

St John's Sandiway
www.stjohnsandiway.org.uk

Sandiway Parochial Church Council

**Annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2017
presented to the 2018 APCM**

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Introduction

Sandiway Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents its annual report on its proceedings and the activities of the parish generally, together with the accounts, for the year ended 31 December 2017.

OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITIES

The primary objective of the PCC is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Sandiway the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is charged with good stewardship of finances and has maintenance responsibilities for the church and the church hall, both in Norley Road, Sandiway.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The PCC is made up of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Readers, parish representatives on the Deanery Synod plus a number of elected and co-opted members. The appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules and all church members who are on the Electoral Roll are encouraged to stand for election.

We thank the Lord for those who have served on the PCC from 1 January 2017 until the date this report was approved. They are:

Vicar	The Revd. Dr R John Hughes	Vicar from 06/02/11	PCC Chairman from 06/02/11
Churchwardens	John Fraser	Re-elected for a further year on 23/04/2017	from the Archdeacon's visitation on 15/05/2017
	Margaret Sherry	Re-elected for a further year on 23/04/2017 but resigned autumn 2017 due to ill health	from the Archdeacon's visitation on 15/05/2017
	Peter Westwood	Elected to a casual vacancy on 10/12/2017	Sworn in on 03/01/2018 by Middlewich Rural Dean on behalf of the Chester Diocese Registrar.
Readers	Andrew Hardy	Licensed on 22/10/2011	and also Deanery Synod rep
	Hilary Chambers	Licensed on 19/10/2013	Prayer team leader
	Paul Stephenson	Licensed on 21/10/2017	CAF team leader
	Sue Hadden	Licensed on 21/10/2017	Pastoral team leader
	Duguid J Harris	Licensed on 10/1999	Emeritus from 17/10/2009
	Marian Harris	Licensed on 10/10/1998	Emeritus from 19/10/2013
Pastoral Worker	Jo Whittall	Licensed on 23/09/2017	
Elected representatives to the Deanery Synod	Andrew Hardy	Elected 26/04/2017 to April 2020	Also a Reader
	Margaret Denton	Elected 26/04/2017 to April 2020	Also Safeguarding Officer
	Eric Wright	Elected 26/04/2017 to April 2020	Also PCC Secretary
Elected representatives of the laity	Andrew Carter	Elected 26/4/2015 to April 2018	Treasury Team Leader
	Christine Cartwright	Elected 26/4/2015 to April 2018	Minute secretary
	Stephen Denton	Elected 26/4/2015 to April 2018	Giving officer + Buildings Management team leader
	Susan Hadden	From 13/07/2015 to a casual vacancy in the term to April 2018	Subsequently ex-officio as a Reader from 21/10/17
	Aileen Alford	Elected 24/4/2016 to April 2019	SFRT leader to Feb 2018
	Alison Fletcher	Elected 24/4/2016 to April 2019	POST leader
	Stewart Hadden	Elected 24/4/2016 to April 2019	Web master
	Paul Stevenson	Elected 24/4/2016 to April 2019	Subsequently ex-officio as a Reader from 21/10/17
	Marian Fraser	Elected 26/4/2017 to April 2020	
	Christopher J C Lees	Elected 26/4/2017 to April 2020	
	Jane Green	Elected 26/4/2017 to April 2020	
	Simon Hughes	Elected 26/4/2017 to April 2020	Magazine distribution
Co-opted members	Co-opt 1	No one co-opted	
	Co-opt 2	No one co-opted	
Advisers (non-members)	Kathryn Holmes	Attends PCC meetings as an adviser as employed Director of Music. Outreach team leader.	
	Emma Nicholl	Attended PCC meetings as an adviser as employed Children and Family Worker. Resigned from 31/12/2017.	

ELECTORAL ROLL –

CHANGES SINCE 2017 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM).

At 25 March 2017 (after revision period closed) the 2013/19 electoral roll stood at	202
Names added	5
Names removed	<u>6</u>
At 1 st April 2018 (after revision period closed) the 2013/19 electoral roll closed at	201

The revised Electoral Roll will be available for inspection at the APCM.

The Electoral Roll will re-open for new enrolments after the APCM.

NOTES:

The last occasion when there was a completely new electoral roll was for the APCM in 2013. The PCC is required to produce a new roll every 6 years and in between a revision is made before each APCM.

All congregation members are encouraged to register for the Electoral Roll to enable them to take part in the governance of the parish.

Enrolment forms are available from Gill Carter, Electoral Roll Officer, or on request from a sidesperson (welcomer) or other staff members.

ANNUAL REPORT

This is the report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally for the year ending 31st December 2017.

Charity Commission (CC)

The Parochial Church Council is registered with the Charity Commission. The members of the Parochial Church Council are also the charity trustees. This report will be submitted, as required, to the CC along with our annual accounts.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Introduction and headlines

In accordance with its objectives (page 4) the PCC is keen to enable as many people as possible to worship at St John's both in the church and church hall. Our church hall as well as being the venue for Family Praise and Messy Church services is also home for a number of community groups. We do all this with the Lord's support.

The PCC met on 8 occasions throughout 2017; the Standing Committee was available to meet and take essential decisions in between although was rarely called upon. The PCC takes on the task of developing and agreeing policy and makes major decisions. Implementation of policies is entrusted to several sub-committees (or teams) which held many meetings throughout the year. These cover tasks such as accounts, buildings management, social & fund raising, various ministry topics, etc; see full list in the team reports section below. Teams report back to the PCC meetings and are required to seek approval of significant decisions recommended and funding requirements.

