



Annual Review of 2015



Annual Review of 2015

Start here...	3
Holy Trinity Meole Brace.....	4
Christ the King Radbrook Green.....	6
Meole Estate Ministries.....	7
Children, Families and Youth.....	9
Café Connect and Trinity Centre	12
Living for Jesus.....	14
Loving One Another	16
Setting a table for the world	18
Wardens' Report.....	23
Talking Money	23
Wider Church and Parish.....	25
Looking Ahead.....	27

For the financial accounts for 2015, and the 2016 electoral roll, please see the files available in church, or go to www.trinitychurches.org/review

Start here...

I read recently a great story about the well-known evangelist Billy Graham. He brought together his staff, people who stuff envelopes, sweep floors, answer phone calls. They do sort of hidden, often times unappreciated or underappreciated work.

And he had a Bible study with them, and said, "Your reward in Heaven will be greater than mine."

And a bunch of people rolled their eyes and sighed and was like, "Come on. I put things in envelopes. You're Billy Graham. When we get to Heaven, if one of us is gonna be the king and one of us gonna be the caretaker, I'm pretty sure who the caretaker is."

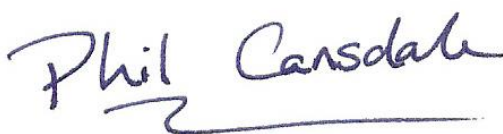
Billy Graham looked at them very sternly, sort of with a fatherly tone and said, "No, never forget this. **The Lord rewards faithfulness, not just fruitfulness.**"

This report comes with huge thanks for the **faithfulness** of so many different people across the parish, who use their time, their gifts, their energies and their money to serve God and one another. I hope you'll be encouraged as you read these reports, plus be on the lookout for the many other events, activities and people who haven't been included here but are part of the story of Trinity Churches.

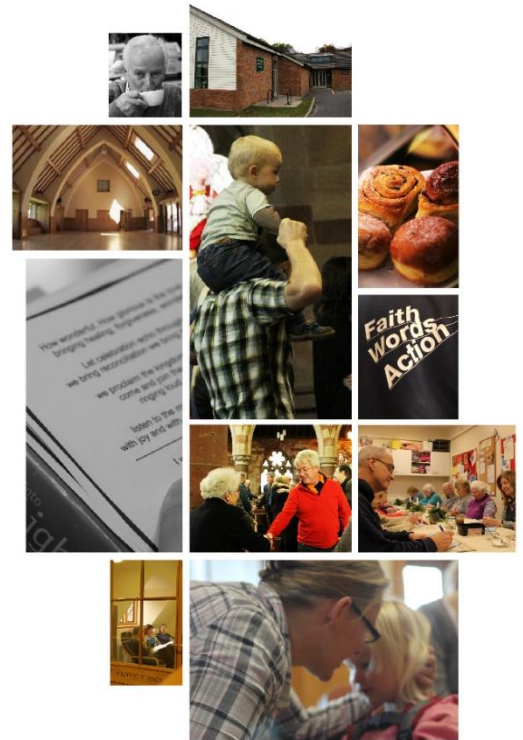
And may you be enthused by some emerging **fruitfulness** in areas of our ministry and mission, and give thanks to God for that. As one report reminds us, "God is good!" There are stories of faith and fruitfulness in what follows, as well as the honest reflections of where things are more difficult at the moment.

With thanks to you all across the parish and beyond who walk the journey of faith together, and who it remains a privilege to serve and lead.

Grace and peace!



Phil Cansdale, Vicar



Holy Trinity Meole Brace



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

The 10.45am congregation

The 10.45 congregation continues to grow across the generations, and it is lovely to welcome new members. We continue to try to grow younger, giving a voice in ‘big church’ to those who may not have had one before; not as a chance to ‘give them a try’ but because we are aware we all have things to learn from each other. Teenagers involved in the distribution of communion remains a source of great joy and blessing for us all.

