



Trinity
Churches

Annual Review of 2017



Living for Jesus

Loving One another

Setting a table for the world



Annual Review of 2017

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For the financial accounts for 2017, and the electoral roll, please see the files available in church, or go to www.trinitychurches.org/review

Start Here

I was reminded recently of a conversation written near the beginning of "The Hobbit." Gandalf, the wizard, comes to Bilbo and says "I am looking for someone to share in an adventure that I am arranging, and it's very difficult to find anyone." Bilbo – the small hobbit – says "I should think so. We are plain quiet folk and have no use for adventures. Nasty disturbing uncomfortable things! Make you late for dinner! I can't think what anybody sees in them." Gandalf replies "You'll have a tale or two to tell when you come back... and if you do come back, you will not be the same."

I suspect Bilbo speaks for many of us today. I know in me there's often a reluctance to step out, a hesitancy in trying new things, and an unwillingness to truly trust God. "We are plain quiet folk and have no use for adventures." And yet this report – and God's amazing family here at Trinity Churches – is testament to the many adventures of faith taking place all across the parish and beyond.

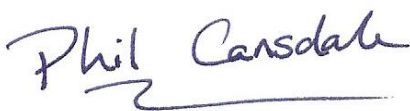
And as Gandalf says "you will not be the same when you come back." That's one of the amazing things about life-long and whole-life discipleship, living out this amazing call to follow Jesus Christ. As we follow we are changed, and as we are changed so we follow more, and bring others with us. It's always a joy to see this in action.

Alongside the regular articles this year features various people describing where they will be "this time tomorrow", and a reminder that this adventure is not just lived out on a Sunday within the walls of a church, but "by everyone, everywhere, everyday, and in everything."

There's an ancient prayer which talks about adventures, and coming home again. It reads as follows:

"May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you. May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you. May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors."

With thanks, as always, for you all as fellow adventurers, whom it remains a privilege to serve and lead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Cansdale". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Phil Cansdale, Vicar

Living Stones 2017



At the 2017 APCM we stood outside in the church gardens, remembering the group of people who stood in an identical place one hundred and fifty years to the day earlier as the foundation stone of Holy Trinity Church was laid.

The “old” church at the heart of Meole Brace had grown too small and needed huge improvements. Using land taken from the old Vicarage and garden, the new building was to be larger, more beautiful, and more suited to the growing village of Meole Brace and the emerging ministry of the local church.

One hundred and fifty years later, we invited a new generation of people to get involved in building the church today. We launched four projects to equip us in our call to be “setting at able for the world” in the communities of Meole Brace and Radbrook Green, as well as further afield:

- installing a bespoke projection system at Holy Trinity which will resource our worship, encourage creativity, and be more appropriate for such a stunning building
- refurbishing Café Connect which will enhance our hospitality, develop our mission in the community, and be more attractive as a venue at the heart of Radbrook Green
- enlarging the footprint of the Meole Estate Meet Place which will provide more space, increase our capacity, and be a partnership with others at the heart of the local community
- blessing the Fletcher family in Bangkok, as they seek to be “salt and light” in their community and to develop their work in Khlong Toey slum, particularly following a devastating fire recently

We invited people to “pray / serve / give” towards each of these areas, getting involved in different ways in building up the work of the church for generations to come. Our ambitious target was £100,000 for all of the projects, and we are delighted to say that by the end of 2017 we had reached, and have now exceeded, that initial sum.

Here’s a review of where the projects have got to.



Let’s start at **Holy Trinity Church**, where a team spent a fortnight installing our new projection system at the end of November. If you came to one of our services at some stage over Advent and Christmas then you might well have seen it in action. I remember the look on parents’ faces when they could see their children so much more clearly from the back row of a packed school nativity. Or the

opening video at the carol services about God's light shining in the darkness, and everyone being able to see and take part! Or the young person running around church with a phone camera on Christmas morning which linked to the three main screens, and space once again at the front of our beautiful church for readings, drama and prayer. Initial feedback has been outstanding, including from some of those people who were more concerned or cautious about the project at first. And – for those at our 9am service – one of the beauties of the system it is all hidden in the rafters, and so one can barely see it when it is not in use.



Secondly let's move further afield to **Bangkok**, where the Fletchers are living and working in Klong-Toey slum. Jon and Elise tell us that the houses and walkways are progressing nicely, though "at the usual slow pace of any change in Thailand"! The proposed walkways are partially built, they have engaged a builder for the renovations, and work is currently underway before the worst of the hot season arrives. Let's keep praying that they can get this important work done over these next few weeks and months.



We come now to the Meole Estate, and our plans to support, resource and fund an **extension the Meet Place** at the heart of our local community. We've been working very closely with MECA, the Meole Estate Community Association, who are the main group "on the ground" who represent the local area. There have been a number of meetings before Christmas and into the new year with Severnside, the main housing provider in the area and owner of the Meet Place, with plans being discussed, ideas shared and agreements sought. We're pleased to report that these positive conversations and plans continue, though we aren't able yet to report a definite timescale from here. A new staff appointment, and the hope of an enlarged building, feels like an exciting new chapter in our long-term commitment to the flourishing of the Meole Estate.



We finish in Radbrook Green, and our plans to **refurbish Café Connect**, now celebrating fifteen years of service. They say "Rome wasn't built in a day", and the same could be said for this particular part of the Living Stones wall! We've asked Co-op, our landlord there, for the work to be carried out, but they aren't currently able to give us the authority to go ahead with the work until their own refurbishment plans for the wider store have been approved. And so as we continue these discussions, and await their decisions. In the meantime over Easter 2018 we used a small amount of the money raised for some interim purchases of a complete redecoration of the café, and some furniture and other necessary improvements to equipment which will help develop the café in the short and medium term. Please be assured of our desire and commitment to complete this project, and very much expect the refurbishment will go ahead.

Phil Cansdale

Holy Trinity Meole Brace

There are three congregations on a Sunday – meeting at 9am, 10.45am, and 6.30pm – as well as many events and activities throughout the week, including a Thursday morning communion service. As the back page of Connect 2 reminds people, “Sundays, midweek activities, old and young alike, there really is something for everyone...”

9am congregation

The Sunday 9am Service of Holy Communion is a lovely, friendly congregation. Our normal attendance has been steady at about 65, but unusually cold weather has prevented some people from attending regularly during the winter, causing fluctuations in numbers. We are delighted that with a new birth within the congregation, we now have three young children!

After her priesting in June our curate, Charlotte, has now joined Phil, Charles and Valerie in presiding at communion. It was sad to say “goodbye” to Fi Iddon and Hannah Lins who were often found to be leading or preaching following their ordinations and moving elsewhere.

As our mission links, we support Neville Willerton and the Church Army both financially and in prayer and are glad to welcome Neville to speak at our services. We also support Meole Brace Church of England Primary School and the Severn Hospice in prayer. During the summer we had another successful and popular garden party.