During the autumn we were delighted to see Paul Stevenson and Sue Hadden complete their several years of training and become licensed as Readers (lay ministers) to join Hilary Chambers and Andrew Hardy plus Marian and Dug Harris as Readers Emeritus. We are blessed to have these 6 to support John as our vicar.

At around the same time Jo Whittall was licensed as our Pastoral Worker after completing her training and she is already very active in various areas including bereavement & children's work. Our existing Pastoral Visiting Team, now led by Sue after many years by Marian Harris, continues to be do wonderful work. Both would say that they could not do it without the dedicated support of several team members.

Sadly, also during the autumn, Emma Nicholl, our Children & Families Worker, resigned due to family reasons. Work is continuing to fill the gap. Again see more elsewhere.

We continue to raise funds to carry out major repairs to the church tower but are not quite there yet – see elsewhere in this report for more details.

We are proud to provide our Church Hall for the benefit not only of church members but also the members of the various user groups from the local community

Worship, ministry & outreach

We continue to have four regular weekly services, three in the church (two on a Sunday and one on a Thursday morning) along with one family friendly service in the church hall.

In addition the developing Messy Church completed 2 years of meeting twice a month after school in the Church Hall. It is worth reiterating that, contrary to popular myth, Messy Church is not there simply as a feed to our other church services but is recognised by the C of E as a church in itself which can meet either as a totally independent church or as a congregation as part of an existing parish church as is the case with St John's. It is a fresh expression of church which has been growing world-wide over recent years across various denominations.

Within all these services are variations for all worshipping preferences. Take 40, a shorter evening service, which started in 2016 and moves away from the BCP and Common Worship formats, is now

a regular feature once a month on Sunday evenings. All congregations come together for festivals, for example at Christmas, Easter and Mothering Sunday.

Saturday morning openings of the church every week continue to be popular with up to 30 visitors on a regular basis.

We have continued to work with the other denominations in Cuddington and Sandiway, worshipping together on the fifth Sunday of the month at different churches, coming together for prayer times in the Week of Christian Unity and Holy Week, and other special occasions. There is a good relationship between the leaders of the different churches but it is disappointing that numbers attending these joint ventures do not always support this.

Work continues to make newcomers to the villages (especially at the new housing developments) aware of the welcome awaiting them at St John's.

Please see the following team reports for details of the above and more.

Prayer team

Hilary Chambers

Another busy year has passed, with the Team's prayers continuing to sustain many individuals, uphold all our church activities and engage with the wider world.

A few specific areas of activity are worthy of mention:

- Saturday "Church Open" (10.00-12.00 **every** Saturday) has continued to thrive beyond anything we could have ever imagined, with attendance often reaching 20-30. We have also this year developed a better designated quiet prayer space to complement the coffee, cake and chat. Heartfelt thanks to those in the parish who help us to maintain this important outreach
- Attendance has also increased significantly at our Advent and Lent Reflections, where more people are valuing the opportunity for a short time for space to pray and reflect in the midst of our ever busier lives
- A new venture this year has been the installation of the Prayer Box in the Church Porch; we continue to have a Prayer Page in the Parish magazine, to maintain our Prayer Tree, to put material on the parish website - and are now also using Facebook
- Our much-loved Advent Ribbons were yet again received with much pleasure, and many people followed the Advent journey – and Bonzo the Dog! - on the parish website
- Our major event was our very own Prayer Weekend, held 16-17 September. Over 100 people came and tried out new, interesting and practical ways of enhancing prayer life. We used candles, bubbles, journaling and artwork, pebbles, ribbons, a toy train, a map of the world and a symbolic cross (to name but a few of the ideas!). Please look out for our next Prayer Weekend, to be held 29-30 September 2018
- To look after ourselves we enjoyed a Retreat Day together at Foxhill in May

Children, youth and families

Paul Stevenson / Jenny Fletcher

Regrettably, Emma Nicholl our dedicated Children and Family worker left us at the end of the year due to family commitments. We thank Emma for her three and a half years of service and dedication and wish her and her family every blessing for the future. The work that Emma highlighted in the 2016 report continued through the calendar year 2017. We should like to thank all the people who made any kind of contribution to this work.

Fortunately, the PCC had established a Children and Families (CAF) team during the year to support Emma so we are able to continue our ministry in this important area using volunteers. We will continue to provide assemblies at the two local primary schools and can retain Junior and Messy Church, albeit with reduced frequency. Jo Whittall, pastoral worker, has picked up the role of working with baptism families.

For now, we will not be able to attend the Mothers & Toddlers group (which is run by its own team), and Little Lights will be merged into Messy Church.

A paper has been presented to PCC for discussion early in 2018 about how and when we might recruit a replacement dedicated worker.

The immediate aims for the CAF team are to maintain the coverage stated above, to co-ordinate all activities relating to children and young people, to review our priorities for ministry with Children and Families and start the process of creating a vision for the future.

In addition to the activities listed above, Youth Group and Junior Choir have continued.

In 2017 the Youth Group met up monthly for fun, games, and food, as well as preparing and leading services. They also held a Christian Aid coffee morning in the spring, and celebrated the summer with a barbeque. In the autumn, with the help of the new CAF team, they hosted 2 successful crossover events where children and young people from different church groups came together for a Family Barbeque in September and a Family Games Night in October. Jenny would like to thank everyone who supports Youth Group in any way.