The 10.45 service has continued with an emphasis on encouraging us all to be frontline disciples. This has been an implicit feature of many of our sermon series. Teaching from the Old Testament has been particularly well received and appreciated by the congregation.

One of the perpetual challenges of the 10.45 congregation is how to achieve a sense of belonging and to ensure that members are cared for pastorally. We are aware that we have an open front door, but also an equally wide back door. Perhaps linked with the issue of belonging is the perpetual challenge of the rota – we are particularly in need of more people to become involved in prayer ministry and coffee. We’ve tried two ‘no rota’ Sundays, where the usual rota is suspended to allow those who don’t usually participate to do so, and this has been a real encouragement. The 10.45 leadership team are deeply grateful to all those who serve tirelessly in whatever capacity at this service, and for those who are faithful in prayer for this congregation.

Fi Iddon

The 6.30pm congregation

There are a number of different ‘groups’ of people who attend the evening service. For some it is their ‘primary’ congregation, a place of belonging, a place to worship, hear God’s word and then have a bit more time and space to respond. For others they may have been serving elsewhere in the morning, and they come to receive. For yet others they may belong to other local churches in the morning, and for them the evening congregation is a place to come occasionally, to receive from God, and to go back to their home churches encouraged.

It has been encouraging to see the evening service grow in depth and in size over the past twelve months. We’ve been meeting for many years on the chancel area of church, and on occasions with 40+ people it is beginning to feel full up. What an encouragement, though at the same stage something I’m asking the 630 congregational leadership team to give some thought to as we plan for 2016 and beyond.

Looking back over 2015 three highlights stand out. Firstly the monthly “Presence” services, where we take time to build the theme and structure of the service around

communion – there's something very special about these evenings. Secondly to see new people develop skills and step out in ministry, whether up front or behind the scenes. Finally I'd want to pay tribute to Dave Bruce, one of whose many responsibilities and gifts was to oversee the 630 congregation. We will miss his leadership, guidance and input.

Phil Cansdale

The 9.00am Congregation

The 9am congregation has had a steady year numerically, with a significant number of new members but, sadly, there were others who have either died or no longer can join us on a Sunday morning. We are grateful to those members who have offered to take on a new role in serving as welcomers, Bible readers, intercessors, etc. during our services and to our music group, who lead our worship with commitment every Sunday.

The pastoral team of Judith Haddaway, Cynthia Crump and Valerie Pitt was joined this year by Caryl Roscoe. We try to keep abreast of the pastoral needs of the congregation but we are very grateful to those members who keep in touch with others and give help, when needed.

We continue to support in prayer Neville Willerton's work with the Church Army; Severn Hospice and Meole Brace Primary School. Several members helped with the Prayer Space at the school during the year. A social event with bring-and-buy stall raised £80 for the Hospice.

The CLT is aware of the need to keep up-to-date and, to this end, we have adopted a new song supplement to the hymn book, and new service booklets are in preparation. The 9am congregation has a distinctive identity at Trinity Churches, which we hope to maintain, and to offer our worship in the best way we can.

Valerie Pitt

Thursday 10am congregation

The Thursday morning Holy Communion service has a close and friendly congregation, some having attended for many years. During the last year, they have welcomed a small number of new worshippers into their midst who were soon happily settled in.

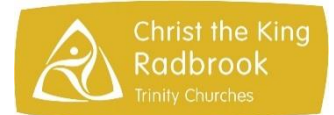
The words of worship are comfortably familiar but, on the first Thursday of each month, the service is taken from the Book of Common Prayer and this proved popular during 2015 with most of the congregation staying afterwards for "Thursday Fellowship", a coffee and a chat.

The Thursday morning service has been, for many years, and remains, a welcome time of worship in the middle of the week.

Shirley Stevens



Christ the King Radbrook Green



The church of Christ the King continues to reach out to Radbrook Green with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, both as we gather on Sunday mornings at the Radbrook Community Centre and in our home groups, and as we 'scatter' to our individual Frontlines. This report can only give you a very brief 'flavour' of life at CTK: if you've never been to CTK, please can I encourage you to join us on a Sunday morning so you can experience a little bit of who we are!