We continue to be grateful to our faithful and talented music group, who often give us some lovely musical treats during or our service, and to our wardens and those who serve on the rota to make our services flow smoothly.



Valerie Pitt

10.45am congregation

The 10.45 service – or more realistically should that be 10.50am? – continues to provide opportunities for people to worship God, to grow in faith, and to get equipped for discipleship in their everyday lives. Behind some of the many complex issues of rotas, PA systems and parking arrangements lies a group of people of all ages who are learning together what it might look like to be lifelong and whole-life disciples.

We explored some big themes over 2017. “God’s amazing family” was a welcome reminder of what it is to be a congregation of all ages, and I would want to pay tribute to the amazing teams involved in Trinity Kids, Trinity Youth, and all-age worship. There’s so much we have to learn when it comes to developing a church for all ages, and I look forward to learning what this looks like together over the next months and years.

Meanwhile “whole-life worship” was a reminder that our corporate worship on a Sunday morning need flow into our week, and our weeks flow back into our services. A particular thank you to those involved in leading our worship – musical, liturgical and preaching; it has been especially encouraging to see some new leaders emerge in these areas. Of course the projection system, installed just before Christmas, provided a very welcome new resource which has helped the 10.45 in particular to be more creative and more inclusive.

As the year went on we talked about what it looks like to “love one another.” Big Sunday lunch, developing prayer ministry, and our pastoral arrangements can go some of the way to doing this, though it has to be said we have a long way to go. The 10.45 is most often the service that visitors and newcomers “check out”, bringing with it the need to be developing our welcome and being a place where not only are we “friendly” but also a place to make genuine friendships. I’m so pleased when I hear stories where we get this right, but do sometimes hear when we don’t. I said to a small group of people recently that “unless it’s your first week here you’re all part of the welcome team.” Please do help us to be welcoming, and a hospitable place to belong.

Phil Cansdale


6.30pm congregation

The last twelve months has certainly been a time of growth for the 6.30pm congregation, with autumn 2017 and spring 2018 in particular seeing us regularly grow to 40+ people, and outgrow the chancel area. Lack of space is always a great problem to have, and we’ve been discussing and discerning as a leadership team how best to respond to this for the rest of 2018.

I hope we’ve grown in depth as well as in size. The “This Time Tomorrow” slots have felt an important part of who we are as a congregation, and regular opportunities to encourage each other in this way. Preaching series have included the book of James, Queen Esther, and the minor prophets. Prayer ministry has been developed, and regular opportunities to be praying with and for each other.

We also continue to be a place where people who are part of other churches can “come and be” rather than “serve and do”. This feels an important gift that this service – and us all as a parish – can be to other local churches. Further afield we have also benefitted from being prayerful towards our mission partners, including the Fletchers in Bangkok and the Bible Society.

Phil Cansdale

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Name: Rebecca</p> <p>This Time Tomorrow? I will be spending quality time with my Husband and two Sons. It’s a joy to watching my children grow up, learning about God, life and love. Treating people how they want to be treated. Learning about them as individuals, living, loving and laughing with them.</p> |
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Midweek Congregation

The midweek Holy Communion service takes place on the chancel at Holy Trinity Church on Thursday mornings at 10am. During 2017, numbers generally held up well, despite some rather varied weather conditions.

The congregation are loyal, loving and caring towards each other and the service has a warm and comfortable atmosphere. Those coming for the first time are welcomed into a friendly and very special family.

Once a month, this service is followed by Thursday Fellowship, an opportunity to chat over a cup of coffee, which is very popular, especially as this congregation has a reluctance to leave at the end of the service.

Shirley Stevens

The Church of Christ the King

It has been a joy to be able to join in the mission of this community church in Radbrook since taking over from Hannah Lins who left to commence her curacy in summer 2017.

We enjoy a healthy 35 plus regulars on a Sunday morning in the community centre, with a dedicated team of folks serving in practical ways to ensure the 'flat pack' nature of our worship runs smoothly. This includes a hefty amount of furniture removal, computer and PA set up as well as musicians, and the ever faithful Eric and Doreen who serve hot drinks after the service.

Despite every one pulling together, set up and music are not without their struggles. On occasion we are without live music and have to resort to the 'canned' variety and as many of our members get a little older, setting up can sometimes seem an impossible task.

Living for Jesus, Loving One Another

The congregation at CTK have a wonderful heart for God, His word and for one another. Home groups are well attended and proved a place of nurture and support. Pastoral care is considered a high priority and I am certain that when anyone is struggling, they are well loved, prayed for and cared for by their brothers and sisters at CTK. It is a safe place to be in difficulty which, this year, has proved to be a very good thing.



Setting a table for the World

As a community church, our heart is for mission which transforms communities. Much of this is expressed in the work of the Café Connect, at Radbrook House and the Nursing Home.


We took the decision this year to reinvent our 'Messy Church', moving it from a monthly event at the community centre to a weekly after school drop in at the café. Called 'A Little Bit Messy', we are enjoying the relationships that are being built with families from Radbrook School through this regular weekly contact.

This year has also seen Christmas carol singing in the Inn on the Green, Christmas Eve in the café and Hot Cross bun give away on Easter Saturday. Our Easter Sunday service attracted many guests with our numbers swelling to 65.

We continue to hold a monthly prayer meeting in the café to pray particularly for the work of CTK and God's presence in the community and we look forward to what He has for us in 2018.

With special thanks from me to our lone warden Judith Drury for all her work and love for the community.

Charlotte Gompertz

| | |
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|  | <p>Name: Terry</p> <p>This Time Tomorrow? Visiting a friend in a nursing home. It's a joy to visit a friend, a challenge to communicate with someone aged 97 who is almost totally deaf, blind and bedridden but mentally alert.</p> |
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Outreach at CTK

As we reflect back on 2017 it is encouraging to see how we have progressed forward in Radbrook.

We continue to work with café Connect management and volunteers, encouraging and supporting them with new projects they hold in the café. Such as Dementia friendly café afternoons and A little bit Messy after school club.

We have developed stronger links with the Co-op and the Inn on the Green, and their Community outreach. As Community Chaplain I look forward to working with and encouraging them to reach out to this community through fun days, helping young people to develop a community spirit in 2018. We look forward to continue to help with Community Teas at the Community Centre each month.

We support our local school, Radbrook surgery, and the Radbrook shops and Radbrook Nursing Home by encouraging them and providing support when needed.

We have an amazing relationship with Radbrook House residents, who enjoy a monthly afternoon tea with us at Radbrook House apartments. It is encouraging to see how they have developed into this lovely fellowship of good neighbours and always willing to support each other through good times and bad times. I thank God for their encouragement to us in all we do in mission on Radbrook.

We welcome Keith and Amal to Radbrook, our new Pioneer Ministers for Meole and Radbrook and look forward to working on new ideas to be a blessing to our community. We look forward to an exciting 2018.