See Choir report for comments on Junior Choir.

Pastoral Team

Sue Hadden

The Pastoral Team firstly offers heartfelt thanks to Marian Harris for her lengthy, exemplary leadership of this team. This year I have taken over, working alongside our Pastoral Worker Jo. We continue to meet quarterly to share updates, discuss any issues and to pray.

At meetings this year, we have looked at prayers and Bible passages that may offer hope and reassurance to those we visit. There has also been a very successful Dementia Friends training day which was fun as well as educational, enabling us to understand how best to support anyone with memory problems at home or in church. More training opportunities are being planned for next year.

The three Care Home services in church through the year have been particularly well attended and appreciated.

A small, new Bereavement team will be built in 2018 and bereavement care will be developed and sustained by Jo, working alongside the vicar.

The support offered to our older and unwell parishioners is varied and tailored to individual need, but is well received and sustains an important link with the wider St John's family. The team members do support one another by phone or email, but it is also lovely to meet over a shared meal occasionally, which we have again enjoyed this year.

Many thanks to David and Joyce for their generous hospitality throughout the year, and a special thank you to Chris Cartwright for her ongoing support, administrative skills and help with any concerns. We are blessed with a happy team that offers real encouragement to each other.

Home Communions

We currently have around 15 people in their houses or in Care Homes around the village, including several groups and couples. We also lead Communion services at the three Care Homes in the village.

We are pleased to have two additional helpers who have joined the teams this year, and we thank Dug for his many, many years of service to this team.

Home Communions remain an important part of the church's extended ministry, and thanks to all who give their time generously to enable these visits to happen.

Safeguarding Children & Adults at Risk

Margaret Denton & Mandy Shaw

The Safeguarding Officer and the Assistant Safeguarding Officer have both attended safeguarding updates training run by Pauline Butterfield, the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. Safeguarding training can be accessed via the Diocesan website www.chester.anglican.org (then choose Safeguarding from the menu on the right) There is a Basic Awareness course which can be done online, a Foundation course which is required for anyone who has safeguarding responsibility or who has contact with children, young people and/or adults who may be vulnerable, (online and face to face), a Leadership course which is face to face and aimed at anyone with safeguarding leadership responsibilities or who is responsible for leading activities involving children, young people and/or adults who may be vulnerable and a Foundation/Leadership course for Clergy and Lay Ministers.

There was one incident within the parish which required the help of the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. This was resolved safely and the work of St John's safeguarding officers was commended by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

St John's safeguarding officer has contacted the St John's Toddler group and offered to help with a safeguarding review/ risk assessment.

Anyone who wishes to work with children, young people and/or adults who may be vulnerable will need to have an enhanced DBS check and should contact Margaret Denton or Mandy Shaw to arrange this.

Social and Fund Raising Team

Aileen Alford

We have had a busy, but enjoyable year. Throughout the year we had special "Food Events" to raise much needed money for the tower, these were ... English breakfast, February ... Thai Evening, March ... Canapés and Prosecco, May ... Brunch, July Tapas evening, August ... Family B.B.Q. September and a Curry Night in October, these were all very well attended and enjoyable.

Other events through the year were ... Coffee Morning with sewing stalls, Pancake Party, in February... Coffee Morning for Oxfam, in March.

In April we had a fantastic Music Weekend and the team provided the refreshments.

Gala day followed its usual pattern; an enthusiastic team ran the St John's Café. We rounded the day off with a Jazz Evening.

Our "Cream Tea" took place in the church grounds in August, this is becoming very much a church and village event, the sun shone and everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

For our Harvest Lunch we provided a wonderful choice of soups, followed by homemade apple pie and cream.

The Christmas Market was yet again a great success! With a varied collection of stalls, teas served throughout the afternoon, entertainment by our church choir and the Cuddington Community choir. It was clear to see, from the many happy faces around the hall, that everyone had a great time.

Soup lunches ran from January to September.

In addition to this, the book stall has been ongoing, under the care of Ali.

The team do a fantastic job of raising much needed funds, but what you cannot measure in money terms, is the "Outreach" that goes on at these events, on behalf of the church.

Publicity and Outreach Support Team (POST)

Ali Fletcher

In 2017, in pursuit of its mission to support Outreach, POST produced 11 editions of the magazine, wrote 2 village newsletters, sold more advertising to cover costs, kept the website fresh and interesting, sent information to the Round Tower every month, designed and printed posters, fliers and tickets for church events and the Gift Day appeal, and provided branded menus/fliers/signs for the Ark Café. We are very grateful to Nicola and Matt Boot for establishing a church Facebook page,

Thanks to Margaret, Stewart, Nicola, Nora and Jenny for all their hard work, and to all those who do the essential job of distributing the magazine and putting up the posters.

Buildings Management

Steve Denton

Introduction

The Church Buildings Management Team comprises a dedicated group of people who give their time and talents freely and selflessly to maintain the church, church hall and their grounds to ensure they continue to be attractive and safe places. We are also overseeing the steps being taken towards the delivery of the building development needs identified by the Buildings Audit Team (BAT) that completed its work during 2017.

We are thankful that Cherry Jackson has continued to manage hall bookings throughout the year.

We again acknowledge our regular hall hirers, including Toddler Group, the Mothers' Union, Flower Club, Badminton, Sandiway Pantomime Group, and others, and are thankful of their continued good

will and support over the past few years as we have been upgrading the facilities. We are also grateful to our contractors who not only undertake regular maintenance but respond quickly when we need them.

