



Annual Review of 2013

What follows is a summary review of the reports which have been written by many people from across Trinity Churches. It aims to be a 'snapshot' of 2013 and just some of the many different areas of ministry and mission which are going on in Meole Brace, Radbrook Green and beyond.

Many of you may want to read further on individual areas covered, or a particular group or focus of ministry. All of the 'original' reports are available in a file at the back of each church, as well as on our newly-designed website at www.trinitychurches.org/review. Please do make use of these fuller documents.

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For the full reports, the financial accounts for 2013, and the 2014 electoral roll, please see the files available in church, or go to www.trinitychurches.org/review

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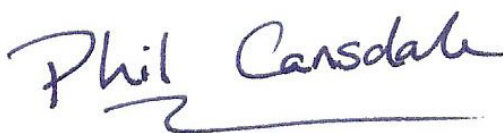
John's gospel finishes by saying that if everything about Jesus was written down, there wouldn't be enough room in the whole world to hold all the books. I'm not sure that's quite true about any Church's annual review, but as the reports have been coming in over the last few days it has felt like that!

There's so much that could be said about the past year, opportunities to be thankful to God and grateful to people for the growth of God's kingdom in this place. It is five years now since I was appointed vicar of the parish, and I'm hugely encouraged to see ways in which we continue to be a community of people who are 'living for Jesus, loving one another, and setting a table for the world.' Thank you for your deep love for God, for your commitment to building His church in Shrewsbury, and for your willingness to step out and try new things. It is a privilege to serve and lead Trinity Churches as vicar, and to work alongside the staff team and many other ministers and leaders.

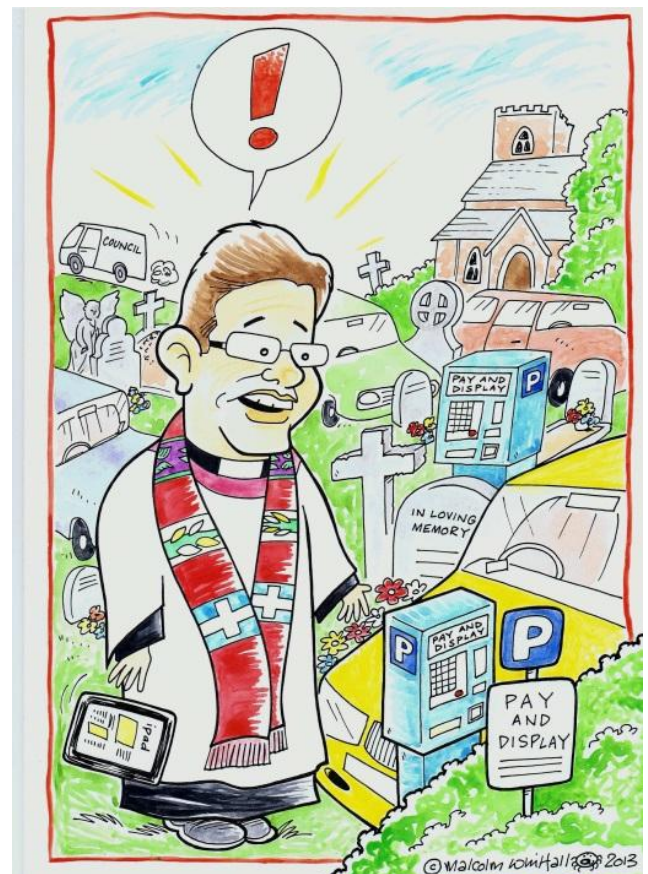
In 2009 I remember writing in my application for the role of vicar here that "the local church is the hope for the world." Stolen from Bill Hybels, these words continue to remind me today of the power and the beauty of the local church to be a sign to the world of the presence of Jesus. My prayer is that as you read this annual review you will see something of that, and be led deeper in prayer and in commitment to the life of the Church.

I finish most of my correspondence with the words Paul often uses in his letters, 'grace and peace.' Grace – "God's riches at Christ's expense." And God's peace, in every area of our lives and every corner of our community. May we continue to know that, and live that out, as we continue to develop mission and ministry across Trinity Churches in 2014.

Grace and peace!



Phil Cansdale, Vicar



Putting Down roots

Spring 2013 saw a new process of discerning something of our vision and priorities across the parish. We began the year by looking at four areas – “**Going deeper**”, “**Reaching further**”, “**Growing younger**”, and “**Aiming higher**” - on Sundays and in small groups, and this fed into a PCC and Leadership Away Day in March.

