir and gain singing and music instructions for free.

#### *Electoral Roll*

Last year a new electoral roll was compiled and the total now is 65. The usual Sunday attendance on Sundays is between 45-50 adults and children.

#### *Occasional Offices*

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God for milestones of the journey through life - baptism, marriage (and Renewal of Marriage vows) and funerals.



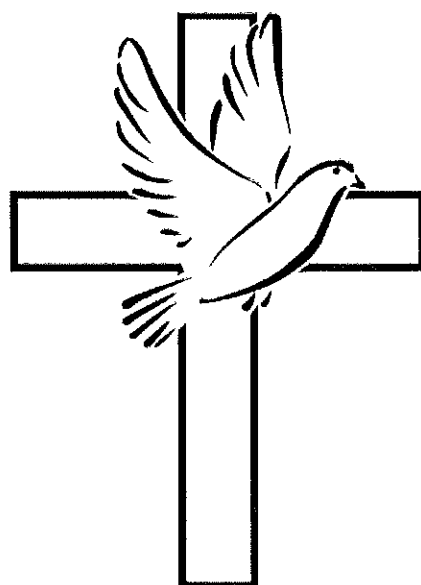


## **CONTENTS**

1. Report by Priest in charge
2. Warden's report
3. Financial report
4. Examiner's report
5. Report by church groups

### **MAIN EVENTS OF 2017:**

1. Introduction of a monthly Family Service.
2. Confirmation of five adults and five children.
3. Experience Easter supported by both Ravensfield and Lyndhurst Primary Schools.
4. Alison led the annual Dukinfield Act of Remembrance for the first time.





We hold a variety of services - communion and non communion during the year to respond to the worship needs of a wide variety of people. For instance, we hold the following:

- Mothering Sunday
- Patronal Festival (followed by lunch)
- Harvest Sunday (followed by lunch)

- All Saints and All souls service (where names of the departed are read out)

Easter and Christmas services are obviously very important seasons in the Christian calendar for worship. We continue to build on the opportunities to welcome people from the area to connect with Jesus and the church family at this special time. There are several special services and events we conduct at these times - the Maundy Thursday Last Supper; large numbers of people attend our Carol service with Nativity play and we are delighted that not only have both primary schools in our parish used our church building to host Christmas services, but that they have also been in church for more events - Lyndhurst for a Harvest service and Ravensfield for a Climate Change project.

And finally, we hugely enjoy welcoming all ages from the local area to join with us in two community outdoor acts of worship - the Whit Walks and Remembrance Sunday. And one indoor ecumenical act of worship - on Women's World Day of Prayer.

### **Pastoral Care**

We have a small group that meets monthly to pray for, and visit, sick or elderly people. Activities that we conduct that support our community include the following:

- Praise & Play - our weekly toddler group for carers and their pre-school children
- Annual Christmas Tree Festival - this event attracts about 1000 local adults and children
- Courses and social activities - we hold courses to develop skills, trips out and social activities that help people connect with one another and overcome isolation and loneliness



**FAIRTRADE**

We also raise awareness of local, national and international needs supporting the following charities and campaigns: Fairtrade Fortnight; Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse); Mothers' Union; the Donkey Sanctuary; Christian Aid; Tameside East Foodbank; The Children's Society and Willow Wood Hospice.

## **Farewells**

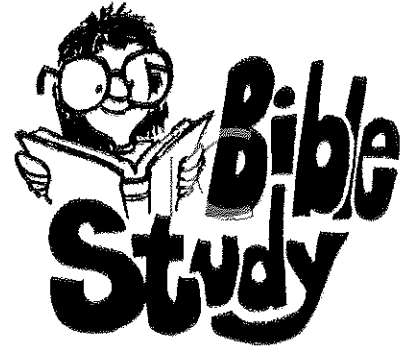
Those who died in 2017 from our church community and the wider family include:

Dane Pearson and Brenda Pearce's husband, Clifford Pearce

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

## **Mission and Evangelism**

Our parish magazine is produced monthly and is on sale in church. It keeps everybody informed on important matters affecting our church family and information that helps us develop our trust in Jesus and our knowledge of the national church. The church website is available for everybody to be aware of what groups, worship and events take place at St Mark's. A small group gathers each week after the Wednesday communion service for bible study (during term time).



