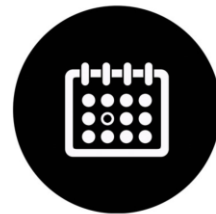


# A Year in the Life of

Serving Jesus Today  
st Catharine's  
Gloucester

2018



## Annual Report and Accounts for 2018

This section of the Year Book deals with financial matters.

### Financial Performance

Receipts from *all accounts* during 2018 totalled £151,964 compared to £156,964 received in 2018.

Payments from *all accounts* during 2018 totalled £179,777 compared to £123,931 in 2018. Therefore in 2018 expenditure exceeded income by £24,711. This was mainly due to monies spent on the Chancel Re-ordering project.

Looking at the General unrestricted day to day income and expenditure the church made a loss of £3,704, compared to a loss of £5,658 in 2017. We covered this loss by using designated funds, i.e. General Designated account.

At the start of 2018 the PCC agreed that £2,282 be transferred from Church Hall Designated account to the General Unrestricted Fund to bring it into a nil balance to start the year. This is reflected in the following table marked \*.

	Balance at 1/1/18	Balance at 31/12/18	Surplus/Deficit for 2018
Fabric Fund - Restricted	16,543	11,375	(5,168)
Organ Fund - Designated	1,160	1,276	116
Church Hall – Designated*	16,727	24,178	7,451
Chancel Re-ordering - Restricted	34,713	11,019	(23,694)
General Restricted	3,712	4,339	627
General Account (Designated and Unrestricted)*	25,508	23,298	(2,210)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>101,343</b>	<b>76,632</b>	<b>(24,711)</b>

## **Church Hall**

The hall is a designated fund, which means that any surpluses are set aside for future improvements to the hall. Hall lettings were similar to 2017 (see Hall account at the end of the report for full details).

## **General Account**

### **Receipts**

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments method. The church receives all of its income through the generosity of its church members (including the Gift Aid claimed back from HMRC). A small amount is received through interest on our current account and Legacies Fund.

### **Regular Giving**

62 worshippers took part in the diocesan direct scheme during the year but at year end this number had dropped to 47. 30 of these givers have signed up to annual inflation increases. Regular giving enables the PCC to plan ahead confidently. The table below reflects all the giving received during 2018.

	<b>No. of Givers during the year</b>		<b>Average monthly amount before Gift Aid</b>	
	End 2018	2017	2018	2017
Diocesan Planned Giving Scheme	47	62	£81	£78
Standing Orders	14	14	£42	£41
Envelopes	21	23	£21	£29

The church encourages everyone to consider joining the Direct Debit Scheme through the Diocese. It is a secure and simple method which has the following advantages:-

- There is an opportunity to give annual inflation increases
- Gift Aid is claimed by the Diocese and paid to St Catharine's monthly
- It results in a significant simplification of church administration

Unrestricted planned giving was £4,265 lower than 2017.

Unrestricted cash on the plate and general donations were up £471 over 2017.

The total General Unrestricted Account receipts were £6,934 lower than 2017.

### **Payments on the General Unrestricted Account**

This account covers Parish Share and the running costs of the church building, together with expenditure on worship, prayer and outreach, children and young people's work, staff and communications. Expenditure for the year showed a decrease of £9,518 over 2017. This was due mainly to the fact that staff costs, church running costs and clergy expenses in 2018 were lower than in 2017. Parish Share for 2018 was £65,325. Parish Share contributes to the pay, housing and pension of clergy in the Diocese, together with expenses for training new and existing priests, support services for schools, churches and youth work.

### **Designated Funds (funds that can be controlled by the PCC)**

At the end of 2018 it was decided to merge the General Designated Fund with the General Unrestricted Fund as the Diocese view both designated and unrestricted as one due to the fact that the PCC has control over how it is used. You will note in the table on the previous page that General Funds are followed by Designated and Unrestricted.

The Hall Fund is a Designated Fund and is accounted for separately from the General Designated Fund. During 2018 the Hall generated an income

of £1,862. Expenditure for the year was £5,405 which covered the insurance, gas and electric, cleaner, hall repairs and services.

The Organ Fund is also Designated. During the year the church transferred £110 from Statutory Fees from church weddings and funerals into the Organ Fund. The fund currently stands at £1,276.

### **Restricted Funds (funds controlled by donors)**

The Fabric Fund has two accounts. The first is a cash day to day account. This account benefitted from regular gift aided donations of £1,188 plus investment receipts of £424 and Gift Aid recovered of £297. The amount spent in 2018 was £5,294 on building work and repairs in the church and the Quinquennial Inspection. The balance in this fund is £1,126.19. The second account is invested in an Investment Bank which holds a balance of £10,249.

The Chancel Re-ordering Fund is also a Restricted fund for sole use on this project. In 1 January 2018 there was £34,713 in the account. During 2018 receipts totalled £40,642. At the end of December after paying for all the work there was £11,019 in this account although there are still one or two items still to purchase. At the end of November all monthly givers to this fund were contacted to say we no longer required funding for this project and that any monies still to come in and remaining would be changed from Restricted to Designated for use for either the Children's Worker (to be employed during 2019) or for use within the church.

We also have a Mission Restricted Fund which was set up with a donation which the donor requested be spent on parish mission projects. During the year this fund has covered Experience Easter, Friday morning with St Catharine's held at Spartans, and anything which reached out to people in the parish. During 2018 we used £675 leaving a balance at 31 December of £2,498.

At the end of December there was a credit balance of £1,340 in the Children's Worker restricted fund. This is made up of monthly donations from the congregation restricted specifically to employ a Children's worker. During 2018 the monthly amount received was £160 but this will increase during 2019 as some members of the church have opted to transfer their chancel donation to the Children's worker fund.

Other restricted funds include donations received for hampers, parish weekend contributions and Spree contributions. There is currently £501 in the account covering these activities which will be carried forward for use in 2018/19.

The PCC is grateful to everyone who gave to the church and who contributed in any way to the financial outcome.

Rachel Barton  
Churchwardens

Brian Champion

*The original document including signatures is filed with the PCC minutes*

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of St Catharine's Parochial Church Council**

I report on the accounts of St Catharine's Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2018 set out below.

### **Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner**

As trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- To examine the financial statements under section 43(3) of the 1993 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act) and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

### **Basis of the report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes a consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, 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 1993 Act and
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the Accounting requirements of the 1993 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.