The rest of the year saw us returning to these themes and priorities. The PCC, DCCs, different congregations, ministry areas and teams began to come together and find where their particular passions, energy and God-given gifts could make a contribution to the parish-wide vision. This process allowed time for some seeds to be planted, for some opportunities to be grasped, and for us to glimpse across the parish some of the ways in which ministry and mission might grow and develop.

At the APCM in April 2013 we outlined something of the “story so far”, and the outline priorities within each of the four areas of vision. Look out in this summary report for just some of the ways in which we’ve seen growth and new life bubbling up.

This isn’t to say that each church, congregation or ministry area need “tick all the boxes” or deliberately invest in every one of these areas. What draws us together is our commitment to “live for Jesus, love one another, and set a table for the world.” But what differentiates us – and where our strength also lies – is the way different parts of the parish can contribute and play their part in delivering a God-sized vision for our future.



Holy Trinity Meole Brace

Holy Trinity continues to be a thriving and active place to belong. There are four congregations on a Sunday – 9am, 10.45, 6.30 and youth – 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...”

A Church with multiple congregations

2013 saw the old “list of vicars” full up, and the commissioning of a beautiful new list with space for many generations of leaders to come. And yet alongside clergy it is the dedication and commitment of countless men, women and children which helps to grow the church and build the kingdom. Each of the Sunday congregations has its own leadership team, who are responsible for aspects of pastoral care, worship planning, discipleship and welcome.

The 9.00am Congregation

In 2012 we wrote a prayer for the 9am service, talking about ‘increased life and growth’ and asking God to ‘renew us as your Church in this generation’. We’ve seen something of that happen over 2013. Valerie Pitt writes in her report that “the most notable aspect of the 9am congregation is the warmth of its welcome and its loving care for one another, in which everyone has a role to play.”

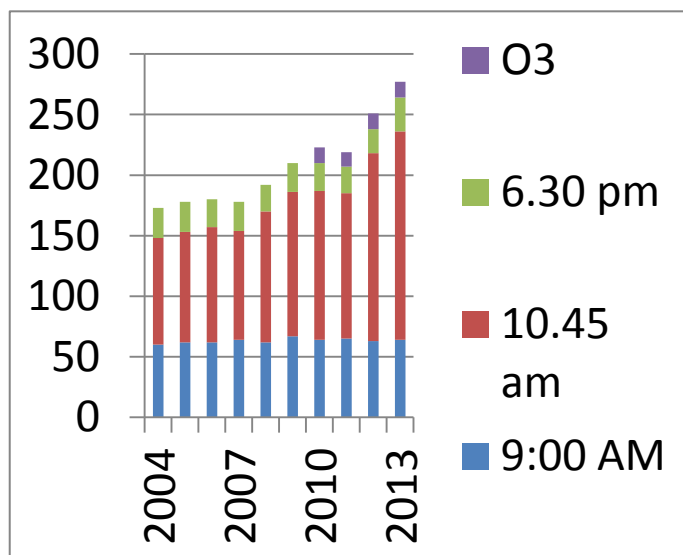
Attendance has been steady over the year, with 65-70 people worshipping... and three regular children which has been a great blessing. The music group now includes a number of new people and a variety of music styles. Members of the congregation continue to serve the church and in many others, including Village Afternoon Tea, weekly coffee mornings, Trinity Table, TMAC, Street Pastors and Café Connect.

The 10.45am congregation

One of our main priorities for 2013 was how as a congregation we could be “growing younger.” We are nearing the desired figure of a quarter of those on ‘ministry rotas’ being under 18. We licensed the first young people as communion ministrants, and continued to wrestle with how to be a truly inter-generational congregation. We have a long way to go, but are committed to working this out over the next few years.

There have been some significant moments of spiritual growth as well, seeking to be a congregation “going deeper” and “reaching

Average Sunday attendance at Holy Trinity



further". The rhythms of grace in particular found fertile soil in this congregation, as did the emerging themes of what "discipleship on the frontline" looks like.

The 6.30pm congregation

The evening service has continued to grow and develop over 2013, under the able oversight of Dave Bruce as curate. Best described as 'contemporary, participatory and reflective', one of the priorities for the year was encouraging stories of what God is doing on people's "frontlines", and greater openness for people to be spurring each on about living for God in their daily lives.

In the summer the worship pattern was altered by the introduction of "Presence", a monthly service with a creative and flexible feel, and leading into communion as a core part of the service. This new format has been well appreciated and after a trial period will be continued. Dave Bruce finished his report by saying, "We look forward to the year ahead with great excitement, seeking to continue to be open to what the Spirit will bring as God continues to work amongst us." Amen!