### **The St Mark's site**

We want people to be able to pop into the church for private prayer whenever they need to. The church is open on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for several hours of the day when people can have access to look around, light a candle or pray. Local people and visitors occasionally ask for the church to be specially opened up for them and we are happy to oblige.

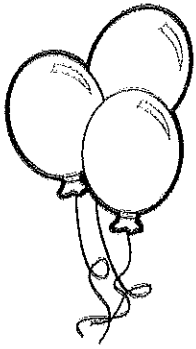
## **Worship**

Upkeep of the church building is primarily the responsibility of the church warden. The Priest in Charge and the warden work hard to ensure the building is kept clean, safe and in good condition dealing with a wide range of specialist contractors. (see Fabric Report by the warden). It is our policy to keep the church in good order and to this end, we keep a Site Works Schedule listing all works needed on the site ensuring that we carefully manage our financial resources and balance the essential work with the desirable (additional radiators in the chancel). The PCC is very grateful to the hours devoted by willing volunteers cleaning the church and undertaking minor repairs.

The church hall is an important resource for the community. It is used by a wide range of groups from toddlers, those with mental health issues, the charity SSAFA and an art group. It is used by local families for children's parties.

## **Ecumenical Relationships**

St Mark's enjoys taking part in the joint services in Dukinfield especially the Whit Walks and the annual Remembrance Sunday service. We also support the annual Women's World Day of Prayer hosted at a different church in the area each year. We held a joint Palm Sunday service with Dukinfield Methodist Church.



### *Social life*

Getting to know one another is vital to our call as followers of Jesus to love one another. Therefore, all opportunities to relax and get to know one another better are vital to the mission of the church. The Sunday Lunch Club continues to operate with the purpose of encouraging folk to join together with others from church over a pub lunch once a month. Anybody is welcome to come along and transport to the pub or restaurant is shared.

### *Deanery Synod*

Two members of the PCC are eligible to sit on deanery synod and the Revd Alison Cox is Rural Dean of Mottram. Deanery Synod provides an important link between this parish and the wider structures of the church.

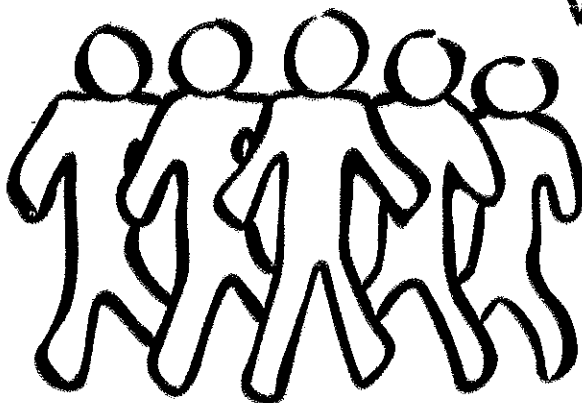
## **Financial Review**

We are very grateful for the work of John Bowker, church treasurer, in keeping us in good financial health. See his separate report and that of the Independent Examiner, Andrew Shaw.

### *Reserves policy*

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds to ensure we have enough to cover emergency work to the church. It is our policy to invest these funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

## **Volunteers**



We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church welcoming to adults and children alike. We achieve a lot at St Mark's - in worship, provision of activities and worship for children, social life, events such as the Holiday Clubs, Christmas Tree Festival. This wouldn't be possible without willing teams of people to work behind the scenes and on site in lots of ways.

## Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All those who attend our services and are members of our congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met eight times during the year. The PCC has a number of committees which deal with particular aspects of church life such as the Christmas Tree Festival team and Ministry Team.

We run a **parish office** on site in the church hall with a computer, photocopier and filing cabinets. This valuable resource enables volunteers to work independently of the priest in charge, keep records secure and work in safety. I'm very grateful for the assistance of Laura Connolly who has taken over producing posters and flyers.

## Administrative information

St Mark's Dukinfield is situated off Railway Street, Dukinfield. It is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

St Mark's Vicarage, 2 Church Square, Railway Street, Dukinfield, SK16 4PX.