Our Sunday morning 'church' gathering is very important as this enables us to meet to worship our risen Lord, to feed on His word together, to pray together and to encourage each other in all sorts of ways. Our sung worship has been led by a varied team of people who have very kindly given of their time and expertise although it has been quite difficult at times to keep sung worship alive at CTK! But our thanks go particularly to Helen Hinton, Steve Cox, Phil, Gordon, and our own CTK music people who week by week, practice and then lead us all in sung worship on Sunday mornings. Other aspects of Sunday mornings have continued to have their fair share of hard work and blessings!



We are a small church with a real heart for the community and that is costly in terms of leadership. We long for passionate and committed people to come and join us in the work and ministry here in Radbrook as the potential is huge. As I said in my first CTK report, CTK is also a 'flat pack' church, so the setting up and setting down is a big job for a few committed people! On Sunday mornings we have been trying to be more 'intentional' and focussed about asking people to share testimonies about 'life of the Frontline' and to give opportunities for people to pray for each other. It's so important that 'church' is strongly connected to what is happening in our everyday life and that people begin to invite Jesus to make a difference where we are each day.

The leadership groups at CTK have continued to help me to 'flesh out' what God is saying to us as a church, and I am very grateful to the DCC and the Leadership team for their support and advice and practical help over the course of the year. There are too many people to name to say 'thank you' too, but particular thanks go to Judith and Michael as church wardens for all they have done over the course of the year.

As to the future, as I said in a recent report to PCC, as leaders we're keen that each and every 'church attender' at CTK has a deeper awareness of how and where Christ is

shaping and transforming our own lives, and then how Christ is calling each and every one of us to shape our sphere of influence in Radbrook Green and beyond. This means encouraging more 'discipling conversations' to happen after services, or in our home groups, or in Community Tea, or in the café, at Refresh or at First Steps. Let's not settle for 'low level Christianity' but let's aim for a costly, mission-shaped and a Jesus-and-each-other-loving church. That's the church that Jesus began so let's pray and work to be community in that way!

Peter Hubbard

Community Outreach at CTK

In some ways it is difficult to separate CTK and its outreach, as our DNA is really all about reaching out to the community with the love of Jesus Christ, but we do have specific ministries that are particularly focused on reaching the community: First Steps, Community tea, Radbrook Nursing Home visits, assemblies in the Primary School, prayer walking, 24/7 prayer for the community...the list goes on!

Café Connect has of course gone through a major change this year as Ollie has stepped down as manager and we have appointed two new co-managers to take the café into the future. I'm sure the café will go from strength to strength under Dave and Lissi's leadership. Ollie's leaving 'do' showed the amazing affection that people from the community have for the café, and it's so important that we keep 'Jesus at the centre' of its outreach and ministry.

Our other main outreach is of course Refresh. For various reasons we have had an important review of Refresh this year which has enabled Judith Clarkson to talk to all the families about how they view the group and to enable the team to discuss how to lead the group into the future. It is too early to say specifically what changes will be implemented, but one of the things we *do* want to do is to link in the CTK morning congregation more deeply with Refresh in order to encourage a genuinely intergenerational outreach! Hopefully these changes, when agreed, will be embraced by CTK wholeheartedly!

Peter Hubbard

Meole Estate Ministries



The CMP Leadership team continue to hold onto things lightly as we seek to join in with His mission. We continue to engage with those who are lonely, and to be prayerful as journey with the community in which we serve.

We aim to live out these words in all that happens within our community:

Romans 12:16 in the message version: *'Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy, share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies, don't be the great somebody.'*

Some of our events which are engaging with and building relationship the community have not changed at all over the past year. Yet there are new community groups which have been birthed through the 2020 Vision document.

Bible and Bingo, Bacon Buddies and our monthly Sunday services continue and we have introduced a number of new ideas throughout the week.