Thursday 10am congregation

The midweek service is a quiet 'oasis' in the middle of the week. The congregation consists of a dozen or so people, and once a month we meet for a time of fellowship after the service, as well as praying and communicating about the work of the Mothers Union across the world. Should you be looking for a quiet reflective service you'd be most welcome to join us.

The Blessings of a Building

The building continues to be both a privilege and a responsibility. Whilst "nothing too drastic or major has occurred" in 2013, the year saw discussions over Chancel Repair Liability, the reorganisation of the clergy vestry, the regular maintenance of a beautiful building, and everyone's favourite bug-bear, parking. We're beginning to make progress on the 2013 Quinquennial Report, which whilst highlighting only a few urgent issues gives a number of medium term projects to work through. As ever our thanks to the church wardens, their deputies, the verger, and many others who help with the upkeep of the building.

"Everybody welcome..."

We long for Holy Trinity to continue to be a place of welcome, a beautiful building and a friendly family. The Tuesday Coffee morning – 'the best scones in town' – is a "safe, friendly and relaxed atmosphere to bring along friends or neighbours." You'll also see in the reports news from the Flower and Brass Guild, who do amazing work week-by-week in making the church such a beautiful place to worship and to visit. Our thanks to them. The year also saw the re-introduction of our own band of bell ringers, and it has been a joy for worshippers and – we hope – neighbours alike to hear the bells ring out on Sunday mornings and at their midweek practices.



The Church in the Meet Place

2013 saw the arrival of Captain Gordon Lamb who, along with his wife Jane, moved onto Meole Estate as "Pioneer Community Evangelist". His parish-wide role is to help develop fresh expressions of church, to support new opportunities for outreach, and to work alongside others in community-based initiatives.

Small groups

Small groups have continued to form the core of ministry and mission on the Meole Estate. "3Gs", "Bible & Bingo" and "Wednesday Welcome" (now Tuesday Tango!) continue to give an excellent opportunity for midweek discipleship, outreach and fellowship. The autumn saw the introduction of the new venture "Bacon Buddies", with the giving away of free tea, coffee and bacon rolls between 9am and 10am to those of the community who wish to attend. 20 or more people attend regularly, described by Gordon in his report as an opportunity to "meet with Jesus in a tangible way – with answers to their prayers."

Everyone is encouraged to stay on after Bacon Buddies into the 3Gs group, as well as "Taste and See", the monthly midweek gathering on the Meole Estate. Having begun in 2012 it continued to 'find its feet' over 2013. Described as "like church... but not church", it aims to be a friendly and welcoming space to encounter God in the middle of the week, and to "be church" in an engaging and real way on the Meole Estate.

Sunday Worship

The highlight of 2013 for the Sunday congregation was the July confirmation service, where we welcomed Bishop Mark as three members of the congregation were confirmed. This occasion also marked the conclusion of Captain Simon Mason's ministry as Church Army evangelist in the parish, remembering his seven years of service and commitment to so many people across the Meole Estate.



Meole Estate Community

Members of the parish continued to play a full and active role in the local community of the Meole Estate. It was great to work together with the Soul Purpose team in May, with young people working on community events and gardening projects. Holiday at Home in August was a blessing to many whilst the Christmas lunch for 70 'young at heart' residents from the Estate was an excellent team effort. And the Meole Estate Community Action group (MECA) continues to seek to enhance the life of the local community, including current discussions Gordon Lamb is involved in concerning "Men in Sheds"! His Church Army job description commits him to "loiter with intent", and we welcome many opportunities he and others are getting to do just that!

Christ the King Radbrook Green

“How can... CTK be developed so that people come to faith, grow in faith, and the community is transformed?” That is perhaps the most important question Peter Hubbard – the Minister – and other leaders have been wrestling with over this past year, as CTK continues to explore what church might look like, and how the gospel might take root more fully, in the heart of Radbrook Green.

A Growing Leadership

One of the main developments of 2013 has been the formation and commissioning of a renewed Leadership Team at CTK. Alongside the existing DCC they are called to serve and to lead the Church of Christ the King. As you read what Peter Hubbard – the Minister of CTK – has written, you’ll see some of the challenges both these leadership groupings have faced, as well as opportunities open to them for the coming year.

Making whole-life Disciples?

One of the big issues the Leadership Team – and others – are wrestling with is how CTK can become a “whole life disciple making community.” That is to say, what might it look like in the life of a local church for everyone, everywhere, to live for Jesus everyday? The small groups at Christ the King and others have been reflecting around the LICC “Frontline” material.

Growing Younger?