Church

The work in 2017 has focused mainly routine maintenance. The most pressing work remains to replace the church tower roof for which a major fundraising effort has now raised about 70% of the amount likely to be required. We are currently preparing a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to help fund the wider package of development works identified by the BAT (see above) and the balance needed to repair the tower, and to deal with other issues identified by the 2015 Quinquennial Inspection, will be included. We hope to consult on these proposals, which were detailed fully in last year's Annual Report, during 2018.

Church Hall

The major item this year has been the long-awaited resurfacing of the car park, which was funded by a combination of fundraising (including some match funding), donations and two Community Grants. We are extremely grateful to anyone that contributed in any way. The car park will provide a better facility for our many community users and church family for years to come.

Parish Giving Officer (PGO)

Steve Denton

Wherever they are churches depend for their survival largely on giving by members of their own church families, and to a lesser extent on gifts, donations and other income from the wider communities they serve. For our church to thrive we need people to think regularly about what and why they give and to give as generously as they can to support the church and its mission of sharing God's love with others in Cuddington and Sandiway and beyond.

In line with our Parish Giving Strategy I made one major appeal in April, with a reminder six months later, along with an article in the Parish Magazine. We signed up more parishioners to our regular giving schemes (standing orders, pink envelopes etc), and we saw some increases in giving from existing givers. Because of this we managed to maintain the level of regular giving despite several people passing on who had been significant givers for many years.

However, to support our mission fully we still need more people to give more regularly, and everybody to give more. Ideally we would like to increase our income from planned giving by 25-30%, so please think and pray about what you are giving and whether you should give more. We would also like as many people as possible to give regularly by setting up standing orders; mandate forms are available in both the church and church hall.

We are also thankful for those who make donations to help with church running costs (e.g. paying one month's heating costs for the church or church hall), perhaps in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a significant event.

We again ask people to think about making provision in their wills for legacies to the church.

We try to be good stewards of the money that people give by reclaiming promptly every penny of Gift Aid from HMRC and by using it wisely. It is worth remembering that every £1 that is gift aided is worth £1.25 to St John's. Particular thanks are again due to Jim Wren who, in his continuing involvement as Gift Aid Officer, does all the work necessary to ensure that the claims are submitted.

Finally, we need more people to give a little of their time to church, however occasionally, to help with some of the many necessary activities that have to take place for the church to function – setting up the church hall for the Family Service, brass cleaning, minor maintenance etc. As it stands, a relatively small number of people do most of the work. Even if you can only give a relatively small amount of time then that is very welcome.

God bless,

Steve Denton, Parish Giving Officer

ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

Mothers' Union

Cherry Jackson (Branch Leader)

The MU has had a good year with an excellent list of speakers.

In January we started off the year with a nice meal at The Plough in Whitegate with a good turnout of members.

In February we heard a very interesting talk by Hannah Petrie on 'The Saltscap Landscape Partnership' after which we held our annual AGM. Penny Hardy was elected as Treasurer, Wendy Wren as Secretary and Cherry Jackson as Branch Leader

Committee:- Cherry Jackson, Wendy Wren, Margaret Dickenson, Penny Hardy, Esme Bowyer and Pam ??? .

In March. A talk by Bridgette Anton on 'Saints'

In April. A talk by Gordon Atkinson on 'Under the Mango Tree' charity

In May. We heard talk by Angela Klabou about her time as Chester Diocesan President of the MU.

In June the meeting was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

In July. We enjoyed a good lunch and fellowship at the 'Riverside' in Acton Bridge
Later in the month a number of us joined other diocesan MU Members at Eaton Hall Open Gardens day, raising funds for Chester Diocese MU charities

In September. Members brought along and talked about 'Their Favourite Thing.'

In October An excellent talk by Canon Chris Humphries (MU Diocesan Chaplain and Vicar of Whitegate) 'Singing All the Way'.

In November, we had an illustrated and interesting talk by Peter Westwood on Scotland.

December.

We had a festive Christmas gathering with Year 3 from Sandiway School entertaining us with singing. A story by David Bruce and carols accompanied by David Coulbeck. Followed by refreshments. Many thanks to all who kindly supported us.

Our fundraising for MU charities included knitting Christmas decorations containing chocolate, raising £60 for funds.

We make it a policy to donate to all our speakers for the charity they are representing or a charity. Sometimes we have asked for donations and members are all most generous. Thank you.

At this point sincere and grateful thanks go to everyone who supports the Mothers' Union at St John's, Sandiway.

Home groups

Hilary Chambers

Home Groups continue to thrive at St John's. Currently 51 people attend our groups (11 more than last year), of which we now have five – two on Tuesday afternoons, two on Tuesday evenings and one on Wednesday evenings. Meetings are held twice per month, apart from August, and we followed our usual practice of disbanding during Lent so that members were able to attend the annual Lent Course. Leadership is provided by our team of Readers, and as always we place on record our grateful thanks to our various members who so willingly and generously host our meetings.

During 2017 studies across the groups included the Lord's Prayer, the Ten commandments, the Holy Spirit, Prayer and Contemplation, "Mission Impossible" (using material from 2017's Lay Conference), Mark's gospel (in connection with the Y-Bible initiative), 1 Peter, 2 Timothy, Titus and Revelation.

Home Groups offer the chance to study the Bible together in depth, and provide a safe and relaxing space to explore our faith, pray and learn together. They are also a place of deep mutual support and friendship, and include social meals and gatherings.