Bible and Bingo has continued to maintain steady numbers. Those who come along always have a great fun time, but for me the exciting thing is to see a number of volunteers from the Trinity Churches family. This is very encouraging.

The weekly **Bacon Buddies** continues to be well attended. With Alice and Dave Bruce moving on we have new volunteers that fill their roles. There is a new cosy feel to the Meet Place as we have acquired a number of tables and a settee. The relationships with all community members has continued to grow, this includes our CSO and newly appointed Shrewsbury Town Councillor who regularly attend.

The **Bacon Buddies Goes Deeper** small group has grown in number. We have been studying some challenging material from the Bible Society and it has been exciting for me to see personal growth in our members.

Our fortnightly **Knit and Natter group** is open for anyone to attend. Here we knit, natter and drink tea as we build community. The knitting is linked with an organisation called Knit for Life, who give us direction for the international needs and also the Marylebone Project, a Church Army Project for homeless women in London. Knit and Natter has a regular attendance of ten people who can share their personal skills and learn from each other.



This year we have started a '**community singing group**'. This group has grown from 5 members to 12 in just 4 months. It is such a fun community group who have performed at two events already and have a third lined up at the Radbrook Community Tea in April. This is a weekly event. To help us keep the costs down we have formal teaching every other week.

We continue to intentionally walk alongside all members of our community and would value your prayers as we do this. One of the hardest things for us all is to learn how to forgive. We do see glimpses of His Kingdom coming as the community choose to grow relationships based upon His unconditional, generous and gracious love for all.

Gordon Lamb

Children, Families and Youth

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.

At First Steps we average 30 children plus their carers each week and although our team is well “manned”, we are always on the look-out for other people to help. At Trinity tots we usually have between 15 and 20 children and their carers each week, our team is very small and we are desperate for some more help to join us, so that we can have time to chat to the families.

Carol Booles

Work in Primary Schools

The good relationship we have with our two primary schools continues to grow. We do weekly assemblies in both schools using the Open the Book material, involving the children in the drama as we tell the bible stories and have a time of reflection and prayer. Different year groups from the schools come to church to take part in our Easter, Pentecost and Harvest experiences. We have been involved at Radbrook with their Christmas and summer fayres – and a great time was had having photos taken in the picture boards and thinking about the people in the nativity. Classes from Meole have come into church to help bring life to their lessons as they thought about worship, Holy Communion and the church building.

A key change at Meole is my role as lay chaplain – a role I feel very privileged to have and I look forward to developing this role both with the children, the staff and the parents. The church team were very involved in Meole during a particularly difficult spring and summer term when the school had to deal with three bereavements. A team meet in the school weekly to pray for the school and a new lunchtime drop in gives the children an opportunity to come and ask the big and little questions that are puzzling them. None of this could happen without an amazing team of people – a huge thank you to them all.

Judith Clarkson

Refresh and Family Feast

Refresh at Radbrook and Family Feast at Meole Brace are two Messy Church experiences that we run in our communities. They follow the Messy Church aims: being a worshipping community; being all age; Christ-centred; creative and hospitable. Refresh meets monthly in the Community Centre and we are in the process of a review as we consider how to move this group forward in a way that meets the needs of those who



come as well as drawing in new people from the Radbrook community. Family Feast meets half termly at present and the majority of those who come are from the primary school.

Refresh and Family Feast are key events for those either on the fringe of church, those who are asking questions and those who feel that it is important for their children to hear the stories and hear a message that will have a lasting effect in their lives. Our big question is how can we disciple those who come when we have relatively little contact with them. Our brilliant teams are key to this and we are always keen to have others involved - the more people who can share their stories and encourage, the more impact we can have helping those who come have their own encounter with Jesus!

Judith Clarkson

Trinity Kids

Come into the Trinity Centre on a Sunday morning and you will hear the buzz of 40 -50 children having a great time with friends (they come from 8 different schools!) and exploring in their groups as the fantastic leaders help them find ways of knowing the love Jesus has for them, helping them know him in every part of their lives, and finding ways of being strong in their faith when friends and others don't understand.