Working with children and families remains an important priority for Christ the King, with a predominantly elderly Sunday morning congregation but with a real heart to reach out to those of all ages on Sundays and midweek. The weekly “Open the Book” Assemblies continue to be a blessing to generations of school children at Radbrook School, and the new outreach of the Café’s “breakfast club” provides opportunities to serve dozens of young people from the two local schools each day. Refresh – the monthly Sunday afternoon ‘fresh expression’ of church – has seen a focus on “journeys”, encouraging people to think through and share stories of where they are on their journeys with God.



A Church in the heart of the community

The September Community Fun day was a fantastic event in the local community, with many people coming to the Radbrook Community Centre for a whole range of fun activities. As Peter says in his report, “Jesus was mentioned in many conversations.” For that we praise God!

Café Connect and Trinity Centre

Hospitality remains very much at the heart of who we are and what we do. As you read the reports – or even better come and see for yourself – you’ll see people being made welcome, practical needs being served, and God’s extravagant grace being lived out.

Café Connect

The Café is now in its twelfth year, and continues to be a core part of community life in Radbrook Green and beyond. As you read Brian Bates’ report, you’ll see two particular new initiatives. Firstly, the three-times-weekly breakfast club, which sees up to forty young people consume gallons of hot chocolate and a lot of toast. We’d love more support with this, do you have a morning a week to come and help us? Secondly, 2013 saw the monthly ‘prayer for healing’ continue to develop, with the café more overtly serving the spiritual and practical needs of the local community.



We are so grateful to the hundreds of hours that volunteers give to the Café, led so ably as ever by Olwen Abbott who continues to give tirelessly to the work of the Café. Towards the end of 2013 the decision was made to convert the café into a separate legal body, “Café Connect Community Interest Company” which will best serve the Church for the future. It remains at the core of the Church’s ministry, and one of the pivotal ways in which we seek to be ‘setting a table for the world’ in our local communities.

The Trinity Centre

2013 saw the fifth birthday of the Trinity Centre, with an excellent short film made to celebrate the occasion (see the website for more details.) We continue to welcome an enormous variety of groups and people who use the centre, from U3A to pre-school classes, meetings and training events to exercise groups. In her report Hannah Lins rightly points to Helen Hinton and the team of Welcome Assistants, and the way they “witness Jesus’ presence both by serving with humility and grace and by being ready to speak of the Kingdom when asked.”

Bookings – and lettings income – remained fairly strong through the year, though the first period had seen a decline in bookings. Trinity Catering continue to provide an excellent service, and in particular we look forward to developing a ‘wedding package’ in 2014 for couples hosting both their wedding and reception at Meole Brace.



Going Deeper

CS Lewis reminds us that we are not called to be a “busy” church, but a “deep church.” That is to say, we are not just called to be “putting on great Sunday services and midweek events” – which we *are* committed to doing – but also having an ongoing commitment to walking as a disciple of Christ in every area of our lives. And as we do this we become “disciples who make disciples”, spurring each other on into Christ-like living.

The Five Rhythms of Grace

Spring 2013 saw us begin to get to know the five “Rhythms of Grace” across the parish. In midweek groups, in Sunday sermons, and in other different ways we began to find a language and concept of speaking about discipleship which seems to have a sense of vitality to it. On top of this was an excellent quiet day led by Philip Swann looking at rhythm 4 – “being a gracious presence and working for justice in the world” – which raised awareness of the “IF” campaign, and a very well attended evening looking at “three ways to pray for busy people.” Our current Discipleship MOT sees over 60 people taking these themes further over Lent, and reflecting on their journey as disciples of Christ.



Transformed into the likeness of Christ



Open to the presence, guidance and power of the Spirit



Set aside time for prayer, worship and spiritual reading



Gracious presence in the world, serving others and working for justice in human relationships and social structures



Sensitively share my faith with others and support God's mission both locally and globally

Small Groups

Of course for many people growth in Christ comes best in small groups, and it is through friendships and accountability that discipleship most easily flows. As you read the report be encouraged by the fact that there are currently 22 different groups meeting, with over 200 people – members ranging from 8-90+ years old. Dave Bruce reminds us in his report that several groups have been “stepping out to have a more missional focus in their groups” in 2013, like the Friday morning mums group who have been inviting friends to come and join them as they explored the “Y” course together.

Prayer across the parish

As Mike Haddaway reminds us in his report, “the exciting thing about prayer is always that God hears, God blesses, and God answers prayer. We can preach sermons, run

courses and study how to pray at our small groups, but at the end of the day, the challenge is ‘just do it.’”