If you would like to find out more about Home Groups please speak to the Vicar or to one of the Readers.

Music at St John's

Kathryn Holmes

Choir.

The Choir sang throughout the year at 6.30pm services & all Festivals. Most choristers also sing at the 10.15 Praise service.

During August, the Choir took a welcome break. This was a first for St John's although the norm for many Parishes.

At the Choir Festival at Chester Cathedral in September, we celebrated the achievements of Jessica Boot who was presented with Bishops Award & Erin Hughes, the Deans Award.

In November at Southwark RC Cathedral, following 2 years of in depth study of the history of church choral music & subsequent examination, Martin Llewelyn was awarded the Licentiate of the Guild of Church Musicians. Kathryn was delighted to be present & see Martin's achievement recognised by this prestigious organisation.

The Choir sang carols at the White Barn for their Christmas Market, this supported the McMillan appeal. It was noticeable how full the pub was of people who had come wanting to join in the carol singing having enjoyed it last year. This was followed by carols at St John's Christmas Market. The annual Blue Cap Carols evening supported the Hope Hospice & as always was particularly welcomed as the start of Christmas for many.

The Junior Choristers enjoyed a summer evening with the Youth Group, including games & BBQ hosted by the Fletcher Family. The more sedate members of the Choir enjoyed a summer supper get together at Kathryn's.

Concerts.

Music in the Parish is alive & well!

A music weekend for the Tower raised £2,280. This began with a hugely enjoyable evening given without charge by professional violinists Sophie Rosa & fiancé (now husband) Peter. A coffee morning in the Ark followed, with Kathryn & friends providing a selection of music. A concert by local amateur musicians followed in the evening. We were grateful to the local Community Choir, Directed by Marcus Williams, the Church choir & several soloists who all entertained us.

A welcome return visit by guitarist Neil Pybus provided another Tower fund boost.

A Jazz evening following village Gala day is now an established feature of our concert calendar & the Original Panama Jazz Band played to a packed hall, raising funds for the Northwich Multi Sports club, which provides much needed facilities for young people with a variety of disabilities.

The year ended with a traditional St John's Singalong. This was thanks to Jenny & Peter Hardy who took up the baton Kathryn put down last year. They coordinated the various strands of band, soloists & community Christmas singing with energy & enthusiasm.

Many thanks to all who supported any of these events.

The Ark community café

Kathryn Holmes

The year started with complimentary birthday cake for all customers on opening day as we celebrated one year of the Ark. Throughout its 2nd year, a loyal customer base has become apparent, in addition, each week brings new people who come from word of mouth or our publicity, ably added to by Matt Boot who set up an Ark Facebook page. This has proved hugely popular as people look to see our daily specials & fantastic cake choice.

The Ark pays the church rent at the going rate. After costs, the profit to be distributed to local charitable causes at the end of year two was £2,000. This is indicative of the increased business. Last year £400 was given to each local Primary School to benefit the pupils. The 2017 profit has been distributed as follows:-

- Mid Cheshire foodbank – £500.
- The Salvation Army Northwich – £500.
- Cheshire Search & Rescue – £500.
- Cuddington & Sandiway junior girls local football team – £250.

- Cuddington & Sandiway JFC under 7s boys team – £250.

Our menu is changed with the seasons, has variety & is set at a reasonable price.

Takeaway sales have increased as both schools & one local firm ring every week with their order by 10.30 & we deliver at lunchtime.

We were privileged to be asked to provide refreshments for a funeral. This was much appreciated by the family & together with catering for 2 baptisms, very much what the Ark was designed as, a local community café facility. It has been hired by 3 charity event organisers, when Ark staff happily operated the coffee machine.

Throughout the year, money was raised for specific charities during Friday opening. In March, a coffee morning for Oxfam raised £80. In September, a McMillan one raised £317.41 & in December, a Christmas jumper day raised £90 for Save the Children. A total of £487.

The Ark is now in regular use for community arts & crafts group alternate Wednesdays

It is also used for coffee before the 10.15 Sunday service.

There are 30 Ark volunteers who work on a rota. The management team is Aileen Alford, Jane Green, Jennie Harrison & Jo Lloyd. The leader is Kathryn Holmes. If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer list, please speak to any of the team. We've always space for servers in the cafe, helpers in the kitchen & takeaway deliverers.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED

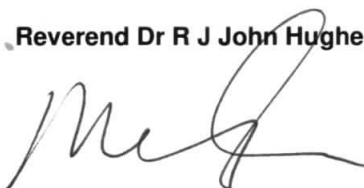
As we move forward into a new year, please pray that we will continue to strive to worship God and share his love with others.

VICAR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

John will present his thoughts in his talk during the service at the beginning of our annual meetings. Please come along and listen.

The PCC report was approved by the PCC on 19th March 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

Reverend Dr R J John Hughes



Vicar / PCC Chairman

Peter Westwood



Churchwarden

John Fraser



Churchwarden

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PCC

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2018

by the Treasury Team 19th March

Background

This report covers the financial statements and balance sheet for the year ended 31st December 2017, copies of which are included with other APCM papers.

Financial administration

A treasury team manages the parish finances on a day-to-day basis. The PCC members scrutinise the actions of the treasury team and the committee as a whole provides information and advice to the PCC on financial matters.

The headlines

The accounts show a working deficit for the year of £1,388, and a loss of £13 when the revaluation of the Ministry Fund is included.