On the third week of the month we have our Wonder Of Worship Sunday where Sparklers continue to go to their own group while the rest stay together and think more creatively about things. With the help of visiting members of the congregation, these are some of the questions we have asked: how can we become more immersed in the bible stories? Which sort of worship song helps us meet with God? How can we have a deeper prayer life? How can we learn to pray for each other? How do sport and church fit together? How can we use different styles of writing to explore It is very exciting to hear the children talk and think things through.

Our nativity this year was a great success and it was a joy to have so many of our children and young people in the Family Orchestra for Carols by Candlelight. We have had our annual Galaxy and Universe sleepover and are excited that, thanks to the suggestion by two of our Galaxies, we are holding our own Secret Church to help us think what it would be like not having the freedom to worship as we do. We ROC, our small group for 7 -10 yr olds continues to flourish and is a great place to ask questions and discover more about God's unstoppable love!

Judith Clarkson

Trinity Youth

We are so so blessed at Trinity Churches to have so many amazing young people but also to be in a parish where there are so many young people. Last summer we wanted to make our youth work simpler but also clear to all what we do. So we launched our Community Life Church vision for Trinity Youth for 2015-2016

So our youth work now comes under three distinctive categories...

Community

We will build communities of young people, who engage with positive activities.

We will work with other agencies and the local community to provide a better life for all young people.

We will encourage young people to take an active part in their local community.

Life

We will live life alongside young people and support them in their journey of faith.

We will share the good news of Jesus Christ and support young people as they learn what it means to be a Christian.

Church

We will gather as a group of Christians of all ages.

We will provide relevant teachings and specific youth focused groups

We will encourage the young people to develop a heart that serves others.

We have seen a real growth in our work across the three distinctive categories and now we believe Gods call for us is to be consistent and keep doing the mission in this way in this parish.

We couldn't do it without our amazing youth team volunteers and all those who give and pray for this ministry.

Matt Guilder



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

As Cafe Connect goes forward into its 14th year, we pray to become more successful at developing a ministry of love, welcome, and a place that can provide good coffee, food and a vision of Gods love.

This year we have seen a significant growth in the ministry with the youth at the Cafe, through the Breakfast Club and the after school club that is held weekly in the Cafe with Mat Gilder at the helm.

Our healing ministry has grown, and is held every other Saturday, this amazing ministry is led by Carole Roscoe and Gordon Lamb with their team, and is welcomed by many who use the Radbrook shopping centre.



As ever we are thankful for the dedication of the volunteers who are committed to the work at Cafe Connect, and for helping to make the Cafe the success that it is in the community.

In May 2015 we appointed Dave Abberley as Deputy Manager to support me in the vision of the Cafe, this enabled me to continue my outreach work in the community. This as helped us to develop a new project. Working with people with Dementia, and their carers, by providing a Dementia friendly cafe once a month on Monday afternoons for them to enjoy company, coffee and cakes in a safe and loving place.

In March I decided to step down as Manager of the Cafe, to enable me to do more outreach in the community. I have enjoyed thirteen years working in the Cafe, but feel it is time for "new blood" to take the Cafe forward. We have appointed Dave Abberley and Lissi Small as Co-managers to take over the running of the Cafe, and I know that with their support I am able to continue the good community outreach that the Cafe has grown. The Cafe is a tremendous outreach for our church, and I pray that the passion for helping the lost and the lonely will continue in 2016 and beyond.

Ollie Abbott

The Trinity Centre

The Trinity Centre continues to be a significant outpost for the ministry of Trinity Churches; a busy place, brimming with opportunities to witness God’s love and serve our community. The past year has in particular seen an increase in bookings for wedding receptions and ‘post-wedding refreshments’. This is an exciting new development as it enables us to

nurture meaningful, lasting and positive relationships with the couples involved. Last year also saw the arrival of two new 'bank' welcome assistants, both of whom do a brilliant job and have been an asset to the team. Mike Hinton continues to do an excellent maintenance job behind the scenes, and it's been a pleasure to welcome William Small to the management committee- his wisdom and commitment to understanding the workings of such a complex animal as the Trinity Centre have been deeply appreciated.