At the beginning of 2013, we began a new pattern of prayer on a Monday morning, with members of the ministry leadership team joining with a number of others from across the parish from 9.45am – 10.30am in the Trinity Centre. The monthly prayer diary continues to inform and underpin daily prayer, looking both inwards and outwards, and the year saw the introduction of a ‘prayer circle’ to be used as support for acute and urgent prayer within our fellowship.

One of the most exciting prayer initiatives during the last year was the 24-7 prayer week at the end of November. One of the particular areas of focus was that of discerning the needs of the local community, and we’re grateful for those people who “stepped out” and asked neighbours and strangers alike what their local church might be praying for. It is also encouraging to see that this burden of prayer was shared across the whole parish, with a great time of prayer in particular, on the Tuesday evening at Radbrook.

“Trinity Women” and “Trinity Men”

Tracey Cansdale writes that “The highlight for Trinity Women was the “On the Move” conference.” Vintage bunting, deck chairs and camper vans acting as prayer spaces were all fun ways to engage with the very serious call to follow Jesus. Sarah Richards was a very engaging and down-to-earth speaker, and few will forget the power cut in the afternoon which meant a change of plans.

The breakfasts – Trinity Women and Trinity Men – continued through the year, an opportunity to catch up with each other, worship, pray and chat. The highlight for many of the men was Robin Oake, speaking of his experience as a senior police officer, and of how his faith sustained him after his son was killed.



Prayer Ministry and Worship and Waiting

Praying for and with each other is a vital ministry in the life of a growing church, and we have continued to offer opportunities to be prayed for at each of our congregations. More training is being planned soon. Meanwhile Worship and Waiting continued, with each month having a ‘theme’ like praying for education, for our town, for those working in finance and business, and for local mission opportunities.

Finding our rhythm...

- Working through the rhythms of grace material in depth so that it becomes part of our DNA as a parish. We “go deeper” in order that we can be “reaching further” more effectively.

Rooted in prayer...

- Keeping prayer central to who we are and all we do. We do this through resources, training, corporate worship and a daily openness to the Spirit. Encourage “watchmen” to be sharing this process and leading the way forward.

Growing together...

- Enabling people to grow in faith as they connect with each other. This will be through a variety of expression of smaller groups, through the way we welcome and worship, and through opportunities to serve together in ministry.



Reaching Further

We identified at the APCM in 2013 how “God is giving us a readiness to try new things and the ability to innovate. We see that in the fruit of projects like Café Connect, The Trinity Centre, and fresh expressions of church on the Meole Estate, all of which in different ways point to the pioneer spirit to which God is calling us again. This will involve going to parts of our culture and community we have not been to before, training and equipping God’s people across our congregations to share their faith as whole-life disciples, and discovering more of the fullness of the gospel in areas like social justice, the workplace, and world mission.”

Life on the Frontline

“Frontline” must be one of the words of 2013. “Your Frontline is the place where you spend the majority of your time outside the church, where you are in contact with non-Christians, where you are with people who need to know the love of God.” A number of small groups

across the parish looked at the LICC Frontline material in 2013, and we look forward to the summer 2014 preaching series – and accompanying church weekend away – as we take next steps in this crucial area of everyday discipleship.



“Breaking News” and Alpha

In the autumn Gordon Lamb led a five week course aimed at equipping people to share their faith with others. It was great to hear some stories of the eleven people who attended, and how their desire and ability to share their faith had grown. Some of this group then went on to help at the Spring 2014 Alpha Course, which saw over forty people take part. This is the largest course in some time at Trinity Churches, and we look forward to another course later in the year.

Christmas 2013

Christmas felt like an opportunity to be bolder and more strategic in local mission. Spurred on by the 24-7 prayer week, it was great to see people ‘stepping out’ of their comfort zones. The “In the Picture” project saw over fifty families take up the offer of getting dressed up in nativity costume and having their picture taken for the church website. Attendance at Christmas events was “well up” on previous years, with the two carol services both beginning to feel “full up.” Anyone for three next year?!



TMAC

Trinity Money Advice Centre continues to provide debt advice to their clients and negotiate on behalf of creditors. Given all that is going on in our economy nationally this is an important area of ministry in our community, and we are grateful to the team of advisers who serve faithfully.

Open Mic Nights

Friday night once a month is the "Open Mic" night. This continues to be a hugely enjoyable evening where people come along, share a drink with friends, and enjoy excellent entertainment. Recent months have seen a number of new performers and groups, and an increasing turnout.