Planned regular giving, together with open plate collections, increased by 1.0% in 2017. Social activities were again successful although, again, most of this income was allocated to Restricted funds, mainly the Church Tower appeal so there were less funds available to offset Church costs. Our operating income of £116,928 was 4.4% more than we received in 2016 – this figure excludes income transferred to Restricted Funds.

We spent £118,316 on normal operating activities; this excludes the cost of Outreach, which was funded from Restricted Funds. This figure of operating expenditure is 4.7% more than was spent last year

As already indicated the income from fundraising activities and Gift Day have been transferred to Restricted Funds to help meet the cost of projects. The largest project is still the repair of the Tower, which will cost in excess of £60,000, at the time of these accounts we have raised approximately £53,000. In addition there are other maintenance requirements identified by the latest quinquennial review. We therefore need to continue to grow our income so that we can meet our regular expenses and start to address the maintenance backlog.

Where does the money come from?

The church does not receive any government grants or other funding towards its running costs.

The primary source of income for general funds continues to be the planned regular giving of members of our worshipping community together with donations and collections in services. When Gift Aid Tax recovered is added, in 2017, this accounts for approximately 73% of total income.

Additional sources of regular income are derived from fundraising events, sponsorship, marriages, funerals, church hall and field rents, and also relatively small amounts from interest and investment income.

Where is the money spent?

The biggest item of expenditure, is the parish share due to Chester Diocese and is 55% of total operating costs (excluding charitable giving) and is only just covered by planned giving and open plate collections (excluding Gift Aid Tax Recovery) About 90 per cent of the parish share and other income (for example, from diocesan property or land) is used by the diocese to pay for the parish clergy and other diocesan ministries. That is the costs of stipends, pensions and National Insurance, parsonage housing, and training expenditure for ordinands. It also includes money spent on diocesan ministries that support the parishes, such as children's and youth work, stewardship and communications. Through the parish share we also contribute to supporting other parishes that are in a worse financial position than our own. In 2017 we made contributions totalling £62,796 for the year, and for 2018 this has increased by a 2.5% to £64,366. In addition approximately 45% of income from Weddings and Funerals is paid to the Diocese. We have no choice but to continue to pay these if we wish to continue to benefit from a full-time vicar to lead us in spiritual and numerical growth.

All other costs have to be paid from other income (including our Gift Aid Tax) – these costs include the upkeep of the Church and grounds, Church Hall and part of the Vicarage costs. It also includes the cost of all Church services, relief clergy, clergy expenses and administration. After these costs have been met there is little income to cover other repairs that are needed. Our outward giving from PCC funds is based on a percentage of the receipts from planned giving. The PCC is determined that our long standing outward giving promise should be honoured as it is a fundamental Christian principle to help others. In addition, we also held a number of events where the collection was in aid of a charitable organisation and the amount raised paid directly to the charity. These amounts are not included in the charitable giving total of £4,309.

We have kept control of both Church and Church Hall running costs during the year, and it is gratifying that the Buildings Management Team continues to examine how best to manage our resources.

Thank you

To everyone who so generously contribute to our finances by planned giving, collections, donations, sponsorship and attending church fund raising activities.

To all the people who work so hard to make applications for any grants available for our projects. To our Gift Aid Officer, for keeping our claims with HMRC up to date. To the fundraising team; without their efforts, many of our completed projects would never have got beyond the planning stage.

To our Independent Examiner, Derek Pearce, for the work he has put in to satisfy himself that St John's has a set of accounts that satisfy all statutory requirements and in which the Vicar, the PCC and the parish can have confidence.

To the Treasury Team, without whose effort there would be no accounts !

To the Buildings and Management Team for their understanding of the financial situation.

The continuing challenge

The PCC has set a budget for 2018, which shows that we will be showing a loss of approximately £12,500, this projected loss is before we address the 2015 quinquennial maintenance schedule. The PCC acknowledged that the challenge for us therefore remains the same as it has in previous years, and as it does in all other parishes. We, as members of the worshipping community of St Johns, Sandiway, need to give freely and generously if we are to continue meet our aims of:

- Spreading God's word within the parish;
- Providing a diverse range of religious services and other opportunities for worship through the week;
- Providing a sacred space for worship;
- Supporting members of our worshipping community within their homes; and
- Contributing to the spiritual and moral education of children and young people.

Please give all the help that you can as often as you can.

Andy Carter, Treasury Team Leader

On behalf of the Vicar and PCC

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out on pages 17 to 22, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (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.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(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 accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

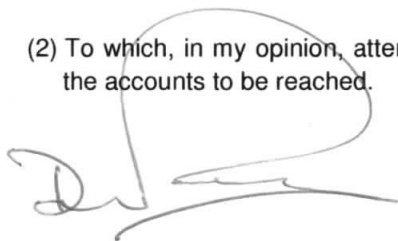
Independent Examiner's statement

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or

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



Derek Pearce

Independent Examiner

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

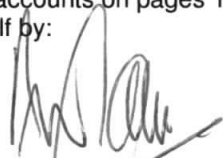
	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
Incoming Funds			
Planned Giving, Gift Day, Tax claim, donations and cash collections	2	96,203	99,882
Operating activities			
Fundraising activities	2	12,807	10,629
Church activities	2	21,792	20,332
Investment income	2	1,932	1,919
Total Incoming funds		132,734	132,762
Expenditure			
Donations made	3	4,309	4,170
Church activities	3	125,798	124,667
Administration	3	5,778	4,538
Total expenditure		135,885	133,375
Transfer from (to) Restricted Funds	4	1,763	(474)
Net Incoming (outgoing) General funds		(1388)	(1,087)
Gain (loss) on revaluation of investments	5	1,375	1,522
Net movement of funds		(13)	435
Funds b/fwd. at the start of the year		41,213	41,148
Adjustments in respect of prior years		2,024	(370)
Funds c/fwd. at the end of the year		43,224	41,213