Perhaps the most significant challenge that has come to the fore recently is the issue of car parking. It's not an easy situation as options are clearly limited, and there are times when big events, like large funerals alongside existing user groups and school pick-up, can overwhelm capacity. In response to this pressure, a car park working group has been convened, and is working with neighbours, the council and the school to try to creatively find the best way forward. We are committed to being a blessing to those who live nearby, and we are grateful for their forbearance during those isolated periods where traffic flow is difficult.

Corinne Ashton and has recently been working on developing a regular pattern of prayer for the centre, and over the coming months hopes to work with Mike Haddaway to gather a small team who are passionate about praying for protection over the building and for the well-being of all who use it.

Hannah Lins



Living for Jesus

Whole-life discipleship

I make no apologies for using the “F-word” in this annual review. **Frontline**. I know that for some people the word itself may feel ‘tired’, a catch-word for the keenies or a buzzword for those in the know. Anyone for sermon bingo, with a hand up every time it is used?

And yet behind the word is the most important of principles, and life-changing of invitations. We’ve been learning more these last couple of years what it is to live as whole-life disciples. Not just for an hour a week in a gathered church setting, but all of our lives. 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.

You’ll have hopefully seen this principle through preaching and teaching, and in one-to-one conversations; it has also been featured in small group material. As Mark Greene writes, “The UK will never be reached until we create open, authentic, learning and praying communities that are focussed on making whole-life disciples who take the opportunities to show and share the gospel wherever they relate to people in their daily lives.”

I’m looking forward this next few months to revisiting some of these important principles, with about twenty people from across the parish involved in some diocesan wide training. Though some may tire of the word, may we never tire of being disciples.

Phil Cansdale

Prayer across the parish

The gathered prayer of the churches happens in a whole range of settings, from Sunday worship to small groups, parish daily morning prayer to special events. This year there has been a growing sense of the way this praying all belongs to one whole, a community of worship and intercession. Much thanks for this goes to Mike Haddaway, who has taken the role of overseeing the life of prayer in the parish and done it with gentle persistence.

There has also been a move to share the power and gift of prayer more widely, particularly in the ‘say one for me’ initiative (inviting our neighbours in the parish to share things that we can pray for them) and in the prayer for healing offered around the parish but most publicly at Café Connect on Saturday mornings. The forthcoming ‘try praying’ project is another example, shared with all the churches of our town.

Personal prayer is also an area in which we can grow through sharing with others at times. This year saw a quiet morning and a quiet evening at the Trinity Centre, the latter with some teaching and facilitated discussion about ‘practical prayer’. It is hoped to put on more such times in the coming year.

Charles Ruxton

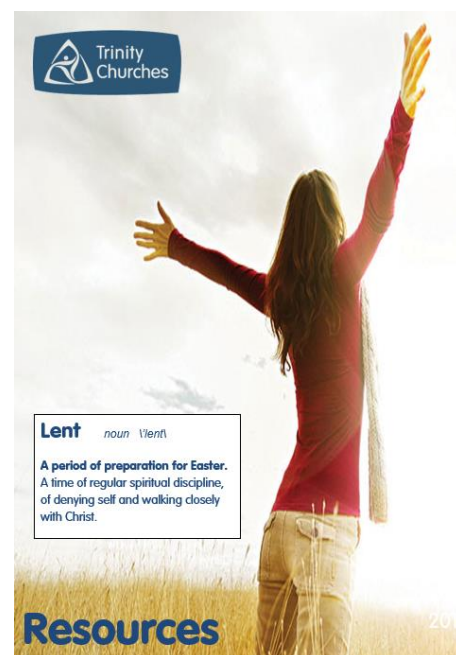


Lent 2015 – Small Groups and prayer

Lent 2015 saw us offer a variety of opportunities for people to go deeper in their faith, and to step out in prayer. It was good to host a couple of new lent groups in addition to the ongoing small groups across the parish, using the Pilgrim “Lord’s Prayer” course and “The Gospel according to Les Miserables.” We also offered an opportunity for a morning of quiet and retreat, and space for those who wanted to engage with Discipleship MOT.