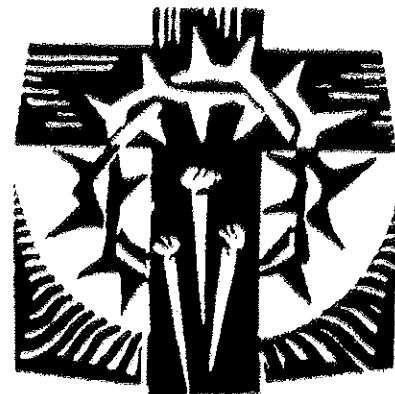
The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

### *Ex officio members*

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Priest in charge | The Revd Alison Cox (Chair) |
| Assistant curate | The Revd Jenny Dunlop       |
| Reader           | Chantelle Tunnicliffe       |
| Warden           | Julia Greene                |

### *Elected members*

John Bowker (PCC treasurer)  
Kath Bowker  
Kathryn Maguire  
Jackie Turner  
Sandra Austin



*Deanery Synod representative*

Julia Greene

**Alison Cox,  
Priest in Charge of St Mark's, Dukinfield  
Chair of the PCC**



Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners.  
Sunday, 19 March 2017 @ 12.30 pm

Present: Attendees at meeting (see separate signed list)

Priest in Charge: Alison Cox

The meeting opened at 12.30 pm. AC thanked everybody for their attendance and also expressed her thanks to those who had made the soup for the lunch.

AC explained that the first meeting (Meeting of Parishioners) was to elect the churchwardens. Anyone who lives in the parish is eligible to come to this meeting.

AC explained that as no one had come forward for Church Warden nomination, Julia Greene was willing to stand for another year. Julia Greene was unanimously elected as churchwarden.

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Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting.  
Sunday, 19 March @ 12.30 pm

Minutes of APCM 13 March, 2016

The Minutes were accepted. Stephen McDonough proposed and Kath Bowker seconded.

Electoral Roll: Total number of 63.

Election of PCC Members

Alison Cox, Jenny Dunlop, Chantelle Tunnicliffe and Julia Greene are automatically on the PCC in their respective roles as Priest in Charge, Assistant Curate, Reader and Church Warden.

There were a total of five nominees. The following nominees were unanimously re-elected: Jackie Turner, Kath Bowker, John Bowker, Sandra Austin, Kathryn Maguire.

Election of Sidespeople

AC read out the names of the sides-people: Barbara Thorpe, Ron Brereton, Anne Speakman, Arthur Bradwell, Brenda Bradwell, Bernice Martin, Val Turner and Maureen Nolan. All were duly elected. Proposed by Chantelle Tunnicliffe and seconded by Kath Maguire.

Appointment of Assistant Wardens

AC explained that, although this was not an elected post, we are hugely grateful for the help and support of the Assistant Wardens. The following were duly appointed: Sandra Austin, Kath Bowker, Ron Brereton, Pauline Clarke and Eileen Newman. AC noted that the Archdeacon's Visitation was at St Thomas' Stockport on 18 May.

### Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mr Andrew Shaw was willing to act as Independent Examiner and was duly elected.

### Annual Report (see attached)

Financial Statement and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2016.

The accounts were approved at the PCC meeting in February and have been approved by the Independent Examiner. JB went through the receipts and payments as detailed in the Annual Report.

AC thanked John Bowker and Jackie Turner for their continued hard work and assistance.

### Parish Priest Review of the year (2016)

As described in the Annual report.

### Warden's Report

Refer to the Annual Report.

### Safeguarding Policy

AC read out a Safeguarding Policy statement which was unanimously adopted.

### Reports by Church Groups

Refer to the Annual report.

AC thanked Stella Carrington for her hard work and dedication.

AC thanked all for their attendance and JG thanked AC for her hard work, dedication and ministry.

The meeting ended at 13.30 with prayers.

## **Treasurer's Report 2017**

Income from general giving remained a concern, however planned giving and CAF donations steadied and increased.

Hall income increased in 2017; however income from "activities to generate funds" reduced.

Kathy Staff annual royalties receipts totalled £29129.64

The Lloyds social account was closed during the year, with the balance transferred to St. Marks parish account; also a closing balance of £614.39 was transferred from the former St. Luke's parish account.