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement of income and expenditure

GENERAL ACCOUNTS BALANCE SHEET

	2017 £	2016 £
Assets		
Investments		
Ministry Fund	16,611	15,236
Current assets		
Debtors	5,493	8,524
Cash at bank	96,532	91,028
	118,636	114,788
Current liabilities		
Creditors	4,252	3,391
Net assets	114,384	111,397
Unrestricted funds	43,224	41,213
Restricted funds	71,160	70,184
Total funds	114,384	111,397

The accounts on pages 17 to 24 were approved by the PCC on the 19th March 2018 and signed on its behalf by:


AW Carter – Treasury Team Leader


Revd Dr J Hughes – Vicar and Chairman of the Parochial Church Council

The accompanying notes, on pages 19 to 22 are an integral part of these accounts.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied, consistently throughout the year and the preceding year, are set out below.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Charities 2005.

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds.

- **Restricted funds** represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust and bequest and donations or grants received for specific objects or invited by the PCC for a specific object. As the funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given, any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.
- **Unrestricted funds** represent moneys in general funds, which are used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming funds.

- Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received.
- Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming funds to which they relate are received.
- Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued.
- All other income is recognised when it is receivable.
- All incoming funds are accounted for Gross.

Expenditure.

- Giving is accounted for when due.
- The parish share is accounted for when due.
- Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds.
- All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

- Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts as they are treated as inalienable property as are moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC.
- Expenditure on equipment has been written off.

Investments.

- Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December 2017.

2 Incoming funds

	2017 £	2016 £
Donations		
Planned giving:		
Standing orders and pink envelopes	58,899	59,458
Blue giving envelopes	2,131	1,777
Tax recovery	17,040	16,509
Collections (open plate)	7,228	6,343
Gift Day	5,896	14,471
Donations and legacies	5,009	1,325
	96,203	99,882
Fundraising events		
Concerts, social and other activities	8,016	6,088
Summer and Christmas fairs	4,156	3,741
Sponsorship	635	800
	12,807	10,629
Church activities		
Hall rents	8,066	8,729
Magazine sales and advertising	5,317	4,877
Wedding & funeral fees	8,409	6,726
	21,792	20,332
Investment income		
Field rent	956	1,028
Trust income - School Fund	405	334
Dividends and Interest	571	557
	1,932	1,919
Total Incoming funds	132,734	132,762

3 Expenditure

	2017	2016
	£	£
Giving		
To secular charities	1,627	2,772
To Christian charities	2,682	1,398
	<hr/> 4,309	<hr/> 4,170
Church activities		
Parish Share to diocese	62,796	61,264
Vicarage costs	3,954	3,145
Clergy expenses	1,190	865
Church Services	11,817	10,918
CDBF Assigned Fees	3,924	3,049
Junior church & youth group	397	377
Church operating costs	6,665	6,577
Church maintenance	4,041	3,240
Magazine production costs	4,334	4,497
Outreach	17,569	20,320
Hall operating costs	8,320	7,876
Hall maintenance	790	2,539
	<hr/> 130,107	<hr/> 124,667
Administration		
Secretarial assistance	1,798	1,797
Administration costs	2,869	1,856
Bank charges	684	509
Telephone	427	376
	<hr/> 5,778	<hr/> 4,538
Total outgoing funds	<hr/> 135,885	<hr/> 133,375

4. Transfers from (to) Restricted Funds

Moneys raised for Specific Projects are transferred to Restricted Funds. When this money is expended for Capital Projects it is not included in the Income and Expenditure Account. For Revenue projects expenditure is included and results in a transfer from Restricted Funds.

	2017 £	2016 £
Transfers to Restricted Funds	15,806	20,794
Transfers from Restricted Funds	<u>17,569</u>	<u>20,320</u>
Net Transfer	<u>1,763</u>	<u>(474)</u>

5. Gains on revaluation of Investments

Unrestricted funds – Ministry Fund	1,375	1,522
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6. Related party transactions:

PCC members have during the year received reimbursement of items of expenditure properly incurred upon the business of the PCC.

7. Related trusts:

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the school fund set up on the sale of the premises which were originally the Church school. The school fund comprises 762 shares in the CBF Church of England Investment fund – income shares which cost £5,073 and have a market value at 31 December 2017 of £12,492 (2016 £11,458). The dividends from the fund are mandated to the PCC and are used to pay for “Youth and Junior Church”

8. The Ark Café

The Ark Café is non profit making with any surplus being used to help the community – during the year income increased more than 25% to approximately £5,500 and after costs of £3,200, including £2,210 rental to St John's, there was, including brought forward from 2016, approximately £2,500 available to give to local good causes. £2,000 has been allocated as shown elsewhere leaving approximately £500 carried forward.

BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

I have examined the Building Fund Financial Statements for 2017, which are set out on page 12.