Ollie Abbott

Meole Estate Ministries

It's been a year of change on the Meole Estate, with the retirement of Gordon Lamb in the summer of 2017, and him and Jane leaving Meole Brace. Amidst some of these changes it's been hugely encouraging to see people step up in leadership, groups continue to meet, and the long-term work of the kingdom continue.

The Meet Place continues to be the main focus of ministry on the Meole Estate. "Bacon Buddies" meets every Thursday, and sees different groups of people get together in the community, including police and the local councillor. "MBrace" is a weekly singing group on Monday afternoons, whilst mainly for senior citizens "Knit and Natter" and "Bible and Bingo" meet fortnightly do what it says on the tin! There's also a Wednesday weekly small group with more of a discipleship angle called "Deeper". Whilst numbers aren't always



huge at these events there has been clear growth in the lives of individuals, and a sense of the patient growth which often lies at the heart of the kingdom of God.

The "Living Stones" appeal in 2017 gave an exciting impetus to grow our capacity in Meole Brace, with plans to support, resource and fund the extension the Meet Place. It's been a joy to see MECA – the Meole Estate community Association – come to the fore, and work with other partners in the local community in dreaming what the new resource might look like.

And – in January 2018 – we were thrilled to announce that Keith and Amal Moore were going to take on the new "Community Pioneer Minister" role, working across the parish and being available to resource and equip areas of ministry and mission on the Meole Estate. Beginning just before Easter 2018, we very much expect that a new staff appointment, and the hope of an enlarged building, feels like an exciting new chapter in our long-term commitment to the flourishing of the Meole Estate.

Phil Cansdale

The Trinity Centre



This year is significant for the Trinity Centre as it is 10 years since we opened. Our celebration weekend of in April 2018 provides plenty of opportunities for everyone - including clients past and present - to celebrate with us and give thanks to God for his provision.

The surplus that the Trinity Centre generates is dwindling year-on-year, mainly because of rising costs but there is room for growth in all areas so we are using this anniversary year as an opportunity to increase the quality and spread of our marketing.

The number of folk coming through the doors, the quality of welcome we are able to offer and the standard of maintenance, remains constant and we are delighted to be working with Ben Waters who is our daily cleaner, to achieve this. A series of heating breakdowns over the winter reminded us not to take the warm cosiness of the Centre for granted.



We are working to improve the entrance by better signage, better lighting and some new planters. The Centre received a fresh lick of paint in the Summer as well as work to the Hall floor, to keep it both beautiful and resilient. Parking has become somewhat of an issue in recent months and we are working with our guests, towards better control of parking in the church grounds and maintenance of access for emergency vehicles.

Bookings are steady with the take-up of smaller rooms by counsellors and therapists increasing. Wedding receptions are down on last year but the take-up of our shorter post-event refreshments package is increasing – this bridges the gap between the wedding and reception and takes care of guests while photos are being taken, and is proving popular.

We are delighted with the new banners in Bradbury Hall, and are grateful to Agnes Evans and her team for all their hard work. New members always welcome.

Planned for the coming year are some work to freshen the reception notice boards, works to the buttresses in the courtyard which are stained, and replacement of blinds in the Fiwila Room and the office.

Helen Hinton

**This Time
Tomorrow
?**

Name: Pearl

This Time Tomorrow? I will be with my grand children. My challenge is for me to do something to help others, where this will take me I do not know, only time will tell.

Café Connect continued to be a focal point in the community in Radbrook, reaching out with the servant heart of Jesus.

We have a lot of regular customers who really enjoy coming to the café and we have more and more customers in general, especially during autumn and winter.

In 2017 we had plans for doing a complete refurbishment of the café but unfortunately we are still waiting for our landlord, the Co-op to sign a new lease with us. The refurb will happen, we have the money that was raised through the Living Stones project, we just have to be patient. In the meantime some decorating and essential improvements will take place in 2018.

We prayed a lot in the summer for new volunteers to join the café and our prayers were answered, we have a strong work force of 46 volunteers!

We have continued to support The Ark with donated foodstuffs and money, close to £600 was donated by our customers.

We collected 112 Easter eggs for the charity Shrewsbury Houses For All, and 78 hampers for Christmas.

During the year we've had a number of students doing volunteering for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, a couple of students doing work experience and three international students doing work experience. The international students work fulltime and are a tremendous help in the summer when a lot of our regular volunteers are on holiday.

There were a few activities run by the church at Café Connect, they are:

Youth club run by Matt Guildler and Abby Liew with about 7 students attending.

Little Messy run by Charlotte Gompertz and Judith Clarkson with a varying number of children and parents attending.

Breakfast Club run by Judith Drury and Charlotte Tonks with around 11 children attending.

Prayer for Healing happens once a month and is run by Caryl Roscoe.

Ollie Abbot continued to do dementia friendly coffee mornings once a month.

The café also supports and sponsors community tea once a month, this is run by Rita Davies.

The co-managers, Lissi Small and Dave Aberley would like to thank all the volunteers and all workers that participate in the running of everything in and around the café!

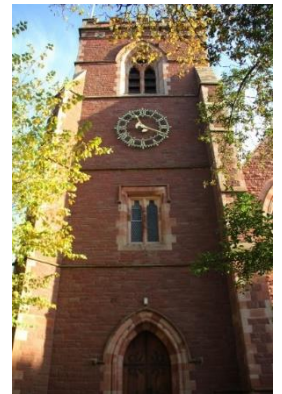


Lissi Small

Holy Trinity Church

The Blessings of a Building.

Compared with previous years not a lot has been done to the church fabric in 2017. However, we have successfully carried out the installation of a new AV system, inside the building. This has benefited many of our major services, over the turn of the year. Care of our building and its environs includes the normal and the unusual, and owes much to hard working Maintenance Manager, Mike Hinton and Operations Manager, William Small, who between them coordinate the upkeep of our fabric.



Car parking capacity continues to challenge, with an increase in both the use of the Trinity Centre and the Church itself, and as we try to juggle these needs with the use of the football field. We believe our response as a church to this is appreciated by the local community.

The unusual weather, just before Christmas 2017, included the decimation of one of the churchyards larger yew trees by the snow. We are also dealing with a collapsed tomb in the churchyard, more apparent now that the yew tree has undergone surgery, but fortunately the responsibility of the council. Thanks to all who, quietly behind the scenes, keep that churchyard tidy.

We have an upcoming Quinquennial Inspection, later in 2018, always a potential source of surprises.

Mike Haddaway and Erica Staples

Flower Guild

We always seem to start these Reports with “another busy year...” – because it always is, however, this year has finished on a particularly challenging note with the installation of the new AV system and especially the very heavy snow. Not being able to access the church while the system went in meant that our Remembrance arrangements with their lovely silk poppies served us for a full month – which in some ways was actually rather nice as there has been so much more interest in remembering the casualties from all the battlefields over the past year or so.