Mission, Relief and Development Committee

In 2013 we supported eight organisations with financial support of over twenty thousand pounds. Two-thirds of this support goes towards work overseas, and one third in the UK. Mission partners we currently support include the Gallaghers in West Africa, who spent a few months in Shrewsbury following the birth of their daughter; we enjoyed a live link-up with them during the October International Lunch. We also give regular support towards the Kennedy family working with CMS in Malaysia, Neville Willerton working with Church Army across the UK, The Bible Society, Soul Purpose and Shrewsbury Youth for Christ.

Meanwhile we have also continued to champion Fair Trade, including activities for children and food for all around Fairtrade Fortnight. Fairtrade stalls are now organised to take place at Holy Trinity, Christ the King and the Café.

Windfall Project and Causeway

2013 was a good year for the Windfall Project, a small independent Community Interest Company who are supported by Trinity Churches. Each week sees four adults with learning difficulties make jams and chutneys in the Trinity Centre kitchen. Rachel Woods, who heads up the project, writes in her report how important it is to "share God's love in practical ways with the most vulnerable members of society." One of the highlights of the year was the amazing Community Apple Day at harvest time, with singing, making, pressing, eating, composting and playing.

Meanwhile Causeway also continue to meet fortnightly at Holy Trinity. Working with people with learning difficulties they provide a relaxed meeting where people praise, worship, pray and enjoy the presence of God. In his report Chris Roberts says, "we are a small group but we are very enthusiastic and we love to praise God." You'd be welcome to drop in!

Reaching Further

- Stepping out...**
 - Taking risks and seeking new opportunities, recognising mission as "seeing what God is up to and joining in." This may well take us out of our familiar comfort zones and away from the recognised boundaries of "church", eg bacon butties in the Meet Place.
- "Frontline" ministry...**
 - Equipping everyone to share their faith "on the frontline". Church not just about 'rotas', releasing people to live and share a vibrant faith, "being church" and living the gospel at work, home and leisure
- Caring community...**
 - Developing the 'fringe' more intentionally, eg occasional offices, serving the community practically, and increasing a sense of belonging. "A caring community draws people to faith."

Reaching Further
Trinity Church

Growing Younger

Recognising that “younger churches attract younger people”, we want to be ‘proclaiming afresh the gospel in every generation.’ In our mindset, our structures and our congregations, we want to be a community of people ‘growing younger’, so that we pass on and live out our faith for the sake of those who come after us. This will involve older generations supporting, releasing and equipping younger people for ministry and mission. It necessitates a clear discipleship track for children, youth and young adults, and invites a long-term commitment to local families and schools.

Pre-school work and Toddler Groups

Our pre-school work is still popular with growing numbers at both toddler groups, despite more children going to nurseries at an early age. Both Trinity Tots and First Steps toddler groups have a Bible theme which leads to a relevant craft and story time, and each term finishes with a short service. Our thanks to Carol Booles as pre-school worker who works hard with our young families, keeping in touch and offering pastoral support.

Trinity Kids

Numbers at Trinity Kids continue to flourish on a Sunday morning. At Holy Trinity we have started a group specifically for Yr6 children, and at CTK we now have a regular little group each week. The swimming party, Galaxy Sleepover and We-Roc small group provide cross-parish activities for the children and remain popular. Judith Clarkson writes “we are always looking for ways for the children to be involved in wider church life and it’s been good to have several Trinity Kids on the welcome team and playing a part in the music group.”

2013 saw the first Children’s Conference which was well attended, mainly from Trinity Churches, but with some children from elsewhere in the town. Worship, workshops and a magician were part of what proved a memorable day, and we look forward to another such day in 2015.



Refresh and Family Feast

Refresh and Family Feast continue to reach out to families in our communities. It has been encouraging to see families at Refresh starting to take responsibility and take part in some good discussions. At Family Feast we are looking at ways we can support and encourage our families between sessions, with an average of 80 people attending.

Assemblies and work in local Primary Schools

Weekly assemblies continue in both local primary schools, based on the “Open the Book” material which tells something of the big story of the Bible over a three year period. Both schools also come to church for Easter, Pentecost and Harvest experiences, and we are able to help with individual classes in schools when asked. Judith Clarkson writes how “although we may never know the fruits of these relationships our prayer is that for some children our presence in their schools will have a lasting impact.”

Trinity Youth

September 2013 saw the arrival of Matt Guilder as Youth Minister, moving into Wilderley Crescent with his wife Jenny and son Ben. With the introduction of Matt we have seen some new projects get off the ground, alongside some of our longer-running projects. Under the banner of “Trinity Youth” there are a number of different projects, from “Breakfast Club” to the Meole After School Club “3”, “McMondays” to Pathfinders and Anon on a Sunday morning at Holy Trinity.