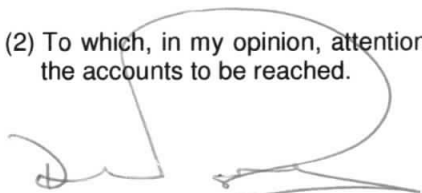
No matter has come to my attention:

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met; or

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



Derek Pearce

Independent Examiner

BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

Income and Expenditure	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
Expenditure		6,035	1,563
Interest receivable		83	141
Net Incoming (Outgoing) funds		(5,952)	(1,422)
Funds b/fwd. At the start of the year		30,598	32,020
Funds c/fwd. At the end of the year		24,646	30,598
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Debtors		0	0
CCLA Deposit account		24,193	30,145
Bank balances		2,412	2,412
		26,605	32,557
Current Liabilities			
Creditors		1,959	1,959
Net Assets		24,646	30,598

Note: The Building Fund was transferred to its own set of accounts in 2010

THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH – Report on 2017

Fabric

The deteriorating condition of the tower roof remains the major concern as highlighted in the 2015 quinquennial inspection report. Following the repair specification produced by the architect the PCC has been granted the necessary faculty to go ahead with the work once the necessary funds are in place. Fundraising continues along with developing a further bid for grant aid.

As usual various minor maintenance has been carried out during the year involving a combination of contractors and DIY as appropriate. The work of our small dedicated in-house team is much appreciated.

Goods

No change

Ornaments

No change.

Inventory

We are satisfied that there has been no significant change in the inventory (Bibles, prayer books, service books, hymn books, etc)

John Fraser and Peter Westwood.
Churchwardens

PROCEEDINGS OF MIDDLEWICH DEANERY SYNOD 2017

Eric Wright

Three members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Fellowship and worship are integral parts of meetings. We hear reports from various deanery committees, Diocesan and General Synods. Parish news is shared.

The Deanery Synod met 3 times in 2017.

In addition to the formal business each meeting addresses a special topic with invited guest speakers. There follows a brief precis of each.

1st February 2017 at Christchurch, Wharton

Lyn Weston (Chester Diocesan Missioner)

Lyn leads the Diocese of Chester Mission Team, which had been set up 8 months before, in June 2016, and said that being a Missioner is a calling stating that it was an “exciting mission”. Going on Lyn said that the work of the team was to inspire, encourage and resource churches within the Diocese (325 in total) to enable their mission and that they work in partnership with churches and wait with confident expectation to see God’s Kingdom grow. In her experience, she had found some churches to know where they are going and others were challenging themselves, however where required identifying “areas for change” as opportunities to grow had been quite evident.

The running theme through Lyn’s presentation was about reaching out to the “unchurched”, the many people whose lives could be touched by God but they had yet to have that connection through school, the media, family or friends.

Lyn finished with some statistics on predictions of falling congregation in the under 15’s demographic and stated that “churches are struggling to connect with 11-14 year olds”. A re-imagining of the church for a new generation and getting that connection to a rapidly changing world was the challenge.

13th June 2017

Hannah Noble from the Children’s Society. Hannah is the Regional Fundraising Manager for Liverpool and Chester.

Hannah gave a brief history of the foundation of the Children’s Society, which was the first organisation to set up children’s homes which reflected family life. Today the Children’s Society offers support for children’s mental health and emotional wellbeing, sexual exploitation, refugee children, young carers and young runaways. The core values of the Children’s Society remain unchanged.

Campaigns take place at local and national levels. The churches in Middlewich Deanery had donated £36,000 in the past 5 years. Support can be given through the Box Network (which raises 2million pounds per year), by organising a Christingle service, by mission giving and through prayer. Speakers from the Children’s Society are available to churches.

12th October 2017 at St Peter’s Church, Delamere.

Debbie Dalby (Chester Diocese – Director of Social Responsibility)

Debbie started by saying that social responsibility goes on in every parish in the world, but popular thinking is that it is an add-on to the work of the church (is it “blue sky thinking or pie in the sky”) going on to say that in her opinion it is at the heart of every community.

There was work going on all over the Diocese regarding counselling, dementia, criminal justice, rural & urban ministry, modern slavery and mental health, and all aspects of social responsibility that we could draw from if there was a need in our parishes.

CSR would like to see parish level excitement, not an add-on, social responsibility as the heart of parish life, safeguarding discussions and all clergy & members feeling nurtured.

She also referred to Child poverty, loneliness and isolation as being real issues in some areas.

Debbie closed with a final thought that CSR were here to help us.

THE CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, SANDIWAY SAFEGUARDING & VULNERABILITY POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & ADULTS AT RISK 2018

Our church is committed to following the safeguarding policy and procedures published by the Church of England in the "Promoting a Safer Church" document www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding which has been adopted by the Diocese of Chester.

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer Church.

At St John the Evangelist, Sandiway we are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of our church.

We recognise the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and we are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our church family.

Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture.

We will promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused. We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

At St John the Evangelist, Sandiway we will strive to:

- Promote a safer environment and culture.

- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within our church.

- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.

- Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.

- Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.

- Respond well to those that may present a risk to others.

As part of our commitment to children, young people and vulnerable adults the PCC has appointed **Margaret Denton** to be the Safeguarding Officer and **Mandy Shaw** to be the Assistant Safeguarding Officer.

This policy statement, Diocesan policy and procedures and good practice guide lines will be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary to ensure best practice.

Diocesan Vulnerability & Safeguarding Officer: Pauline Butterfield, 01928 718834 ext 221 or 07703800031

Cheshire West & Chester Children's Services: 01606 275 099 or out of hours, 01244 977277

Cheshire West & Chester Adult Services: 0300 123 8123 or out of hours, 01244 977277