For tax year 2016/7 the HMRC gift aid refund for St. Marks was £4964.38

"Unrestricted" receipts for 2107 totalled £73331.93

Payments totalled £79461.79. Maintaining the church fabric, including the cost of major heating repairs, totalled £11653.22.

The difference of payments over receipts was £6129.86

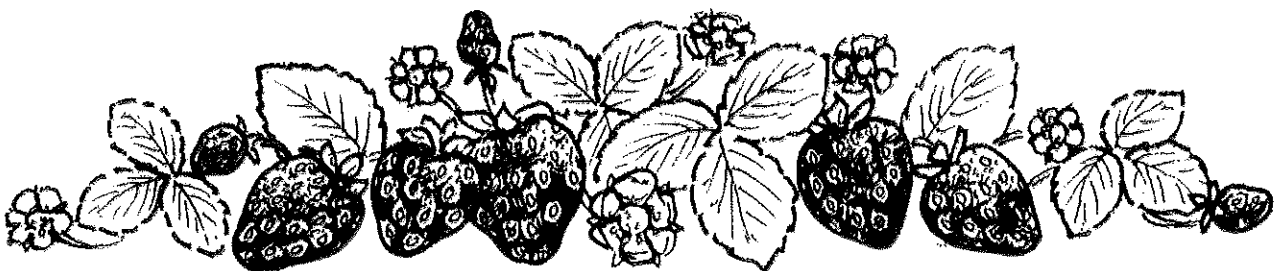
Deposit accounts cash funds at 31st December 2017 totalled £17828.18

CBF reserves at 31st December 2017 were £35076.70

Finally, thanks to Jackie Turner for all her help and assistance throughout 2017.

**John Bowker**

**St Mark's Church Treasurer**



# **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. MARK'S DUKINFIELD**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out on the attached pages, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

## **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 144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations and the Act.

## **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 financial statements.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

- \* to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act;  
and
- \* to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to  
comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met; or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

**Hollingworth**

**16 April 2018**

  
**Andrew Shaw**

**Chartered Accountant**



## **Warden's Report 2017**

### **Works to the fabric of the church, hall and vicarage in 2017**

#### **Church**

##### **Annual maintenance:**

1. PAT testing of electrical equipment
2. Hall boiler service and boiler service in church.
3. Service of fire extinguishers in hall and church.
4. Cleaning of gutters on hall and church (including removing plant life growing in gutters and church tower).
5. Annual maintenance of alarm. There were issues with the alarm in December. If the alarm goes off, it is programmed to ring through to dedicated phone numbers. We discovered in December that it was not ringing through. There is a Pay as you Go phone number attached to the alarm and EE (the contractor) had 'suspended' the account because there had not been any calls on the number (i.e., the alarm had not gone off for some time). In order to make sure that the phone line is not suspended again, we now have to ring the number at least once a month just to show activity on the account.

##### **Extraordinary maintenance:**

6. Removal of leaking heating pipes on one side of the church and replacement with new radiators. In addition, two new radiators were installed in the chancel. I noticed a wet patch in the carpet near to the sound system at the end of October and realised that one of the radiator pipes on the wall was leaking. Our church boiler contractors (Ellesmere Engineering) advised complete removal of the pipes and this work was completed in November. Ellesmere were very prompt and we managed to get the work completed before the Christmas Tree Festival. There is still ongoing work to be done: we need new carpet underlay in this area and also there is some painting work to be done around the wall.
7. Installation of new screen monitor on pillar in front of the screen.
8. Replacement of leaking lead flashing on the church tower – this was done less than 3 years ago but the contractor used at that time did not do a good enough job.

## **Contractors:**

We have a list of regular contractors that we use: for example, M Whyatt for electrical work, Ellesmere Engineering for the service of the church boiler, Webb Security for the alarm, etc. In addition, we use T Jones a lot – diocesan contractor. It has always been my policy as church warden to make contractors welcome and this is not hard to achieve – cups of tea, biscuits, access to a toilet and taking an interest in what they are doing. Recently Webb security were on site and when leaving the contractor made a point of mentioning how welcome he had felt to Alison. T Jones also recently 'bumped us up the list because we like you' – i.e., they sorted out a problem quickly for us. It is really important that this welcome and hospitality continues. It is in our interests aside from being courteous and modelling the Gospel.