One of the most encouraging new initiatives is the Tuesday evening “Life” group which takes place twice monthly. Designed for 11s-14s, they have spent time doing a Youth Alpha course, as well as inviting an older ‘guest’ each time to share something of their journey of faith with the young people.

A recent monthly event called “B” has begun, for all secondary school age children. Worship, God’s word, games and food all combine to make a good evening, and we hope this helps build a greater sense of “growing younger” across the parish.

18s-30s

Martin Charlesworth reminded us at our joint service in December that this is a priority area for us as a church as we seek to encourage, equip and reach out to this missing generation.

A number of leaders have been involved in different ways of doing this. Pints of View is a monthly gathering, and we have a monthly social to give people opportunities to build important friendships across the age groups. There is then a small group – The Circle, which gives opportunities for more in depth growth as young adult disciples.

Younger leaders...

- Involving children, young people and young adults at all levels of leadership and life. This includes welcoming, worship, serving, leadership teams, music, PCC, leading, preaching etc.

Inter-generational church...

- Recognising how we are most truly “church” when we are all-age, and when we value the contribution and experience of old and young alike. Intentionally make space to belong and meet together as all ages, and further develop “Messy Church” and other initiatives.

Work in local schools...

- Developing our growing ministry in local schools, acting as a grace-filled resource and a prayerful partner as we respond to the many opportunities to work with children, young people and families.

Aiming Higher

We have a distinctive calling to be offering God our best. “Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God!” This is true for us as individuals, creating a culture where *every person* who belongs to Trinity Churches can find somewhere to belong, to serve and to use their gifts. We do so not as ‘volunteers’ but rather as disciples giving their best to God. This is also true for us *corporately*, seeking to give of our best to the God who gave all.

“Blessed to be a blessing”

During one of our 2013 PCC meetings we talked about how best to be resourcing and supporting other churches in Shrewsbury and beyond. We recognised that we are an active part of a number of networks, though at times feeling somewhat ‘networked out’! We have a lot of gifts that we are already sharing, including debt advice, leadership training, assembly planning, fundraising and administrative support. And we want to find ways of supporting those who live in some of the villages around Shrewsbury and ‘travel’ into church here, helping them to be ‘salt and light’ in their home communities and of developing our role as a ‘minster’ resource church.

November saw us hosting “Shropshire Light”, a Shropshire-wide conference for Hereford and Lichfield Dioceses. We hadn’t expected the talk from George Carey to hit the international headlines in the way that it did (“the church will be extinct in one generation unless...”), but the day showed both our ability and our desire to act as a resource to other churches and Christians from across the county.



In November we also hosted a very productive synod meeting in which churches were open about what they do well, what challenges them, and how they could help each other in their particular ministries. There was a sense of “one body” and togetherness as we considered our shared mission in the context of Shrewsbury as a whole.

Training opportunities across the parish

It has been encouraging to see a number of people across the parish exploring authorised ministry and developing their gifts. A dozen musicians took part in a Worship Central course, as well as Sue Gregory at Christ the King who finished her worship leaders course. The year also saw Carol Booles commissioned by the Bishop as a pastoral care minister, and some people exploring ordination, or their ‘next steps’ in preaching and leading services.

There were six Reinvigorate sessions through the year, designed to equip and inspire the church family in their discipleship. These were on a variety of topics including issues we face as leaders at work, bereavement care, and preaching. We have also continued to support marriage through ‘Marriage MOT’ evenings and a ‘Marriage Launch’ night and other support for the 26 couples who were married at Holy Trinity this year.

PCC and other leadership bodies

It is never easy to capture the business of PCC, DCC, Standing and Finance committee, management committees etc in a few words. They continued to take the lead on some key areas of the parish's life, and to bring wisdom, accountability and discernment as we have done that. From buildings to budgets, from staff appointments to stewardship, from church signage to chancel repair, from parking to parties, there have been a number of issues to wrestle with over 2013.

In looking back at the minutes, two things emerge. Firstly, a commitment to keep coming back to vision, seeing God's heart and hearing God's call rather than being driven by the management. May that continue! Secondly, an ability to pray together, to laugh together, and at times to disagree together with grace and with understanding. We thank all those who serve on committees and management groups.

Staff Team and Ministry Leadership Team

It's right here to honour the dedication and hard work of members of the ministry leadership team and the wider staff team. There are many different roles on the team, including stipendiary and self-supporting clergy, Church Army and youth/childrens ministers, Church Office and Trinity Centre staff, Café management and maintenance people. Amidst the ebb-and-flow of new staff and the challenges of working in a thriving Church, we've enjoyed meeting regularly to pray together, the weekly Monday meetings, and the occasional opportunities to get together as an extended team.