Decorating for Christmas with only 7 of the usual 20+ volunteers able to get through the snow was even more challenging, especially as we only had two hours as there was a wedding following us!! We decided that we would do as much as we could and hope for the best - and actually found that the Lord provided us with time – in “loaves and fishes” fashion and thanks to Him and to having already decided to do different window arrangements which included large candles which we simply dressed with foliage and silk poinsettias we actually managed to do almost as much as usual, and everyone seemed to be very happy with it – and especially the bride and groom which was lovely!!

We are so grateful for all the help we get from our wonderful team and for the very nice comments that we get which make the hard work more than worthwhile!!

Judith Haddaway and Nicky Purcell

Bellringing

Our band of ringers at Holy Trinity, Meole Brace continue in their commitment and improvement. We have eighteen active ringers with ages ranging from Joshua and Thomas who are thirteen to Lewis Roberts who is more than three times their combined ages. (The ringers will tell you that there is often a bit of maths as part of our hobby!) Lewis received a long service award from the Shropshire Association of Church Bell Ringers when we hosted their AGM in January.



Ringling for Sunday worship remains our top priority. The newly trained band did this for the first time in January 2014 and on Easter Day the record will stand at 219 consecutive Sundays without fail. The timing and control has improved and the variation increased but the main thing is that we do it in the name of, and to the glory of, God.

The first wedding of 2018 was on 24th March and if you hear us ringing on Cup Final day it will not be for the footie but, in common with bells all over the country, for Harry and Meghan. In November there will be lots of ringing, some of it half-muffled, for the centenary of the Armistice. In the meantime we look forward to visits, outings, special occasions and welcoming visitors to ring here at Meole.

We hope you enjoy listening as much as we enjoy ringing!

Michael Carding

**This Time
Tomorrow**

?

Name: Martin

This Time Tomorrow? Some days I work alongside a small group of wonderful people whose colourful lives are a constant reminder of 21st century culture and all its pastoral challenges. Other days I work from home - alone, in peace and quiet and indulging myself in reading, writing and thought.

Life-Long Discipleship

Toddler Groups

Our two toddler groups - Trinity Tots at the Trinity Centre on a Monday afternoon and First Steps at Radbrook Community Centre on a Thursday morning - are both thriving places of safe fun, craft and time to chat. Each group has its own particular feel, although both are run in exactly the same way. Through our Christ-like attitude toward those who attend the groups together with craft and stories to reflect the Christian calendar, we hope that some will come to see Jesus as essential in their lives.



Each term we have a theme based on the “Dot To Tot” series of books for pre-schoolers. Each term we finish by having a small service, applicable to the time of the year.

At First Steps we average 30 children plus their carers each week, we have a good team to “man” our group, but I want to say a big thank you to Doreen and Eric Hedges who are the mainstay for refreshments. We also had to say a sad farewell to Sheila Parsons who had been helping each week for a number of years, sitting and chatting to those she felt were on their own. We also said hello to two new recruits to the team Lisa Wilson and Keith Booles, both whom have settled well!! At Trinity Tots we usually have around 15 children plus their carers each week. This team is also an integral part of the service that we offer to our families each week, enabling them to chat, hold a baby or just to watch over a child.

We try to encourage the families to come to other church initiatives such as Little Buds, our monthly ‘Messy’ toddler church, and also to the other Messy Churches held at Holy Trinity Meole Brace. Our Friday morning monthly Toddler Church is a very informal gathering with craft activities, a (very) short service in church and then a cooked lunch. It has been very encouraging to see a growth in the numbers coming to this activity, especially with people coming from the toddler groups or baptism families, who maybe don’t usually go to church.

A big thank you to all those who help in any way with the groups, and to Judith Clarkson for all her encouragement.

Carol Booles

Trinity Kids

We have had an interesting year at Trinity Kids with new, enthusiastic leaders coming forward – thank you! Numbers of children attending each week fluctuate considerably with an average of 20 children each Sunday. This means that each week groups are made up of different children which makes continuity of what we are doing and planning more difficult. We are in the process of changing our programme which is exciting as it will give us more flexibility in how we lead our groups and provide the right opportunities to make sure we enable all our children to grow in their faith and become 24/7 worshippers, whatever their age.

Our We Roc small group is thriving on a Monday evening with 14 children attending (yrs3/4 and yrs5/6 on alternating weeks). It's great to be able to go a bit deeper in these sessions with the children and good relationships are formed so that they can support each other. Sunday morning crèche is thriving with lots of new little ones, so much so that we out grew the Tower Vestry! A new team of volunteers has been formed and we now use the vestry room for parents and babies to go into and we are using the Glebe Room for a manned crèche for those under 3s who are able to be left. It is a great place – full of joy as the children play and sing and listen to stories in a loving, caring environment.

Judith Clarkson

Work in Primary Schools

We continue with our weekly assemblies at Meole Brace and Radbrook primary schools and never cease to be amazed at the way the children remember the smallest details of the stories from week to week and at the end of term quiz. For the first time in December we did a Christmas Experience in the Trinity Centre, having been requested to do so by the school with yrs1 and 2. It was lovely to be able to tell the story through activities and drama and each child went away with a bag containing a reminder of the different parts of the Nativity story to share at home.

Easter Experience was successful with both schools coming down to explore why Easter is so important to Christians. We had nearly 200 children visit during the two afternoons! Thank you to the amazing team of helpers who made this possible.

Our lunchtime drop in at Meole continues to be popular with a wide ranging array of questions and thoughts brought by the children to discuss. It is great to give them the opportunity to come and talk – even when we don't often have an answer! Our prayer space this year was based on Psalm 139 and we looked in different ways at how we are all special and unique and loved by God.

At Radbrook we have been pleased to be involved in the school fayres and delighted they once again came to church for their harvest service. We continue to look for different ways in which we can be involved in our schools.



Meole Brace
C of E Primary School and Nursery

Judith Clarkson

Messy Church

Messy Church Meole Brace meets regularly on the first Thursday of the month. We have on average 60 people attending, including families from school, toddler groups and our baptism families. The hall is always buzzing with activity and conversations and we have an amazing team of leaders who plan and help lead the activities. It would be lovely to have others come along who could be available to spot the people who need an individual conversation, which it is hard to do when leading crafts and making sure everyone is safe!



It has been good this year to have a couple of youngsters who have moved on to secondary school but come back to help at Messy Church. Our time of celebration in

church is lively and we are hoping to be able to use the new AV equipment to broaden our repertoire of songs and prayers. A delicious meal is a key part of what we do as part of our hospitality and a chance to get to know our families better.

Questions we are now grappling with are firstly how do we go deeper with our families and start to disciple them? It is so easy to lose track of families who have been committed to Messy Church as they leave primary school. Secondly, Messy Church has very much been seen as for families with primary aged children, but we would like to change that to include anyone who finds it helpful to worship in a creative way – and we are conscious that a key part of discipling is people of all ages sharing experiences and stories so it would be great if our Messy Church congregation was made up of a wider range of ages.