David Matthams CPFA  
Examiner

5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Bridgend  
Westbury on Severn  
Gloucestershire  
GL14 1PA

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	2018	2017
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
<i>Voluntary Income:</i>					
Planned giving	64,417	0	3,333	<b>67,750</b>	71,866
Collections, donations and other giving	8,220	0	27,644	<b>35,864</b>	32,550
Income Tax recovered	17,221	0	4,630	<b>21,851</b>	20,677
Legacies	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	5,000
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc.	394	10,797	0	<b>11,191</b>	10,359
Income from other Properties	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	283
Annual Fete/events	3,411	0	0	<b>3,411</b>	4,318
<i>Investment Income:</i>					
Interest & dividends	332	6	441	<b>779</b>	631
<i>Income from charitable activities:</i>					
Parochial fees	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
<i>Other incoming resources:</i>					
Insurance claims	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
Other	941	0	10,177	<b>11,118</b>	-34
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>94,936</b>	<b>10,803</b>	<b>46,225</b>	<b>151,964</b>	<b>145,650</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Donations/Grants to charities	-2,000	0	-2,200	<b>-4,200</b>	-5,200
Mission & Evangelism	-436	0	-1,987	<b>-2,423</b>	-3,265
Parish Share	-65,325	0	0	<b>-65,325</b>	-65,059
Clergy expenses	-2,681	0	0	<b>-2,681</b>	-3,707
Church running expenses	-8,340	-1,377	-720	<b>-10,437</b>	-11,600
Churchyard maintenance	-44	0	0	<b>-44</b>	-42
Cost of raising funds	-344	0	0	<b>-344</b>	-579
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Support costs	-310	-240	-350	<b>-900</b>	-478
Administration Costs (inc. staff costs)	-13,758	-1,490	-2,255	<b>-17,503</b>	-19,389
Other	-4,522	-673	-446	<b>-5,641</b>	-4,756



<i>Governance costs</i>	-250	0	0	<b>-250</b>	-265
<i>Major expenditure:</i>					
Repairs to church building	0	0	-68,229	<b>-68,229</b>	-2,433
Repairs to other property	0	0	-1,800	<b>-1,800</b>	0
Capital purchases, additions	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
Loan repayments	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
				-	-
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>-98,010</b>	<b>-3,780</b>	<b>-77,987</b>	<b>179,777</b>	<b>116,773</b>
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources</b>	<b>-3,074</b>	<b>7,023</b>	<b>-31,762</b>	<b>-27,813</b>	<b>-28,877</b>

## STATEMENT OF FUNDS AND ASSETS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

<b>Funds</b>	<b>Closing Balance 31 Dec 17</b>	<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>Closing Balance 31-Dec-18</b>
	£	£	£
Unrestricted	23,298	1,147	24,445
Designated	23,077	2,377	25,454
Restricted	54,968	-28,235	26,733
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>101,343</b>	<b>-24,711</b>	<b>76,632</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Bank balances			
NatWest PCC General current account	58,060	-19,786	38,274
NatWest Fabric Fund current account	6,345	-5,219	1,126
CCLA Fabric Fund account	10,198	51	10,249
CCLA Organ Fund account	1,160	116	1,276
CCLA Legacies fund account	25,580	127	25,707
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>101,343</b>	<b>-24,711</b>	<b>76,632</b>

It was agreed that on 1 January 2018 £2,282 would be moved into the General Fund from the Designated Church Hall Fund to bring this into a nil position to start the year. This would enable the Treasurer to monitor income vs. expenditure during 2018.

### Other Investment Asset

The PCC has 696 shares in the Central Board of Finance Investment Fund relating to the Gransmore Trust. The historic cost was £500. These were valued at £11,239 at 31 December 2018 (value at 31 December 2017 £11,382). The interest/dividend receipts on these shares are credited to the Fabric Fund.

## **Notes to the financial statements**

### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom accounting standards, the statement of recommended practice, (SORP 2005) and the Church of England accounting regulations. The historical cost convention and the receipts and payments basis for accounting were used in 2018. The principal accounting policies have been applied consistently.

The accounts include transactions for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other church groups such as Mothers' Union and Girls' Friendly Society which have affiliations to their own parent bodies.

### **2. FUNDS**

#### **(a) Endowment Fund – Gransmore Trust**

The capital in this Fund must be maintained. Only receipts arising from the investment of the endowment may be used. The receipts from the Gransmore Trust are used for maintenance of the church fabric.

#### **(b) Restricted Funds – Fabric Fund, Chancel Re-ordering Fund and part General Fund.**

These funds represent donations and receipts raised for specific works and objects. There are also restricted funds in the General Account. These are donations where the donor has specifically restricted its use.

#### **(c) Designated Funds – Church hall and Organ Fund.**

These are funds set aside out of general funds for specific designated purposes.

#### **(d) Unrestricted Funds – PCC General and Legacies fund.**

These are general funds which can be used for the PCC's ordinary purposes.

### 3. RESERVES POLICY

The PCC has set a policy of retaining at least 33% of its annual payments budget as free reserves. At present our free reserves have fallen below the 33% and therefore the PCC will need to be diligent in their spending during 2019.

### 4. LEGACIES

No legacies were received during 2018.

### 5. EVENTS DURING 2018

<b>Event</b>	<b>Funds raised after any costs</b>
Beetle Drive	£152
Fete	£1,646
Barn Dance	£253
Organ Recital*	£164
Nativity Festival	£72

\*There is still £500 remaining from the original donation of £500 for organ recitals.

### 6. PAYMENTS TO CHARITIES

	2018 £	2017 £
CMS for Yanez family	2,200	2,200
Jane Ingle (Wycliffe) work in Cameroon	1,000	1,000
Evie Howie (trip to India)	500	0
Katherine Lawson		500
GARAS		500
Mission Aviation		500
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>4,700</b>

## 7. CLERGY EXPENSES

It is the policy of the PCC to reimburse Clergy for out of pocket expenses in full.