## **Vicarage**

In 2017 there was more work than usual.

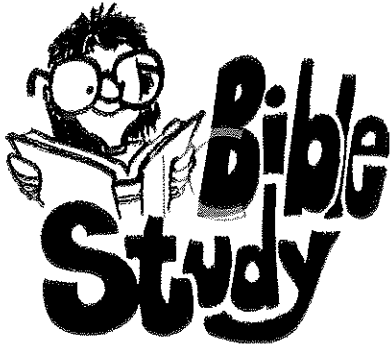
1. Installation of two working gas fires - in Alison's study and in the lounge.
2. Replacement of unsafe flooring in the kitchen.
3. Cleaning of gutters and maintenance of security lighting.
4. Replacement of leaking lead flashing on roof at back of the vicarage.

I have enjoyed being Church Warden but, having been the only Church Warden since 2014, I now wish to stand down. I have learnt a lot, from the habits of pigeons in the tower to the intricacies of church heating pipes. My thanks to all who have helped me in this role. I am grateful to those of you who are willing to take part in the Warden share scheme.

Julia Greene, Church Warden

## Bible study group report 2017

The Bible Study group meets in the church lounge for an hour at 11 on a Wednesday morning after the mid week Communion service. Just 3 or 4 of us, but we share together in reading the Bible and discussing what it says. In 2017 we worked through the Gospel of St Matthew because it was the Gospel



covered by the Lectionary ie Sunday readings in church. A member says: "I like it. I always learn something new. We look at things from a different perspective that we hadn't thought of before." A newer member says "At first I was worried about saying anything but it's alright now. I am learning things I didn't know, and it reminds me of things I have forgotten, where you get help from. I enjoy it." There is always more to learn from the Bible. New members are always welcome.

Jenny Dunlop  
Assistant curate

## Tuesday group report 2017

Tuesday group meets on Tuesday morning during term time. We are mostly young mums and carers, and others, with pre school children who want to learn about faith and enjoy spending time together. We start with tea and toast. Alison or Jenny leads a study on a story from the Bible and we have a discussion about it and how God is involved in our lives. This is followed by more tea and more chat.

*Last Easter and in the summer we ran Holiday Clubs. Children from our community joined us and learned about Jesus, played games, ate, and made crafts.*

We have had some outings: minibus trips - in February to West Kirby to see Emma, Steve and Abi Speake, in August to Towyn, and on 1<sup>st</sup> November to Blackpool lights. These always involve play parks and a chippy tea. We also visited the Parish Church in Ashton.

We hope we continue as a group to grow in faith and enjoy time together.

Jenny Dunlop  
Assistant curate

## Mottram Deanery Synod Report - 2017

Julia Greene is our deanery representative. We meet regularly with representatives from all the parishes in the deanery. The deanery includes Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Mossley, Mottram, Longdendale, Hyde, and Hattersley.

We had three meetings of Synod in 2017.

Lyn Weston the Diocesan Missioner spoke to the first meeting in February at St. James', Millbrook. Her work across the Diocese is to develop mission:

To proclaim the Good News

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform unjust structures in society

To safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The AGM in June was held at St. Paul's, Stalybridge. Clive Hustwick took on the role of Lay Chair at this meeting.

The final meeting of the year in October was at Holy Trinity, Stalybridge. The Lay Chair and his team prepared a meal for synod members and asked four questions about Deanery Synod.

- What do you think Deanery Synod is for?
- What do you want it to be?
- How could Deanery Synod be a resource for your church's growth and mission?
- How can your church contribute to this vision (and action) in the extension of God's Kingdom in Mottram Deanery?

The Deanery Church Growth supported St. Michael and All Saints, Mottram with a contribution for a projector for the Magdalene Centre.

As we work together in the deanery we keep the following bible passage in our minds:

**'I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.'**

**Eph 4:1**

Thanks to all our representatives for their service and support and we look forward to furthering our understanding of Christ's work through the Deanery in 2017.