Judith Clarkson

Pathfinders and Anon , Midweek Life Groups & Schools

I heard a radio item recently about how difficult it is to be a young person and a Christian in the UK today. Pressures within and without make it a difficult adventure to walk as teenagers, and so if nothing else we should pray for the many young people who we have regular contact with, as well as be encouraged that there are many signs of life in our work with young people at the moment.

Over most of 2017 we continued to work within Matt Guilder's three-fold understanding of "COMMUNITY - LIFE - CHURCH":



Our work in the community continues to seek to build communities of young people who engage positively in the activities. We continued to work in partnership with Shrewsbury Town Council, and in particular on the Thursday evening youth club on the Meole Estate, encouraging the young people who attend to take an active part in their local community. Work continued in local schools, as well as in Café Connect.

Our life groups are the core of much of what happens midweek, meeting Monday and Tuesday evenings as a place where young people can come together and find support from each other and from leaders in their journey of faith. It was – as always - a joy to see some of them get baptised and confirmed over the last year.

Meanwhile our work in church means that we can gather young people together on a Sunday morning as part of the Pathfinders and Anon groups, though the monthly "B" events stopped. Soul Purpose in May, Pentranant Hall in June and Soul Survivor in July all gave opportunities to grow faith and serve others.

Our gratitude goes to all the amazing youth team volunteers and all those who give and pray for this ministry. We were all sad to say "goodbye" to Matt and Jenny Guilder in autumn 2017, as Matt moved to Durham to begin training for ordination. A huge thanks also goes to Abby Liew, our Malaysian intern as part of the St Chads project, who worked in many different areas of church life, and was particularly involved in working alongside Matt, and picking up many of his responsibilities when he left. She left in February 2018 after twelve months in the parish.

January 2018 saw the arrival of Craig Silcock as Youth and Young Adult Minister, and we're thrilled that he and Emily – and their twin girls – have moved into Meole Brace. He brings significant experience in youth ministry and a heart for Shrewsbury, and it's already been encouraging to begin to see fresh ideas and new impetus emerge.

Phil Cansdale

Whole-Life Faith

Small Groups across the parish

Trinity Churches can feel like a big church, and it's here that small groups come in to be "small church" within a "big church".

Small groups are one of our most consistent and diverse ministries. Week by week our 25 or so groups meet together, pray together, read the bible together, and live out together what it means to bring Jesus to the people and situations around us. Each group has its own flavour - meeting at different times and days, approaching prayer and study in different ways. Some focus on younger people, others on older people, and most take everyone in between!

I've been leading a group for a few years now, and took on the coordination of all the groups this time last year. I'm still getting to grips with how best to support our leaders, many of whom have been doing this longer than I have. I've appreciated that we have started getting the leaders sharing their experiences and ideas when we have met together throughout the year.

I would love to see more people join groups, more people coming forward to help lead and start groups, and to be able to resource groups with things that help them to grow those they serve within their groups. Sometimes it feels a big job to be doing on my own, but it's one that is well worth doing!

Dave Latcham



**This Time
Tomorrow
?**

Name: Harvey.

This Time Tomorrow? Managing a building site. I love mixing with and meeting people. Although, challenges arise with different folk..

Music and worship

Thank you to all who serve faithfully each week in the worship ministry within Trinity Churches. We have so many people involved across the congregations and we are so grateful to each and every one of you. Already noted elsewhere are some difficulties of recruiting musicians for week-by-week worship at CTK, and we'd want to express particular gratitude to those from across the parish who support the worship life there.



There have been some changes in our 10.45 worship teams this year, with new people joining us and others stepping out to take on a more active role in leadership. During the past year we have also put together an All Age team who have encouraged and supported our young people in participating in our new All Age Worship band. It has been so encouraging to see our young people step out and use their gifts and passions to serve in this way. Our hopes and prayers are that we can continue to develop this throughout the coming year.

Also during this past year we held some worship evenings for anyone involved in the worship ministry across all congregations and for anyone interested in finding out more. The aim of the evenings were to help us explore worship in the bible, to help us to think about the importance of what we do, to spend some time worshipping and praying together and to learn some new songs.

There was also an opportunity for us to attend a 'whole-life worship' training day held by engageworship. We came back with great ideas to help us develop our worship life here.

Sue Gregory

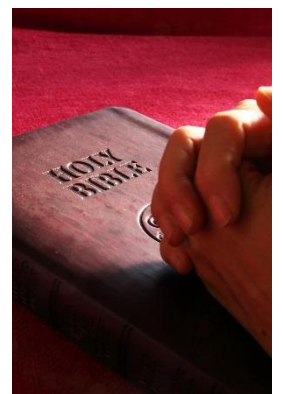
Developing Prayer

A rhythm of prayer continued through the year, with daily prayers Mon-Fri across the parish and Parish Prayer on Mon mornings, as well as opportunities to pray together at home groups, the Weds eve meetings, men's prayer breakfasts and numerous other prayer partnerships/triplets and small groups. Huge thanks must go to Mike Haddaway for his persistent championing of prayer in all these settings.

Mike along with Terry Cripps and Tony Sharpe have also coordinated the monthly prayer diary, enabling us all to pray for the church and the world.

During 'Thy Kingdom Come' (the archbishops' call to prayer leading up to Pentecost) we held a half night of prayer and provided guidance for intercession and openness to God in personal prayer.

The 6-session Prayer Course was run over the winter months and the same material (based on the Lord's Prayer) used for the Lent 2018 morning sermon series.



In Lent 2017 a small number of 'Growth Groups' met for mutual encouragement in prayer; this led to plans for Lent 2018 when 'Guided Prayer in Lent' enabled 20 people to pray every day and meet a prayer guide once a week.

Much prayer happens unseen in homes or quietly aside (for example prayer ministry at services); God attends to every prayer, spoken and unspoken, and we give thanks for it all.

Charles Ruxton

Nursing Home Communions

During 2017, our small team continued to be welcomed warmly at the Nursing Homes. The monthly Holy Communion services are very much appreciated by the residents, many of whom have a deep faith but lack the mobility to get to Church.

We visit three homes, The Radbrook Nursing Home, The Ferns, and Maesbrook Nursing Home. I am pleased to report that, during 2017, numbers at the services were good and rose steadily. Special services, including harvest festivals and carol services were well attended and popular with residents. The Radbrook Nursing Home carol service saw the large dining room full to capacity and it was very encouraging that several members of both Christ the King and Holy Trinity came along to join in the festivities with the residents. Four days later, we were back for Holy Communion and, to our surprise, had excellent attendance again, with the residents eager to participate.

It is always a great joy when relatives of the residents decide to stay for a service, one lady joining her 102 year old mother, at The Ferns, on a regular basis. Some residents, of course, do not have family living near and miss having someone to chat with or tell their worries to. We hope we go a little way to filling that gap.