	2018 £	2017 £
Amount paid to Vicar	2,227	3,122
Amount paid to Curate	454	687

## 8. FEES PAID TO EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

	2018 £	2017 £
Amount paid to David Matthams	250	250

## 9. PAYMENTS TO EMPLOYEES

	2018 £	2017 £
Music Director	0	0
Clergy Assistant	6,011	5,863
Children's Worker	4,236	7,349
Church Cleaner	2,980	2,497
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,227</b>	<b>15,709</b>

## 10. PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS (OR CONNECTED PERSONS)

	2018 £	2017 £
John Weygang	0	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>

## 11. CHURCH HALL TRADING ACCOUNT

	2018 £	2017 £
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Hire of hall receipts	<b>10,797</b>	<b>9,926</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>		
Church Hall repairs and maintenance	-1,800	-800
Cleaning (including materials)	-1,490	-1,241
Insurance	-673	-637
Utilities	-1,377	-1,276
<b>Surplus/Loss on Church Hall</b>	<b>5,457</b>	<b>5,972</b>

## 12. CHANCEL RE-ORDERING

	2018 £	2017 £
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Monthly Standing Orders	3,903	3,950
Planned Giving Envelope	110	0
One-off donations	15,057	19,914
Grants received	7,320	1,000
Sale of marmalade	105	0
Refund on carpet	500	0
Nearly New stall	243	0
Sale of pews	750	0
Tax refund	4,480	1,113
VAT refund	8,174	0
Gloucester & District Christian Choir Concert	0	700
Joyce Neurateur funeral and concert	0	988
Perrin's coffee morning	0	261
Ride & Stride	0	485
<b>Total received</b>	<b>40,642</b>	<b>28,411</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Turnkey Construction	-29,738	0
Architect's fees	-1,848	0
T D Jeffree – Sound Desk	-1,825	0
Wheelchair ramps	-264	0

Electrical Work and fittings	-9,640	0
Covering organ	-490	0
Hire of Cherry Picker	-540	0
Ruxton Surveys (drawings)	0	0
<b>Total expenses:</b>	<b>-44,345</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Surplus on Chancel Re-ordering</b>	<b>-3,703</b>	<b>28,411</b>

*Prepared by Jenny Perry, Church Treasurer*

*If you have any questions about the accounts please contact Jenny so she can be ready to give you a full answer at the APCM. Thank you.*

The following pages contain reports from many of the various groups in our church family.

## **Warden's Report**

### Highlights

The major event of this year has been the departure of our vicar, John Itumu, at the end of July and the departure of our curate, David Whale at the end of October. This saw us in a vacancy having to run the church as well as find a new vicar. However, the people of St. Catharine's have shown great spirit and have pulled together to keep the church, not only running, but flourishing during this time and our thanks go to all those who have helped in any way at all.

The recruitment (discernment) process is quite lengthy. We had a great team putting together an excellent Parish Profile under the leadership of Phil King which saw a healthy eight applicants respond. From these we shortlisted four candidates and eventually interviewed three (one withdrew). At interview, the right person for this parish was easily clear and the decision was unanimous.

Jo Pestell will be installed as our new vicar in September at a date still to be finalised. We welcome Jo and look forward to her taking up the post and leading us into the next decade.

### Staff

We have two paid members of staff:

Jo works in the office in her role as administrator which is so vital to the day to day running of the church. Not only is she the first point of contact to many people from the parish wishing to book the hall and concerts in the church, but her sterling work keeps everything running smoothly.



Since John left, Jo has kept the rotas up to date, planning months ahead to ensure we have clergy for every service, and reminding Brian and I when certain events have to be planned. We would have been up the creek without a paddle, as they say, without Jo's exceptional gift of keeping everything together. Our grateful thanks go to Jo for all her hard work in keeping the church running smoothly.

Our other member of staff is Jane the cleaner. She does a wonderful job of keeping the church and hall clean. Everywhere sparkles and if you go in to the building just after she has finished cleaning a fresh smell hits you and we noticed a big difference to the cleanliness of the buildings when Jane was off sick. Thank you, Jane, for your hard work.

We also have a potential new member of staff. We have managed to obtain grants toward the cost of recruiting a Children, Family and Community Outreach Worker. These grants total £17,520 in the first year, reducing to £11,200 in the third year, so we will have to provide the balance of the funds ourselves and be self-sufficient in the fourth year. One of the grants contains a condition that the new vicar is involved in the recruitment, so the churchwardens will be meeting with her in mid-May to discuss how this will work. In the meantime the standing committee will draft an advert and decide where to advertise.

## Ministry

A major task has been keeping the services running without full-time clergy. We are very grateful to have two retired clergy, Michael Butler and John Gibson, who have pitched in and helped keep communion services running. There are also several external clergy who have given their time to us to help us out. In particular, our thanks go to Rev. Andrew Braddock, Rev. Anna Griffiths and Rev. Cate Williams. Thanks also go to Marilyn Taylor our Lay Reader.

The Diocese has been trialling a new system for funerals in this deanery in which we have taken part and it has been extremely useful to us without a vicar. Gloucester City Funerals is now the central point of contact for funeral directors to arrange a church funeral. They do much of the paperwork and will also find someone to conduct the funeral if we cannot do it ourselves.

The music team have continued to provide high-quality music for our Sunday services, leading our worship with skill and dedication, including keeping us legal by reporting our music usage.

There are so many other activities in the life of this church that we cannot hope to do justice to them in this brief report, to please do read about them in their own sections in this yearbook.

#### Fabric

The building maintenance issue which affected the congregation the most this year was the failure of the heating over the winter. Although the estimate of £10,000 for repairing the boilers seemed daunting at first, people showed their commitment by responding well to the gift day when £10,820 was raised so that the heating could be repaired promptly, with some excess funds to go to the additional gas bill over this period. We now have a fully functioning heating system again.

Between Christmas and New Year the church hall was broken into and some damage caused internally, especially to the playgroup's store and equipment, some of which was taken. Repairs were carried out promptly but this incident highlighted the vulnerability of the hall. Bars have now been fitted to the most vulnerable windows to prevent further break-ins by that route. Some more work will be required to the main door and store room doors to strengthen them.

The main work involved in the chancel re-ordering was completed in the Spring last year, shortly after the last APCM. However, what may not be known is that work has continued over this past year to complete the wiring of the dais and various other associated works. Many thanks to James Wenham and Richard Hussey for their work on this.

The ladies' toilet in the hall is in much need of refurbishment due to mould in the cupboards and general dilapidation. A plumber has been engaged to undertake the refurbishment and the work will be done at the end of May.

Thanks are also due to the playgroup who redecorated the lobby in the hall and also repainted the front external wall. We maintain a good relationship with the playgroup who are the major user of the hall.

Grounds maintenance

Many thanks to all who helped with the Spring clean-up a few weeks ago. Also, many thanks to Martin Walton who has taken on the grass-cutting and is also weeding the flower beds.