We also offered some online resources, which are increasingly a shape of things to come. I’m looking forward to seeing how we can use our website, weekly email and social media to offer more resources for discipleship in C21.

Phil Cansdale



Flower and brass guild

The Flower Team have had an exceptionally busy year with 21 weddings – Festivals have come as a great joy as we can actually do some coloured flower arrangements instead of white! – There are already even more weddings booked for this year, and more anticipated. Its lovely that our beautiful church is such a popular venue. We are also planning to put a permanent silk arrangement by the church doors to welcome everyone coming in throughout the year.

We have had several new members join the Team and are now 22 – including two youngsters which is great!! Sadly, there are only two Brass ladies now who do an amazing job keeping all the brass so beautifully polished.

The Christmas decorations were particularly commented on – we did them the week before the Carols by Candlelight services to make sure as many people as possible could enjoy them, and are planning to do the same this year.

We have managed to keep within our budget, no easy task with flower costs rising. We were able to boost funds a bit with nearly £100 made from providing refreshments for the Plant Sale in May.

Some of our Members have been involved in making table centres for Holiday at Home and the Christmas Lunch and enjoyed the chance of using our skills as well as in the church.

After our AGM on Friday 4th March we sat down and made 220 posies to be handed out to all ladies attending our services at Holy Trinity and The Meet Place. Exhausting as always but great fun and as they are so much appreciated it is well worth it!!

Judith Haddaway and Nicky Purcell

Loving One Another

Small Groups

We continue to have a good number of Small Groups meeting on a regular basis in Trinity Churches. There are over 20 groups and there is a very varied mix with some groups made up on a demographic basis and others with a mixed make up. Some meet weekly, some fortnightly, some are day-time and some are evening. Many meet in people's homes and others in the Trinity Centre or the Meet Place. Typically groups vary between 5-15.

There has been a steady increase of people joining groups and new ones have started up. During 2015 Groups have studied a variety of material but most Groups included study on the work of the Holy Spirit to supplement and enhance the Church's teaching programme during the autumn term.

There are huge benefits to being part of a Small Group as they learn to grow together and trust each other in a very deep sense. They are also a key part of the pastoral work of the Church Family.

The key elements of Small Group life are prayer, support and spiritual growth together with some outward focus to help in the mission to which all are called. Many social activities also supplement the joy that it is to be part of a Small Group.

Gareth Evans

18s – 30s

Our work continues to grow with 18-30's as we have had some great people come and join our groups and get involved in the church life in the last few months! We are still trying at Trinity Churches to support our 18-30's in this significant time of life. We have regular meetings as well as a number of social events which people are just offering to host as and when.



Sunday Lunch. Going for a meal in a local pub or restaurant. Once a month meeting at 1pm or after the 10:45am Service.

Small Group (Wednesday's- Fortnightly). 8pm-10pm. A group of us meet fortnightly to encourage and support one another. We meet at the Guilder's house and our time together generally includes an opportunity to catch up over cake and coffee, time exploring the bible together, time setting a challenge for the next fortnight, and praying together. We are also encouraging this group to take roles of all sorts in the church We have seen so many do this and its so encouraging!

Matt Guilder

Trinity Conferences

March 2015 saw Nicky Groarke, the Archdeacon of Dudley, speak at a day conference called “Kindle a Flame.” This offered women from the parish here, as well as churches from all over Shropshire, to come together for great quality Bible teaching, good quality worship, and a chance to be refreshed and renewed. We were delighted that about 170 women attended for what was a really good day.