One of the larger projects in the year was to carry out a ministry support review, looking at how the many evolving areas of the parish's ministry can be sustained in the long-term, administratively and practically. A number of recommendations have been already acted on, with more areas still in progress.



Publications across the Parish

Part of Kevin Lawrence's role as Operations Manager is to oversee the church's communications. Both internal and external, these are an important part of the church's life. Written communications include the weekly update, Reflect, and the glossy "Connect 2" magazine which is distributed to over 3,000 homes in the parish. Our website www.trinitychurches.org was completely overhauled in September and now attracts 50 visitors a day, whilst our Twitter and Facebook accounts have over 400 followers.

Aiming Higher

Blessed to be a blessing...

- Resourcing and supporting other local churches, especially village communities. Prayer, small groups going out to serve, seeing the 630pm service as a resource to others

Enabling ministry...

- Enabling every member to discover, live out and develop their gifts in Kingdom ministry, not just church-centred rotas. Be more enabling of potential, so that everyone finds their part to play in the body of Christ.

Do a few things well...

- Living less and seeking God more. Establish 'sabbatical' periods within the rhythm of the church, working and doing ministry from a place of rest and refreshing.

Aiming Higher

Talking Money

We have continued to face significant financial challenges, although we are beginning to see signs of real encouragement in our giving, particularly towards the end of 2013.

Looking back over 2013

In 2013 we budgeted for a deficit of c£24,000, accepting that this could only be a short term solution. This is because our reserves were being depleted towards a level where we would no longer be able to meet our agreed reserves policy (see below).

In the early part of 2013, income continued largely at 2012 levels, but, in the last few months of the year, we have seen a significant growth in giving, across all congregations. As a result the final 2013 deficit was significantly less, at £4,433. This increase was a mixture of newer members setting up regular giving plans and existing members increasing their giving.

The vast majority of our income comes from church members, but the Trinity Centre also generated a small surplus and other sources included grants, fees from weddings and funerals, rents received, and investment income.

In 2013, we made the decision to appoint two new members of staff, supported by a generous one-off gift, received in 2012. Matt Guilder and Gordon Lamb took up their posts in September, with their salaries initially being paid from the gift received. However, this gift will only cover the salaries to September 2015 if we continue to use it at the current rate. We are fully aware that income will need to increase to a level that will meet all our expenditure including the cost of new staff posts.

As in previous years, we have kept a tight control on expenditure.

We see signs of encouragement, but we cannot afford to be complacent, there remains a long way to go before our income is at a level to sustain our current activities.

Note: This report is a commentary on the finances for the day to day activities of Trinity Churches. Statutory financial accounts are available for 2013. These accounts are a consolidation of all monies handled by the PCC including Cafe Connect and various restricted funds.

The 2014 Budget

As at the end of the year, we had c£137,000 in 'reserve' in the bank, money we can spend to support any future deficit. However, it is good financial practice to keep enough to cover three months of costs (in our case c£90,000) in 'reserve' and so we cannot continue to dip into reserves for much longer.

We have set what we believe is an achievable budget. It shows an overall deficit of c£50,000 for 2014, including c£30,000 drawn from the 2012 donation designated for new staff posts. This gives us the c£20,000 deficit on ordinary income shown below.

As a PCC we are committed to talking about stewardship and giving as an important part of discipleship. In February 2014 we had a “pledge” month called “Excel in the Grace of Giving.” We have seen an encouraging response to this so far with signs of longer-term growth in income. As at Easter 2014 nearly £20,000 extra per annum has been pledged. Our prayer is that the upward trend in members giving continues in order that we can fully fund our ministry in the medium term.



The tables below are a summary of actual income and expenditure for 2013 and also the budgets set by the PCC for 2014. (NB, figures rounded).

INCOME (£000's)	2013 Actual	2014 Budget
Giving	234	234
Grants	6	5
Hospitality (inc Trinity Centre surplus and CIC donations)	10	5
Fees (weddings and funerals)	16	15
Other	10	8
Drawn from designated reserve to meet staff salaries	11	30
TOTAL	287	297

Expenditure has increased mainly because new staff will be in post for the whole year.

EXPENDITURE (£000's)	2013 Actual	2014 Budget
Children and Young people	42	58
Justice and Care	24	24
Lifelong Discipleship	1	3
Pathways to Faith	9	15
Worship and Prayer	26	27
Parish Share and Diocesan contributions	119	120
Ministry support	71	70
TOTAL	292	317

NOTE: Figures are for illustration purposes only – statutory figures can be found in our accounts



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Living for Jesus, Loving one another, Setting a table for the World