*Rachel Barton and Brian Champion, Churchwardens*

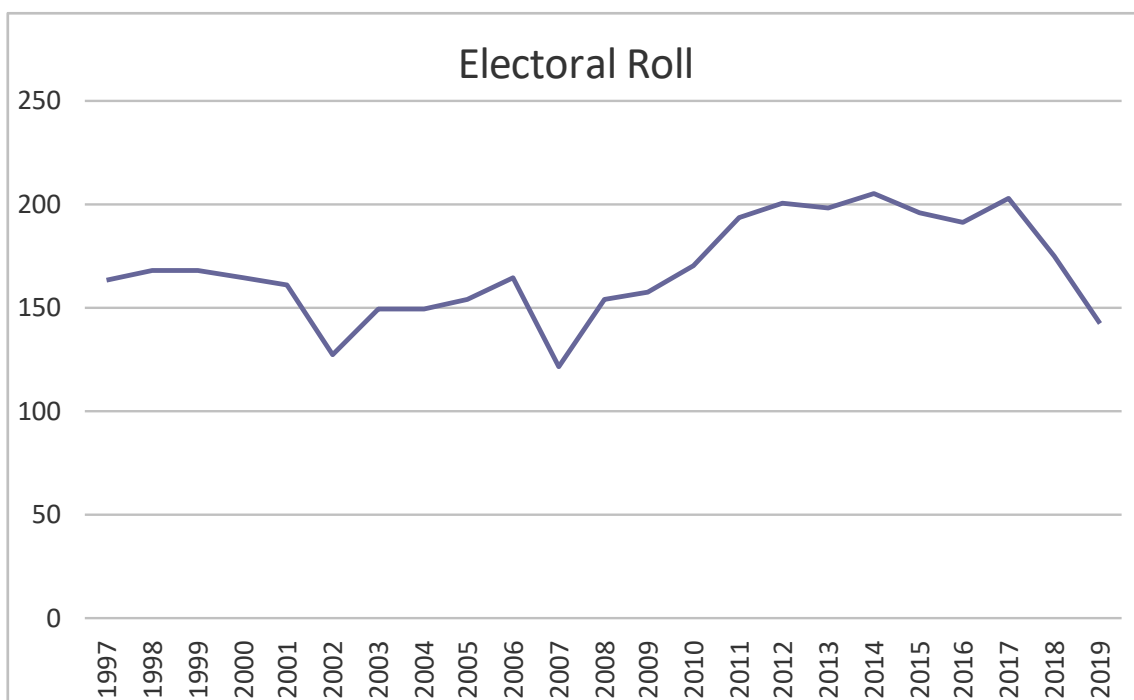
### **Church Electoral Roll**

Every six years the electoral roll must be compiled from scratch with all previous data being scrapped. Notices for the Roll revision went up on the church door and in the Galilee on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Forms for applying to be on the new electoral roll were available from this time until 31<sup>st</sup> March. There was an article in the church magazine giving details of the revision and it was announced at each service in March as well as being on the service sheets and the rolling notices screens.

The new electoral roll came into effect on 14<sup>th</sup> April and contains the names of 142 people. This is a significant drop from the previous figure of 174. An analysis of the people who dropped off the roll shows that nearly all

were people who no longer attend the church. Of the 142 people on the roll, 54% live in the parish and 46% live outside. This is a slight increase in the number of worshippers who live outside the parish.

As can be seen in the chart below, the number of people the electoral roll has now dropped back to where it was before John Itumu became vicar. It is not unusual for the number of worshippers to decline during a vacancy.



*Brian Champion – Electoral Roll Officer*

### **Friday Mornings with St Catharine's**

For those who may not be familiar with the group, here is our Facebook page information which describes who we are:

Friday Mornings with St Catharine's is a free of charge creative group run by volunteers from the church. We share craft and conversations each week often based on a Christian theme or Bible passage. Our aim is to be a loving group where people can explore life and faith in a creative way, ask questions and generally get some breathing space. The group is held from 09:00-11:45 every Friday during term time. We meet at the Kaleidoscope Children and Family Centre, Sherborne Street, Gloucester, GL1 3DN. The

group is open to all, including babies and pre-schoolers. Refreshments are provided as is a healthy snack for the children.

This year we have looked at the themes of teamwork, gossip, love, Easter, perseverance and identity and self worth among other things. Our crafts have been just as varied: book folding, wool wrapping, paper weaving, upcycling and stone painting to mention a few. Have a look at our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FMWSC/> to see photos of our endeavours.

A huge thank you needs to go to the wonderful people on the rota who run the essential ministry of providing hot drinks, toast and cake to those who come along. Thank you Lesley, Tracey, Hazel, Sandy, Ian, John and Janet, we simply could not do this without you. WE ARE IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO JOIN THIS LOVELY TEAM. If you would like to know more, or try out with us one week, or are keen to dive right in, please speak to me or Lesley Barrett.

We would also like to say thank you to Trudie and the team at the Kaleidoscope Centre for offering to host the group at short notice last summer when our old venue was unavailable with no warning, and then offering a regular weekly space, moving one of their courses to accommodate us.

*Katy Wenham*

## **Alpha**

In 2018 it was great to run another Alpha. This year we ran the course in the context of the Wednesday night small group as there were several group members who wanted to find out more about the Christian faith. The group was joined by others who were put in touch with us through other church family members. Every time we run Alpha it is always different but also enjoyable. It is great to spend 10 weeks getting to know new people well as we look at lots of different aspects of what it means to follow Jesus today. Our meal together at the start of each evening is always a

highlight and we are really blessed to have an amazing team who take it in turns to cook for us each week, it is really appreciated.

The highlight of the Alpha course was the day away together in the fantastic surroundings of the Forest of Dean. We were hosted by Liz and Alan Sanders and were spoilt with food and cosy wood burning stoves whilst enjoying some great teaching and ministry time together.

If you have never been on Alpha then I really encourage you to give it a try and if you have friends who ask questions about your faith then invite them along too. Alpha is for anyone and if you want to find out more or point friends to a place to find out more then [alpha.org](http://alpha.org) is the place to go. If you would rather speak to someone who has been on the course then speak to James Wenham who can put you in touch. We will be running Alpha again in the Autumn, look out for details nearer the time.

Please keep praying for this ministry, many in our church have been part of it either as guests or helpers and God seems to graciously use it to grow his Kingdom. We give Him the praise and thanks.

*James Wenham*

## **Music Ministry**

We continue to give thanks for the faithful service of our organists whose commitment to leading us in sung worship is very much appreciated.

In addition the worship team for the 9.30am service has been working together for several years now and consists of several worshippers from the 9.30am congregation. It is mainly the same people in the band each month which means we are able to work well together, listen to each other and follow the lead of the worship leader. The band is involved in playing for the liturgy and well as songs for the service, some on the organ and some with the band. The brief we were given when the band was formed about eight years ago was that we were to provide a mixture of hymns from the

hymn book and some more modern songs. This we have tried to do as we recognise there are some really good 'old' songs as well as really good 'newer' ones. The band also attends one of the local baptist churches once a month to help them with more modern styles of worship, teaching them many of the new songs. This ministry has been a real blessing to all of us.