Shirley Stevens



Name: Corinne.

This Time Tomorrow? I'll be in a college. I love to share Gods love by encouraging young people who under achieve then have a glimmer of self belief that they can achieve. Issues some young people face and not being able to prevent or change their circumstances is saddening.

Life-Giving Mission

Alpha courses, evangelism and faith Sharing

Most annual reports over the last few years have had a log of “Alpha courses attendees”, number of meals cooked, and accounts of a great time of encountering God at the away day. We haven’t got that this year, as during 2017 we didn’t run an Alpha course, or any similar “process evangelism” course. By and large short courses in evangelism have struggled here over the last few years. We’re still thinking and reflecting on what best to do next.



So here’s the question. Have we stopped “doing the work of evangelism”?

My response? I don’t think so, or at least I wouldn’t say that of the dozens of people who pray and get involved in Messy Church, baptism visits, residential homes, Café ministry, welcome in the Trinity Centre, say-one-for-me prayer visiting, prayer for healing, debt advice, food hub, community events and whatever other areas of ministry. I wouldn’t say that either of those who pray each and every week that they would be “salt and light” in their workplaces, in their neighbourhoods, in their friendship groups, and whose time is spend day-by-day with far more people who don’t know Jesus than would ever come to an Alpha course. I wouldn’t say that either of the small groups who make room for newcomers, those new to faith, struggling in faith, or just finding faith.

And yet – if I’m honest – I really want us to develop Alpha, and the like, again as part of resourcing mission in the future. I miss it, and the opportunities Alpha affords to help people come to faith, and to have conversations and make decisions which matter for eternity. It’s not the *only* thing we should be doing, and I’m delighted as a church to see so many other ways of sharing faith. But I do long for more people to come to faith, and to find the sort of fullness of life which Jesus talks about in John 10:10. “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Let’s pray, and work together, to see that happen more.

Phil Cansdale

Weddings, baptisms and funerals

It is such a privilege to be asked to walk alongside families at significant moments of life. The birth of a child, getting married, or the sad loss of a loved one are all moments where we are invited into the life of a family and their wider community. This is a responsibility which we take very seriously, and I’m enormously grateful to the team of people who get involved in supporting this across the church.


2017 was a slightly quieter year of weddings for us – part of a national trend, though I hope not irreversible. Every wedding offers a great opportunity to dispel some of the myths or preconceptions people have about God and the church and the different meetings from the initial appointment to the day of the



ceremony allow us to build that relationship. There's a well-ordered team of people who support this ministry from flowers to music to bells to registers to verging.

We also welcomed a good number of baptism families, some of whom precede or follow weddings which we've taken here as well, a reminder of the "bond of trust" that we can build up when we do occasional offices well. If you look round the Messy Church families then many of them have come via baptism contacts, and once the very manic first 2-3 years of life are past then families often reconnect with us when their kids get towards primary school age.

Funerals also offer that opportunity and privilege to walk alongside families in need, before, during and after the service itself. As always, my huge thanks to a number of different colleagues, clergy and lay, who support this important part of our life together.

| | |
|--|---|
|  | <p>Name: Clare</p> <p>This time tomorrow? I will be working in a GP practice as a Practice Nurse. I love building relationships with my patients some of whom I see regularly over a long period of time. I find it very rewarding to care for people at, what is often a difficult time, coping with an injury or illness.</p> |
|--|---|

Phil Cansdale

Hospitality

There is something special about eating and drinking together. It is a time when families and friends come together, visitors are welcomed and joys and sorrows shared.

At Trinity Churches we have many opportunities to share food and conversation. In 2017 we have held the occasional Big Sunday Lunches (co-ordinated by Steve Alston) where church members bring-and-share food in various homes (ask Steve if you'd like to go along). On the Meole Estate, Bacon Buddies provided opportunities for conversation with passers-by on a Thursday morning over a bacon roll (further details elsewhere). At Radbrook, along with Café Connect, there is the thriving monthly Community Tea in the Community Centre, run by Rita Davies, which give an opportunity for an outing to many from Radbrook House and Radbrook Nursing Home, as well as elsewhere.

Trinity Table has enjoyed a good year, and we are grateful to Clive Szczepanek for his experience as chef in the kitchen. Clive will be leaving us in 2018, giving opportunities for others in the expanding cooking team to take on his role. New helpers will be welcome. We are grateful to a variety of speakers, who give



us a 'Thought for the Day' each time, and we have also held a well-attended short service in church before the lunch, at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Tuesday Coffee mornings in church continue, but numbers fluctuate. This is a valuable opportunity to bring a friend or neighbour, particularly after bereavement, as a peaceful, friendly place to meet. There is an urgent need for two or three more people to join the rota to make scones in the Trinity Centre once every few weeks.

Valerie Pitt

Holiday at Home

Holiday at Home took place over three days in August in the Trinity Centre. We welcomed about thirty of our older church members from across the parish to enjoy time together and take part in various activities, which ranged from keep fit, bingo, nail painting, musical entertainment, quizzes and a "thought for the day". A cooked lunch was served each day, followed by tea and cakes before everyone left for home. On the Tuesday afternoon there was an outing to the Moreton Garden Centre near Oswestry, and after a little shopping everyone enjoyed a cream tea. Thanks to all the volunteers who, once again, helped to make this such an enjoyable time for everyone.

Erica Staples

Community Events - Apple Day 2017 and REVS 2017

Our sixth Apple Day, a joint venture between The Windfall and Trinity Churches took place on the last Saturday of September amidst torrential rain. The weather did not put anybody off and we had over 300 people come through the church gates. There was the usual apple pressing; apple cakes; apple games; apple craft; apple sauce and pork baps and lots more appley fun! The day was run by a crew of amazing volunteers who all worked really hard to make the day a success. Thank you to all.

Meanwhile a beautiful summer day saw our first Classic Car festival and was organised by Adam Gompertz and his amazing team of volunteers. It shares the same values and vision as Apple Day; to open up the church and share God's love with the local community, but on two key points it was different. This was all about cars and the sun shone brightly all day!! As well as looking at amazing cars from every era, there was car inspired craft, car games, a Scalextric, a café, a hog roast and brilliant music to listen to. Over 400 people came and fun was had by all.



These Community events are something that Trinity Churches do really well. It is an opportunity to reach out to local people with God's love. Both events are happening again this year, please do get involved.

Rachel Woods



This Time Tomorrow?

Name: Joe

This Time Tomorrow? At Hospital working as part of the Cardiology Team. A big challenge is finding time to wind down, keep up with the busy-ness of work and studies, and seeing family and friends. I am getting better at this and one thing I do love doing is spending time with the family when we do

Windfall and Causeway

There are many vulnerable adults who are part of our church family. We strive as a church to offer them respect, love, care, and a safe environment to experience God's love.