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR REPORT FOR APCM 2018

The main events and highlights for the children's choir for this past 12 months have been:

Choir numbers we started the year 2017 with the arrival of Kristie, Kerry and Kamsy swelling our numbers to 11. Towards the end of 2017 we were delighted to welcome Mia, Lilly and Alicia taking us to 14.

Attendance Awards Regular attendance is a requirement of the Voice For Life scheme. This year the trophy was awarded to Ava in both the July and December presentation for 96% and 100% attendance respectively. The choir have very good attendance marks. The average attendance mark is 72%.

Voice for Life medals I thank the church for funding the purchase of the medals during the year for Kristie, Kerry and Kamsy who attained White level by the summer. Progress: Our new members are progressing well through the White a level work. I am hoping that the current White level medalists will achieve Blue Level by the summer.

Women's World Day of Prayer. The children's choir played a major part in this service in March 2017. They participated in the distribution of produce, lead the singing in the unfamiliar hymns and performed two solo items. They enhanced the service by their contributions and we received many compliments from visitors at that service.

Regular performance within services The choir performed at every Family Service, Harvest, the Christingle service, Family Carol service, Candlemas and the Confirmation Service in September. This helps build on the children's confidence and is an opportunity for them to introduce new material they have learned, plus to lead the congregation in new material such as alternative Lord's Prayers.

My thanks to the Alison and the church for their support and encouragement. Also to Elesha and Susan who helped at choir practices during the year. We have been lucky to have the contribution on guitar from Saeed who has also supported the choir practices and performed solo accompaniments for the choir when possible. Thanks also to him for his assistance.



Stella Carrington

Organist and children's choir club leader

### **Church cleaning and maintenance team report**

The team have once again been busy little bees keeping St Marks up to scratch dusting, sweeping and mopping to keep the church a pleasant place to worship in throughout the year. Unfortunately our team has depleted somewhat this year with Brenda and Arthur Bradwell retiring because of ill health and Christine Moffatt moving away. I would like to thank Brenda & Arthur for their many years of faithful service. We still have our tea and biscuits usually with Alison and the dogs (they do love their tea and biscuits on Tuesday) If anyone else could spare an hour on a Tuesday morning from 10.30 we would welcome their help.

Once again thank you to all the team for your dedication to St Marks and to God.

**Sandra Austin**

**Team Leader**

### **Women's World Day of Prayer 2017.**

This is an annual event in which we take part to celebrate the work of Christian women throughout the world. It takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in March each year usually in the evening. A majority of the churches in Dukinfield take part and a different Church hosts it each year. This year it was the turn of St Marks to host the service. The women of The Bahamas had written the service, prayers and chosen the music and hymns. This selection goes to all the Christian countries of the world for a service to be held on the same day wherever we may live. We had a good turn out and our children's choir did us proud performing one of the songs and taking part in the service. It would be nice if we could encourage more people to attend especially at other churches. It's a good way of meeting other Christians within your local community.

**St Marks Representative**

**Sandra Austin.**

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Our theme this year was “Mad about Musicals” and as usual we had dozens of trees depicting different musicals throughout the church. We had modern musicals i.e. Madagascar, Matilda (the musical), The Lion King as well as old favourites, Singing in the Rain, Mary Poppins and Wizard of Oz. We even had a knitted Jesus Christ Super Star and of course the blue tree (Blue Moon) but this year it had a rival with Dancing Shoes (the George Best story) for the reds. We opened on Friday night with film, craft and story for children and their families well attended and enjoyed by all. The entertainment of Saturday afternoon as always was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed and we welcomed Ravensfield school choir once again to sing for us. On Sunday afternoon we hosted a band concert by Arnfield Brass (our Whit Sunday band) who played a selection of Christmas music old and new to a very appreciative audience. We will see them again on Whit Sunday.

The Christmas Market in the hall is always successful but seemed a little quieter than in previous years. Hopefully just a blip.

On Monday we welcomed children from local schools to view the trees and learn more about the Christmas story. They are full of enthusiasm and love to point out their schools trees.