*Pamela Dewick*

The worship team for the 11.15 service is a diverse group of 15 to 20 people, from primary school to retirement age, who offer their musical talents and passions to lead others in worship each week. This year, it was very sad to say farewell to Joy, Faith and Grace Itumu (and their dad!) who contributed so much to the team, playing and singing with perfection, and to Beth and Tom Jackson, whose enthusiasm had inspired us for the past couple of years. A special thanks to Beth who organised us so well, motivating us to develop our musical styles, and who left us all with well-planned arrangements of our repertoire - a significant piece of work! Following these departures, I was tempted to think we would not be able to continue the way we had been - and yet God has blessed us incredibly, and we've never been without a band to lead us. It's been fantastic to see members of the team stepping out of their comfort zones and growing in their confidence to lead others in worship, as well as those who give their time week in and week out to play their instruments or organise the sound desk and projection - too many to mention by name. Thank you all. It's been especially exciting this year to see a new cohort of young people eager to join the bands, and we look forward to seeing how God grows their gifts in the future.

*Phil King*

## **Prayer Ministry**

Prayer ministry is offered at most of our services and there is a team of folk who have a heart for this ministry and see it as a great privilege to come along side and pray with others. The ministry is confidential and overseen by the church leadership and anyone receiving prayer can know that those offering prayer have been trained and are supported by the church. I have

always been really grateful to those who have taken time to pray with me and I know there are many others who feel the same and I know God has blessed many of our community (and beyond) in all sorts of ways as we seek Him in prayer. There is nothing too small or too big that we can't bring to God in prayer. God is gracious and knows exactly what we need so if you have not tried it why not give it a go.

*James Wenham*

## **Pastoral Care**

It is with great joy that the team is finding this ministry so enlightening and rewarding. The Pastoral Care Co-ordination Team is made up of the leaders/co-ordinators of the various groups at St Catharines'. We have been meeting every month since the beginning of 2019 and now meet every other month. Our purpose as we serve the Lord Jesus, is to offer care and support to the family of St Catharines' and the community we share our daily lives with. Whether that be hospital visits; visiting the sick; home Communion; awareness of Church family members who seem to be 'missing'; a neighbour that might value our time to drop in and chat; or just shared prayer time with those who are hurting or feeling lost. It is with certainty there are more reasons to add to this list as we endeavour to share our love and care with each other. Together, we the members of God's family are all responsible for pastoral care, but in the event that you should wish to pass on any relevant information for follow up, then please speak to Sheila Appleton, Lesley Barrett, Jo Butler, Hazel Matheson or Marilyn Taylor.

*Marilyn Taylor*

## **Hill House 2018**

In June 2018 we went to Hill House in Somerset for our second church weekend away to this lovely part of Somerset. We had a great time with



Phil Andrew (Archdeacon of Cheltenham) who led our teaching (and volley ball) and were joined by Pulse Ministries who ran the children's work for us.

The vision for these weekends is simple - we grow together when we spend time together. Each time we have been away we have enjoyed great worship, teaching and ministry that is accessible to all and we are amazed how God has provided for all who want to come being able to do so. The accommodation is basic, but it is a proper house so more accessible than camping options! Our next weekend away is booked for 19-21 June 2020. Put the date in your diary – we would love to see you there!

*James Wenham*

## **New Wine**

In the summer of 2018 a group from St Catharine's went to the Bath and West Showground in Somerset for the annual New Wine Summer Conference for the last time! It is the last time not because the summer conference is stopping or that St Catharine's is not going but because the 2019 Conference is moving to the East of England Showground in Peterborough – being the East of England it promises to be less wet.... we'll let you know!

As always it was great to go away with our church family. We had some first timers join us and we all felt blessed by the teaching, worship and ministry as well as opportunities to just chat and catch up while the children and youth larked about. There is no doubt that our experiences at the conference do bless our church in many ways. We have learnt so much from New Wine and been encouraged to step out in many different ways.

If you want to join us in Peterborough this year then it is not too late. We are going to Week 2 (5 – 11 August 2019) and if you make sure you link your booking to St Catharine's Gloucester then you will be camping with us. If you want to find out more then go to [new-wine.org](http://new-wine.org) or speak to James

or Katy Wenham. If you haven't got the kit for camping then don't let that stop you, we know of plenty of folk who will happily lend you theirs.....

*James Wenham*

### **Nativity-a visual story of God's gift to us**

*'a conversation with a man who hadn't been in a church for 50 years'*

'a couple with a child came to Christingle after being invited by Tracey at Nativity'

*Father Liam from St Peter's visited*

People came, people talked, they reminisced

*Helpers stayed all day (even though they weren't rota'd to do so)*

Methodist and RC churches were involved

*'what fun we had making our nativity'*

This one-day event far exceeded the organisers' expectations. It began as a simple idea of showing some personal collections of Nativities, and developed because those who became involved suggested extra activities e.g. craft activities, photo booth, singing etc.

Planning began in August /September when a wide-ranging list of possible community invitees was created; eventually 29 invitations were delivered, many personally. Not everyone responded however, those who did included residential homes, a school, two churches, clubs and groups as well as individuals. The total number of exhibitors was approximately 32 (although the number of nativities far exceeded this).

Many members of the congregation were involved, having happily agreed to be part of the whole; welcoming and stewarding, sticking and singing, brewing and baking. Behind the scenes were the walkers who helped deliver invitations and posters, creators of advertisements, flyers and posters, those who lent props, helped expand the vision, moved furniture and so on. So many willing helpers.

It was generally agreed that it was a special day when the real story of Christmas was displayed in visual and personal form; visitors going away with invitations to return for any of our Christmas services. A very successful event. (Donations given at the refreshment point accrued and were passed on to Jenny)

*Lesley B Barrett*

### **Open the Book**

Our team of dedicated thespians has been going in to the collective worship at Kingsholm CofE Primary School on a regular basis sharing stories from the Lion Storyteller Bible. The children are always pleased to see us and we have many hands going up when asking for volunteers to help with the acting out of the stories. The school always has a worship song after our presentation which often ties in with the theme for that day. We have a regular team of six people at the moment and could do with a few more volunteers as it only takes a couple to be away and we are struggling. The commitment is most Thursdays during the school term as we rehearse one week and do the assembly the following week.

Our team also presents stories at the Care Homes' service at Easter and Christmas and for the last few years have also been involved in the Carol Service which is a great pleasure.

If anyone is interested in joining us please speak to me or a member of the team.