Causeway is a group for adults with a learning disability that meets fortnightly at the church. They worship, study the bible and have a whole lot of fun together. The group is small, but remains an important part of the lives of those who attend. The members are getting old and with that come the common issues that old age bring of ill health and dementia. The group recently lost a key member Christine. She was someone who was full of God's love and shone out his light in all she did. Christine will be missed by all.

Pray for the amazing leaders of this group that they will have the wisdom to know how to continue to lead this group well. Pray also that they will be able to comfort the group and assure them of God's love during this difficult time.

Meanwhile Windfall – a social enterprise that makes jam and chutney - is now in its sixth year of running. Although run independently from Trinity Churches it is loved and supported by the church community and operates in the Trinity Centre kitchen. Eight adult's with a learning disability come once a week to learn kitchen skills and work based skills. The project remains well respected within the wider community for its delicious preserves and the work it does with individuals.

The Windfall is starting up a gardening project to run alongside the kitchen project. After a very successful fundraising evening, it is hoped to start after Easter.

Thank God for his faithfulness to The Windfall over the last 6 years and the lives that have been touched through its work. Pray for ongoing wisdom to run the project well. Pray for the new gardening project that it will be a place where people's gifts are nurtured and that they grow as individuals.

Rachel Woods

TMAC (Trinity Money Advice Centre)

The purpose of TMAC is to provide 'Real hope for those in financial difficulty'. The brain-child of Captain Simon Mason TMAC is now into its ninth year providing confidential, face-to-face, non-judgemental money advice to people in the parish. TMAC offers completely free debt advice, negotiation with creditors, assistance with budgeting and help with benefits claims.



TMAC provides client interviews in the Cloister Room at the Trinity Centre by appointment each Tuesday from 9.00am until 1.00pm. Using 'Catalyst' online software provided by CMA, TMAC debt advisers can provide a service to their clients at other times during the week using email and phone communication.

As noted elsewhere Gordon retired in summer 2017 following a very successful period as TMAC Manager. As a retired naval sub-mariner, Gordon was incredibly adept at making sure all the tubes were loaded and operational all the time. Gordon was wonderful at maintaining all the legal paperwork associated with running a debt advice centre in accordance with the stringent requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). It proved impossible to find a replacement for Gordon so, TMAC now operates as a satellite to the Bridge Debt Advice Centre (BDA) Congleton. Rory Sanders is the manager of BDA and an Operational Support Manager with Community Money Advice (CMA).

CMA is a national charity committed to supporting churches and community groups who have a passion to help people overcome their money problems. CMA provides all the resources, training and support needed to establish and maintain local, free and face to face debt advice services.

Here are the contact details should you wish to refer someone you know to TMAC or join the team as a helper or train to be a debt adviser. Tel: 01743 357711. Email: tmactalk@gmail.com. TMAC debt advisers are Margaret Groves (retiring at end of May 2018), Helena Priest, Dave Mackay.

Dave MacKay

Street Pastors and other town-wide mission involvement

We have ten members of the Trinity Churches community involved with Shrewsbury Street Pastors in some form or another. We have street pastors attending each service on a regular basis on a Sunday including Church at the Meet Place. And so as a church you are playing a significant role in caring, listening and helping those who need help whilst they take part in the "Night-time" economy of our town. We spread the work and word of Christ on our streets in very practical ways, helping those in need, those homeless, with mental health issues, or just needing help with getting home. True mission work – a real privilege to be able to help in some small ways.

Last March we moved our offices to 1A Castlegates, in front of the Archives, but we now have very little footfall! Our recruitment has gone down, our funds are depleted, but the filing is better, and the coffee lasts longer. So now we are looking for new Shrewsbury Street Pastors to join us, either on the streets or in prayer.

Steve Jones

MRDC

Generous giving from Trinity church members allowed us to continue supporting our mission partners and make grants to a total of £28,000 in 2017.



Mission partners are linked to different congregations and received half of our funds. The Fletchers also received a grant from the Living Stones Appeal to build a house for their family and community meetings in the Bangkok slum where they live and work.

| Partners / Location | Where Congregation | | Link Person |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------|
| Neville Willerton, Church Army, UK | 9.00 | | David Leake |
| Destination, Tunisia | CTK | | Charlotte Gompertz |
| The Gallaghers, North Africa | 10.45 | | Sylvia Ruxton |
| The Fletchers, Thailand | 6.30 | | Annali Hindle |

We recently reviewed our partnerships and are delighted to be able to commit a further three years support to the Gallaghers, the Fletchers and Neville Willerton from 2018. Destination will revert to receiving a grant for their inspiring work in countries where Christians are often persecuted.

Grants were made to the following Christian charities: Open Doors (emergency work in Iraq/Syria), Shrewsbury Youth for Christ, Soul Purpose (Shrewsbury), The Bible Society (UK), Tear Fund (Rahinga appeal) and Transform Burkina (Faso).

We were able to make small grants to support two church members undertaking mission work in Africa and would love to hear from young and old if they are thinking of doing the same. Please do get in touch if you need help with the costs.

Please pray that all our partners are blessed and protected in their lives and work and contact me or the relevant Link Person if you would like to find out more.

Andrew Jowett

**This Time
Tomorrow
?**

Name: Olwen

This time tomorrow? “Loitering with intent” around the Cafe Connect, Radbrook shopping centre and Radbrook House. Talking and showing people that they are special, just with a smile or a cheery hello, listening to them and showing them that someone cares.

Leadership and Governance

Staff Team and Ministry Leadership Team

We've used the language of "change" a lot already in this report, but it was certainly true of the staff team and ministry leadership team. Summer 2017 saw a number of departures from the team. Isabel Willerton stepped back as Church Office Manager and is now working with UCAN, the national network of Church Administrators. Fi Iddon and Hannah Lins came to the end of their three years as ordinands, were ordained in the summer, and are now serving their curacies at St George's and Severn Loop respectively. Matt Guilder "felt his collar getting tighter" and went to Durham to train for ordination, and Gordon Lamb retired from the Church Army. Ellie Jones and then Simon Cullup-Smith – following each other as administrative assistants – went on to new things as well.

It's been hard to say goodbye to colleagues with such significant gifts and experience, though I think this is part of our role as a larger church to be equipping people then sending them out to bless others. That's life in the kingdom. I wonder who the next groups of people will be – particularly younger people – who can be trained up and encouraged to use their gifts here, and then be sent out to other churches across the UK and further afield?

Recent months have seen a number of new arrivals. Carole Markham began as Parish Administrator, Mel Evans took over as communications assistant, and more recently Craig Silcock, and Keith and Amal Moore, have started in post. It always takes time to settle into new ways of being team together, and we're looking forward to doing some training together later this year.

I found myself reflecting a few days ago on the word "ministers", and why we only use that of certain roles – ordained, work with youth and children, and work in the community. It's a useful word, but surely we are all "ministers", using the gifts that we have and the skills God has given us to do God's ministry. That's true of each of the staff team, ministering in Café Connect, on the Meole Estate, in administration, in whatever they are doing. That's equally true of everyone who belongs to the church, again living out the call of God to use their gifts and their talents to minister to a broken world.