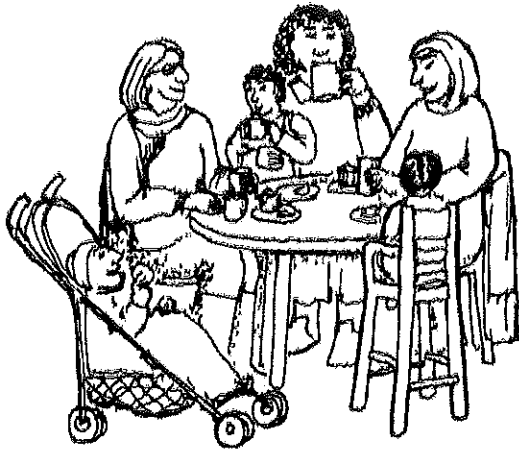
We would like to thank everyone who helped make the festival a success once again. Whether your part was great or small it is all appreciated and it wouldn't happen without you. We are already planning for 2018 the theme this year is “TV Times” the dates

30<sup>th</sup> Nov - 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. please put it in your diary.

**Festival Organisers**

**Sandra Austin & Diane Hughes**





## PRAISE & PLAY GROUP

Praise and play has seen many new faces over the past year.

At one point we had 18 children, which is fantastic.

We have recently lost a few due to parents going back to work, which is always going to happen in a toddler group unfortunately.

We sadly lost our children's worker Wendy due to family commitments, but one of our parents, Laura Connolly stepped in to help and is doing a fantastic job, we work so well together which is what the children need.

At Christmas we decided not to have our usual magician as the children this year were just too young so we hired a bouncy castle and huge ball pool, the children absolutely loved it, we also had a visit from Father Christmas!

This year we will be sadly losing quite a few of our regular children, so my plan ahead is to advertise more and focus on building new relationships with the parents and children. Hopefully we can then rebuild a regular new group.

**Diane Lindley, Team Leader**

## LITTLE LIONS SUNDAY SCHOOL

A very successful year for Little Lions. Our numbers have increased significantly, with most children also being members of the children's choir. They are extremely visible in church - singing, taking part in the service and then showing the congregation what they have been doing in Sunday School. We use Roots which provides resources for the weekly lectionary. Crafts often include pictures, booklets, key rings, book marks, models and their favourite - food!

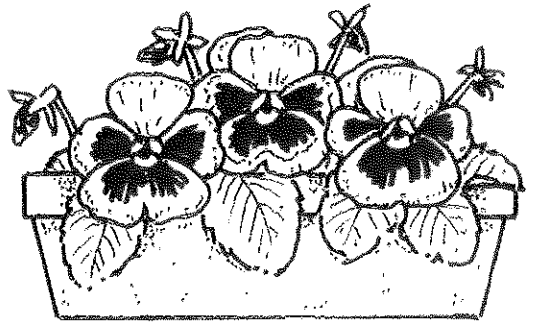
We have taken part in many church activities ie the Whit walks, nativity play, Messy Christmas and the Easter Experience. We have also raised money for Water Aid by taking part in the "Jars of Change" challenge. We also sponsored a new donkey Tiny Tim.

I would like to thank our loyal band of leaders and helpers for their continued support. As we continue to grow and move over to the Church Hall, more volunteers needed.

**Helen Bates - Team Leader**

## **MOTHERS' UNION REPORT**

This year Barbara Smart decided to step down from Branch Secretary owing to health problems after many years of faithfully holding the Mothers Union together. We thank her for her loyal and dedicated service. She is going to continue with us a member for as long as possible. Sandra Austin and Pauline Clarke are going to share her duties between them as well there roles as Treasurer and Minute Secretary. Two of our other members have moved out of the area so are unable to attend meetings any longer. At present we have 11 members. Because of ill health and uncertainty during 2017 we have been a bit sporadic in our meetings and not done any fund raising at all. However things are looking up for 2018 with a programme of events planned so watch this space. There is always room for more members if anyone is interested.



Sandra Austin & Pauline Clarke  
Joint Officials

## **DUKINFIELD SONGS OF PRAISE 2017**

This is a Dukinfield tradition dating back to the 1980's and has been held always on Low Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter. All the Churches in Dukinfield pick a hymn for the combined congregation to sing together. A reason is needed why it was picked (just to make it difficult) and someone from that church introduces it. It's a really nice event with lots of rousing hymns old and new and as usual the refreshments afterwards. Please come along and meet old and new friends.

Sandra Austin  
Representative