*Jane Broome*

### **Comms Group**

Our small group has continued to meet and has debated, considered, discussed and agreed a wide variety of communications-based issues. Continuing to recognise the importance of social media as a key communications tool in a fast-changing world, we have continued to

prioritise maintaining our social media pages. Many thanks to Jon Wasunna-Smith for continuing to be a part of this and to Phil King and Katherine Lawson for their input. Time is regularly given to the production of posters, flyers and leaflets for all Church occasions and thanks must go to Richard Hussey, Lesley Barrett and Jo Sanders for their work on this.

We continue to support the production of the magazine in hard copy form, not least as it is a ready publicity item which can be handed to visitors. The magazine team overcame the demise of the old printer at a very busy time of the year. The printer was revived with some difficulty and continues to serve the church well. The events proforma has been tweaked to better reflect the needs of event organisers and is now established and we hope this will continue to be useful as we await the arrival of new vicar.

The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is now embedded in the work of the church and is a part of our considerations for all issues and its impact. We have refreshed the photographs of the church officers just inside the main door. This will need doing again in the not too distant future!

After John left in July, Brian joined us and has been a valuable source of information in the vacancy period. Attendances at the Christmas services were up. The Facebook publicity for this was especially effective. We have had a policy of having flyers available at all happenings for the following events and this would seem to be paying dividends at least for the 'one off' services.

We are absolutely delighted that Tracy Hergest has now joined us- she is an avid user of social media and is going to work alongside Phil and Jo to raise our profile still further. Various inconsistencies on the website, including the church being located at the Reeds house in Hempsted by Google, have been corrected and a revision of the website is going to take

place in the Summer. We have tried to respond to church events in appropriate ways to keep up to date and informed.

We must take this opportunity to thank Phil King (and the rest of the team involved) for their work on the parish profile. The Archdeacon (Phil) thought it was one of the best he had seen- a testament to the tremendous amount of hard work involved. We look forward to the exciting time ahead as we welcome our new vicar.

*Elsbeth King*

### **Coffee, cake and conversation**

Once a month, on a Wednesday morning, a small group of us aim to turn the Galilee into something resembling a coffee shop. We bring our home-made cakes, set out small tables and chairs, turn on the coffee machine and put the kettle on in anticipation that people will come. There are some regular visitors, and others who pop in occasionally. We invite the local care homes and we usually have some elderly and disabled residents along with their carers, who really enjoy their visits to us. It is a great way to build relationships with others in our community, and we would like to do this more effectively.

To this end, we have met with Simon Culley who is a community builder employed by Roots café. We have shared ideas with him about how we can better reach out to lonely and isolated folk in our local area and make them aware that we are here. He has undertaken to do some local surveys on our behalf.

A further development has also taken place in recent months. During school holidays, Tracey, Alice and some of the other mums in church have organised craft and games for the children at the same time as we are hosting coffee and cake. In February, this was very successful and the church was buzzing with people. There are tentative plans to extend this to

a weekly activity during the coming summer holidays and include light lunches for the children. We hope to invite some low-income families to this as a way of helping those who normally rely on free school meals. So watch this space!

If anyone would like to join our team of helpers, you would be very welcome. Please speak to Lesley Barrett or myself.

*Hazel Matheson*

## **Health and Safety**

First Aid boxes - there are four First Aid boxes. The main ones are:

- a) in the Church porch to the left of the entrance door on exiting
- b) in the Parish Room to the side of the counter in the main hall

There is a small first aid kit in the vestry by the electric switchboard and a personal first aid kit in the flower arrangers' cupboard near the vestry.

Incident / Accident records - There are accident books in the main first aid boxes and a third one in the vestry.

The annual inspection of the church and parish room was carried out together with a churchwarden after the chancel re-ordering was completed in May. The majority of issues that were identified related to unsafe or inappropriate storage of items in several areas of the church and parish room, particularly in the vestry and the organ loft. These have been dealt with, but are being kept under review.

The latch to the gate at the top of the steps leading to the boiler room was repaired. Concerns from a member of one of the music groups were relayed to the churchwardens about problems related to the illumination of the chancel using floodlights sited on the galilee partition. This has been taken into account.

Please advise a churchwarden and / or Margaret Murphy of any incidents or accidents, concerns about safety or potential health hazards and problems with first aid equipment.

*Margaret Murphy*

## **Chancel Project**

In February 2018 we screened off the Chancel end of the church and turned the church around to face south as the much-awaited Chancel re-ordering work got underway. Four months later all the dusty building work was completed, the screens came down and since then we have been enjoying and experimenting with the new space. As with all projects there have been niggles, but it does feel like the work and the dust is now a distant memory. There are still some minor works to be completed and these are progressing with a small and dedicated in-house team.

The re-ordering project started many years ago, first it was just an idea, but over time it built momentum and the steady accrual of funds enabled the work to start in 2018 and through the year we saw the remaining funds come in. Any fears that we might be short were not realised and God graciously covered all the work through the generosity of the St Catharine's church family and a few trust funds.

We are delighted that the space is now starting to be used by the wider community as word gets around about our facilities. In 2019 we hosted the Worship Foundation Conference in partnership with the Diocese and we have bookings from the Three Choirs Festival this summer and later in the year Gloucestershire Symphony Orchestra. The space is also been well used by our regular congregations with the Thursday service regularly gathering in the new space for worship. The additional flexible space has also proved fantastic for our annual Children's Light Party, Barn Dance and Children's Good Friday Celebration.

Thanks again for all who made the project possible. It is a real blessing for us and will hopefully bless many generations to come.

*James Wenham*

## **Worship Foundation Conference**

In January this year St Catharine's partnered with the Worship Foundation and the Diocese of Gloucester to host a cross denominational conference for those who are involved in contemporary worship within their church. We were really blessed to be joined by 70+ people from in and around Gloucester who were able to share their experiences of this ministry and have some inspiring teaching and encouragement from the Worship Foundation Team who have many years of experience to share. Later in the year we will be hosting Part 2 of the conference and we are looking forward to it.

*James Wenham*

## **St Catharine's Book Group**

2018 opened with an evening of poetry on the theme of Epiphany; we worked hard to source suitable poems, not only about the arrival of the Magi, but also covering the wider sense of the word, indicating sudden moments of revelation. It made for an interesting evening, even though, unfortunately, the readers greatly outnumbered the audience!

Again, this year, we have enjoyed reading and discussing books on wide variety of subjects, ranging from a canal trip across France, a collection of poems by Joyce Bell (who will be remembered by many at St Catharine's), a children's fantasy tale and a fascinating non-fiction work on the lives of sea birds. Our tastes are wide ranging and we are open to suggestions of new titles worth reading.