Phil Cansdale

PCC, Synod and other leadership bodies

The committees and groups that run mostly in the background, unseen by many, have continued to meet to ensure the church runs well.

As a registered charity, the Trinity Churches PCC members are also trustees and therefore have oversight of our vision, activities, property, finances and the staff we employ. Members are elected at the Annual Parish Church Meeting and serve for three years on what is effectively the 'governing body' of our church. Meeting six times a year, the PCC gives time to discussing and developing the vision, as well as making decisions on more practical matters. A Standing and Finance Committee has been delegated by the PCC to deal with the more detailed work and the PCC has also

delegated responsibility to management committees for the work of the Trinity Centre and Trinity Money Advice Centre.

We send a number of PCC members to Deanery Synod, which is the local representative body for Anglican churches. At Deanery Synod local issues that affect all local churches are discussed. Members are also elected to General Synod, which is the 'parliament' of the Church of England.

The PCC also appoints leadership teams who oversee the ministry and mission for each of our congregations, namely, Christ the King, Church in the Meet Place, the 8 am, 10.45 am, 6.60 pm and Midweek congregations at Holy Trinity. There is also a Mission Relief and Development Committee concerned with mission support and a Stewardship Group that focuses on encouraging our stewardship of the churches resources, both people and financial.

William Small

2017 Finances Looking Back

God is good! I am pleased to report that an overall surplus was generated in 2017 of £33,690. This overall surplus includes the Living Stones Appeal. The Appeal raised an amazing sum of c£95,000 and to date c£67,000 has been spent on Living Stones Projects including the new Audio Visual system at Holy Trinity Church and funding the purchase of a house for our mission partners in the Khlong Toey slum in Bangkok. The balance from the appeal will be spent on projects to refurbish Cafe Connect and to work with other Meole Estate organisations to extend the premises at the Meet Place.

We achieved a surplus on day to day activities of c£16,000 compared to a planned deficit budget of c£18,000. This result is primarily due to changes in circumstances resulting in staff vacancies. We were without a parish administrator, youth minister and pioneer minister for several months, as well as our decision to resource leadership at Christ the King in a different way following the departure of the previous minister in 2016. In the early months of 2018 – after the 2017 year end - we have made some fantastic staff appointments and now have a full complement in the staff team.

The Trinity Centre and hospitality income for the period was lower than in previous years and our costs were higher this year, resulting in an operating deficit of c£6,000. The Trinity Centre will be 10 years old in 2018 so, in 2017, we carried out a programme of maintenance and refurbishment works to retain the high quality of the accommodation we offer for Church and community use.

As of the end of 2017 our reserves stood at £355,638. This includes restricted reserves of £95,071 - money that, by law, can only be used for a specific charity purposes. Restricted reserves held by the PCC includes the balance on the Living Stones Appeal and a significant legacy for the education of children in Africa. Reserves that are generally available include those that are designated for specific purposes, such as a sinking fund for repairs and general

unrestricted reserves. The PCC aims to keep a minimum of 3 months running costs as working capital, approximately £100,000. At the year-end, unrestricted reserves stood at £195,996. This means that there are funds available which we are able to invest in capital and mission projects that are being discussed at the moment.

We are so grateful to the support of many different people across the parish. Thank you to everyone who gives generously and sacrificially; particularly if you are new or don't yet give regularly please do be in touch with the Church Office for more details, or go to www.trinitychurches.org/give.

Thank you also to the team of people involved in finance work, from Gift Aid to counting collections, from office colleagues to my fellow treasurer Brian at CTK.

Jill Withington

2018 Finances Looking Forward

Whilst our income exceeded our expenditure in 2017 we do not expect this to continue, and for 2018 have set a deficit budget of £18,000. Members' giving – our core income – has only very slightly increased since 2014 and in a year which will see new staff appointments these will have cost implications. We can go forward confident that in the short to medium term any financial shortfalls can be covered by our reserves, although we fully recognise that any commitments to employ staff need to be sustainable in the future.

In setting the budget for 2018 we also recognise that salaries are increasing, particularly given the need to respond to current and ongoing changes to the Living Wage nationally, and thus the need to maintain fair wage differentials between PCC staff members. Our Parish Share contribution to the Diocese also goes up by 1.5% to £108,835

As we seek God's guidance for future plans for the work and mission of the church, we remain committed to being good stewards of all that God has given us.

Getting going in giving

The best place to start is to pray... and then do something without putting it off!

For many people it is easiest to set up a standing order online, or by writing directly to your bank. Our details are as follows:

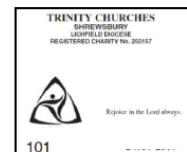
Trinity Churches PCC H/T Meole Brace Christ King R/Brook
Account Number: 01317554
Sort Code: 30-97-62



To complete a Gift Aid form, go to the www.trinitychurches.org/giftaid where you can download and print the form, which is to be returned to the Church Office.



To be part of the weekly envelope scheme, or to find out more about Payroll Giving or legacies, contact the Church Office by telephone 01743 362399, or email info@trinitychurches.org. One of the stewardship team will then be in touch as soon as possible to discuss things further.



Note: the table below is a useful summary of the actual income and expenditure for 2016 and the budget for 2017. These figures are for our everyday activities and do not include restricted income and expenditure, such as disbursements from the Pat Wedge legacy. Full audited statutory financial accounts are available on the website, at Church, or from the Church Office.

| <u>TRINITY CHURCHES</u> | <u>2017 Actual</u> | <u>2018 Budget</u> |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Income</u> | <u>£000's</u> | <u>£000's</u> |
| Giving (inc tax reclaim) | 274 | 274 |
| Diocesan Contribution to Post | 0 | 18 |
| Grant Income | 2 | 3 |
| Wedding and Funeral Fees (net) | 11 | 12 |
| Trinity Centre and Hospitality | 48 | 46 |
| Other Income | <u>18</u> | <u>13</u> |
| | <u>353</u> | <u>366</u> |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | | |
| Administration | 20 | 20 |
| Children and Young People | 8 | 9 |
| Evangelism and Special Events | 6 | 8 |
| Ministry Expenses | 128 | 131 |
| Premises | 12 | 15 |
| Total Salaries (excluding Trinity Centre) | 82 | 129 |
| Tithe | 28 | 28 |
| Trinity Centre Expenses | <u>53</u> | <u>44</u> |
| | <u>337</u> | <u>384</u> |
| 2017 Surplus | 16 | |
| 2018 Budget Deficit | | -18 |

This table summarises finances for day to day activities only.

Jill Withington

Trinity Churches

The Trinity Centre, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury SY3 9HF

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email: info@trinitychurches.org.

website: www.trinitychurches.org



Living for Jesus
Loving one another
Setting a table for the world