We are always keen to welcome any new members to our interesting and friendly meetings.

*Liz Edwards*

## **Mission Link**

Mission Link is a sub-committee of the PCC who meet to put forward their recommendations as to how we distribute our mission giving.



In 2018 the church supported the following:

- Yanez family working in Spain - £2,200
- Jane Ingle working in the Cameroon (working for Wycliffe Bible Translators) - £1,000
- Evie Howie for her trip to India - £500

As usual the Mission Link group would like to hear from any of our young people wanting financial support towards their Christian service.

*Jenny Perry*

### **St Catharine's Magazine**

The whole process of creating 10 editions of St Catharine's magazine is supported by a large number of people and, as Editor, I am so grateful for their consistent contributions. This is in addition to the contributors, some of whom are much happier in the digital world, and never open a hard copy! Yes, there are some people in our church who do not read our publication. (That's why Comms Group work hard on different media too).

However back to hardcopy - our mag runs to approximately 200 copies per month, all are freely distributed to the congregations, to Radio Gloucestershire, Cotswold Computer Medic, care homes and individuals who 'pop in' to church just to pick it up. Electronic copies go to the Communications people in the Diocese, to our own Facebook experts and Jo S to put up on the website. Copies are sent to national archives, where we hope every word is read, but suspect not!

The Editorial Team; me, Jo Butler, Diane Carter, John Curtis and Janet Perrin, meet monthly to plan operations, themes, interviews etc. A reminder email is sent out to the parish a week before copydate; the following week is very intense because we try to keep as up to date as possible and only have a week to go from copydate to publication. (That is why the Ed., me, sometimes becomes fraught when items do not appear when promised or technology goes AWOL.) I have the support of Richard Hussey during this

process, he who can solve almost every technical hitch. Occasionally we tear our hair out when we see the final product, having missed something which looks so obvious in print. Proof readers work on the Wednesday- Diane, Janet, Jo and John in turn.

Pat Hussey, no relation, takes the process on from Thursday, printing upstairs in the office when Jo S. is not around. She is supported by David Nicholls and until recently by Jan Ogden. Come Friday a whole new team appear. Current collaters are Joyce and Bob Merrett, Rosemary Rice, Ian Hill, Biddy Hudd, John Curtis and Pat Hussey. During the year we also had Carmen, Don, Kathy, Jan and Barry

The purpose of our enthusiastic efforts is to keep information flowing, to inspire on occasion and remind on others; to help everyone feel connected. (It seems our new incumbent is an avid Twitter person so that may well be another strand of communications.)

*Lesley B Barrett*

## **Hospitality**

Hospitality plays an important part of St Catharine's Church life. There are many opportunities to enjoy great fellowship with our church family and to meet those that walk through our doors.

Coffee time on a Sunday - a wonderful time for people from both services to meet one another.

Coffee, cake and conversation – entertaining groups from local Care Homes, a time to chat, play games, and during the school holidays the group is joined by the sound of children, a time for all ages to get together.

Open Church Lunch – a time to enjoy a good home cooked meal with great fellowship. The feedbacks are things like, - it's good to have a meal prepared and put before you when you are a working mum. It's good to share a meal with others rather than eating on your own at home. The

children love it because there is always pudding. Cooking for approx 70 people once a month would not happen if it were not for the team of wonderful cooks, so grateful thanks to you all.

Occasions like the Caring Community services end with, mince pies, hot cross buns depending on the time of year. Tea and cake to welcome newcomers to St Catharine's are just some of our hospitality events.

We took Hospitality out into the Parish this year cooking a meal for the Night Stop project at the City Mission, over the winter we have provided meals for 10 – 15 people on a regular basis, a wonderful opportunity to help the homeless, this is something we have wanted to do for a while.

If hospitality is something you would like to get involved with speak to anyone wearing a St Catharine's apron and they will point you in the right direction.

*Rachel Barton*

## **Mothers' Union**

St Catharine's branch of the Mothers' Union belongs to Gloucester City Deanery in the Diocese of Gloucester, we have 30 members.

Our speakers in 2018 included the Revd John Itumu telling us about his sabbatical in 2017, Revd Michael Butler explaining church rituals and the reasons behind them and Katherine Lawson a member of our church family telling us about her time in Sierra Leone.

We had two outings in 2018 the first in June to Hartpury church and the bee shelter that is situated at the far end of the church yard, followed by tea and cake in Trioscape garden centre. On our second outing in September we went to Kites Corner home to the James Hopkins Trust, it made us all aware how important a local children's charity is that provides much needed nursing and respite care for Gloucestershire families.

Our garden party in the gardens of Guild House raised £130 and our usual cake stall on Mothering Sunday raised £155 all proceeds going to Mothers' Union projects.

Members continue to go into Guild House for knit and natter we are also responsible twice a year for flowers in the Mothers' Union chapel at the Cathedral.

We meet on the third Thursday in the month at 2.15pm all are welcome not just MU members, please join us.

*Pat Hussey Branch Leader*

### **Food Bank**

Congratulations everyone - including Harvest donations (which have recently gone to GARAS), this year looks like being our best for at least 6 years. I'm sure we can still do better, especially if new members join in.

Please consider buying a little extra sometimes and leaving it in the baskets under the table in the Galilee. The law does not allow them to use home-made items or any which are not still sealed in their original packaging. Please check "best before dates" as we deliver items weekly but not always on the same day. Items commonly in short supply are long-life milk and fruit juice, tinned vegetables and potatoes etc. but most well-dated food and hygiene items are much appreciated.

*Graham Appleton*

### **St Catharine's Church Belles**

We are a social group which has been running for over forty years (previously called Young Mums). We meet up monthly, generally in members' homes, and pay an annual subscription of £5 – extra for some outside events. We enjoy this opportunity to get together with friends we have known over so many years. Sadly we learned in July that our dear friend Ailsa had died and we miss her – many of us had known her and Ken since St Catharine's playgroup days and their sons attended Sunday School.

We look forward to still seeing Ken at our walks, garden visits, summer social and skittles.

Our year commenced with the always popular book evening. This year featured children's books – our favourite books as a child and ones we have enjoyed with our own children/grandchildren. On 13 February some of us cooked and served pancakes during the annual Shrove Tuesday Beetle Drive in the church hall, an event which is attended and enjoyed by all ages. Then a week later we watched the first two episodes of 'The Crown' on DVD and enjoyed cinema-style refreshments. In March we met for an Italian meal at Topoly's in Southgate Street and in April we held a bring-and-buy to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society and added a donation from our funds. Royal events dominated the news in May – the wedding/new baby – so we shared mementoes of visits to palaces/castles, books, old newspaper/magazine articles, stories of involvement in royal visits and more.

Each June some of our members are very involved with the Church Fete, not just on the day itself but in the weeks leading up to this annual event. Also in June and July we enjoyed two outdoor events with partners/friends – first a walk at Frampton-on-Severn followed by refreshments at 'The Bell' on the Green. The garden visit was to our very own Hillfield Gardens and drinks at the England's Glory afterwards. In August we had our summer social with BBQ/bring-and-share supper to which partners/friends are invited to join us. In September we met up to discuss a programme for 2019. We had an evening of nostalgia in October when we were asked to bring indoor games – there were so many different ones, ancient and modern. For the Craft Fayre in Church early in November some of us were involved in organising refreshments for stallholders and customers where our paninis have become legendary. Then a week later we had our annual Skittles Match and supper at the 'Great Western' – another event including partners/friends – finishing off the year with our Christmas party.

Not all our members are worshippers at St Catharine's, indeed some are from other denominations, but we keep the group informed of Church events throughout the year and appreciate their support.

*Barbara Wakeham*

## **Church Hall**

The church hall has continued to have its regular users (St Catharine's under Fives, St Catharine's Over 60s, Guitar Group, Slimming World and Weight-Watchers). There was also a steady stream of occasional users, in 2018, for parties and other ad hoc bookings.

Regrettably, over the Christmas holidays, the hall was broken into and some valuable equipment belonging to the Under Fives playgroup was stolen. For this reason some windows needed to be replaced and the wardens have been in dialogue with the playgroup in order to make further security arrangements. The wardens have also secured a plumber to repair issues in the ladies' toilets. This work will take place during the last weekend in May 2019.

Also, the playgroup has decorated the outside wall and the lobby of the hall at their own expense – and our thanks go to them for this.

Finally, after a request from the PCC, a member of our church family has generously taken on board the task of making repairs to the hall floor which should be taking place over the late May half term holidays.

Once again the charges for use of the hall have increased a little to keep in line with inflation.

The church continues to be pleased to make its church hall available for use to the community so long as the bookings are compatible with Christian principles or do not cause undue nuisance to neighbours.

*Jo Sanders*



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

This year has been overshadowed by two things, the restructuring of the whole Traidcraft organisation and most recently by the death of our friend Jan Ogden who has faithfully looked after the money side of our small operation here at St Catharine's for years. We will miss her so much.

The plc has been trying very hard by encouraging us Fairtraders to up our sales etc etc but have found that they could not retain the trading model as was. Therefore over last autumn they consulted all interested parties and came up with the new plan. This unfortunately entailed cutting ties with many producers, often small projects, and mainly of the handmade crafts which adorned the catalogues. The grocery lines have been refined but quality has been maintained.

As a Fairtrade Church (even tho our certificate has vanished) we serve fairly-traded teas and coffees when we entertain (even tho some are not Traidcraft). We have a small base of customers who regularly buy coffee, tea, chocolate, loo rolls and socks. We also welcome occasional shoppers and our weekly sales are about £20. We took the stall out to the Cathedral Christmas Market although our team was depleted from the enthusiastic support which Carmen always provided before she became unwell. Joy is taking over the financial side of things and the weekly team also includes Angie, Barbara, Elspeth, Sylvia and myself. There are career opportunities for one or two more interested people!

We try to encourage sales and raise the awareness of the need to help others to overcome poverty by trade. Traidcraft is also a campaigning organisation and there are sometimes postcards which can be sent off to support their campaigns. Traidcraft Exchange is the charity arm and is having to work extra hard to raise funds to support those producers who

have been hit by the restructuring of the plc. The Spring catalogues have recently arrived and I was delighted to see that some craft products are still included. Do have a look and see if you need, or would like to buy, something from them.

*Lesley B Barrett*

### **Care Home Visiting Team**

We started the year with visits to seven elderly care homes by members of the team. One Home has now closed, so we are down to six. Each Home is visited once a month, where we spend some time chatting to residents and conducting a short service with hymns, Bible story and Holy Communion. In some Homes, we are also asked to take Communion to individuals in their rooms. We receive a warm welcome from staff and residents, on the whole, and our visits are really appreciated.

We aim to relate our services to current themes throughout the church year, choosing Bible stories and hymns as appropriate. Advent, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest are all celebrated. We also hold a Remembrance service at Bohanam House in November, and are grateful to Don Humphries for his help in this regard.

Over this year our team has lost three members, and gained another three. We are really pleased to welcome Jenny Perry, Carol Baker and Pamela Dewick to the team, which also consists of Jo Butler, Diane Carter, Ian and Sandy Hill, Lesley Reed and myself. There's room for more visitors, if anyone else would like to join us.

We try to involve care homes in the wider life of the church. This year we invited them to participate in special events like the Nativity day in December, and a number of them did so. We inform them of our coffee mornings and lunch-time concerts and they do attend and enjoy these



occasions. We bring the church magazine to the homes so that residents and staff can keep up to date.

Two key events each year are the Christmas and Easter services for caring communities. All care homes in the Parish, and some outside it, are invited to share in an afternoon of drama, singing, prayers and refreshments in the church. A big team of volunteers are recruited to help. Last Easter we had around 70 guests and at Christmas we broke records for attendance with over 80, in addition to about 20 volunteers.

My thanks to all who give up their time and energy to enable this ministry to continue.

*Hazel Matheson*

## St Catharine's Parochial Church Council 2018

<b>Incumbent</b>	Revd John Itumu (part year)
<b>Curate</b>	Revd David Whale (part year)

The Parish has been in vacancy since mid-July 2018

### Standing Committee

Revd John Itumu	Chair
Mrs Rachel Barton	Churchwarden and Chair during the vacancy
Mr Brian Champion	Churchwarden
Mrs Jenny Perry	Treasurer
Mr Alastair Muir	Resources (resigned)
Revd David Whale	
Mrs Rachel Howie	PCC Secretary (Co-opted – 1 year)

### PCC Members

Mrs Jane Peak	Deanery Synod Representative
Mrs Pamela Dewick	Deanery Synod Representative
Mrs Beth Jackson (resigned)	Deanery Synod Representative
Mr James Wenham	
Mr Edmund Reed	Deanery Synod Representative
Mr Phil King	
Mr Graham Dyer	
Mrs Sonya Newton (resigned)	
Mr Jonathan Wasunna-Smith	
Mrs Alice Yarsley	