November saw us host the Shropshire-wide conference hosted by the Bishops of Shrewsbury and Ludlow. Bishop Stephen Cottrell was the speaker on a day called “Living the Life”, with some excellent teaching from our main speaker, and some down-to-earth seminars running through the day on practical discipleship and Christian living.

We also hosted some mens and womens breakfasts, a New Wine Day Conference, the 2015 General Election Hustings, a Childrens Conference, and the launch of Elaine Storkey’s book, as well as helping to organise a pilot project with the Bible Society hosted by Dai Woolridge.

We have an amazing resource in the Trinity Centre and the Church, and we need to continue to find ways of being a resource to churches and communities across Shropshire. Perhaps 2016 or 2017 can be an opportunity for a mens day?

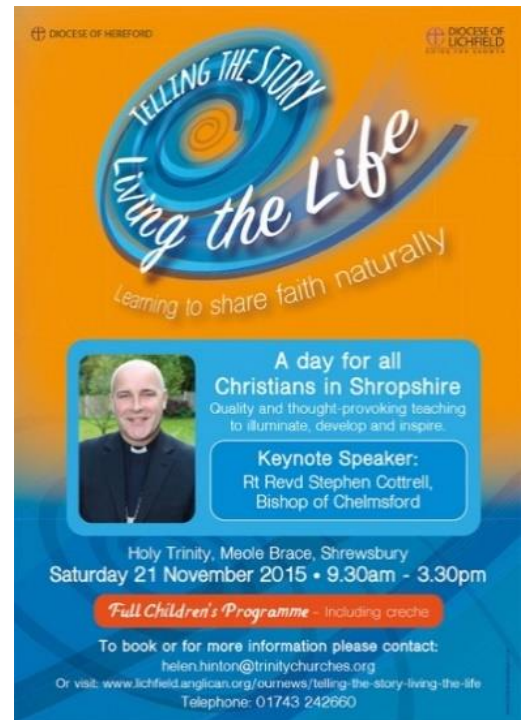
Phil Cansdale

Life as an ordinand

Firstly and above all, we’d like to thank all of you who have prayed for us as we’ve embarked on our ordination training. We feel so deeply supported and affirmed by the knowledge that people are interceding on our behalf in a season that is richly rewarding, yet also significantly challenging.

We’re now coming towards the end of our second year of three, and the time is going alarmingly quickly! We’ve both learned so much from our dual placement- part here at Trinity Churches and part working for +Mark as Evangelism Enablers. The mixed mode of training has enabled us to maintain some continuity in family life, which is a blessing to our husbands and children, but life is very full and not always straightforward when there are responsibilities to family, church, college and the episcopal area to juggle. Thank you so much for your grace as you allow us to try new things, learn new skills and make mistakes in this context- it is profoundly appreciated. We look forward to next year when training ends, curacy looms and this whole enterprise becomes terrifyingly real!

Fi Iddon and Hannah Lins



Equipping other churches in prayer

Trinity Churches is wealthy in many ways and it our responsibility and joy to look for ways to bless others. One way is to offer gifts and ministries outside the parish and several of our number have had the opportunity to do this.

I have continued to hold the role of 'Diocesan Spirituality Adviser', working with a team of others to promote prayer and Christian spirituality in parishes across the Diocese. This has involved putting on prayer workshops, coordinating the Spiritual Companions (people trained and experienced in accompanying others as they seek to grow in their walk with God) and developing resources for prayer. I have also been working a day a week with parishes and deaneries in the Salop Area and, more recently, as chair of the Shrewsbury 'try praying' initiative.



Charles Ruxton

s

Setting a table for the world

The Alpha Course

Alpha continues to be a true blessing for our community. Twenty four people attended the recent course, including guests and helpers. We met to eat together, to share in life's experience and to learn about the Christian Faith over eight weeks. The food as expected was fantastic. The teaching each week, from a variety of speakers, was challenging and extremely helpful.

As the course came to an end each guest was given a gift of a book entitled 'Not a fan' to read. The main question being are you a fan or a follower? The book goes on to help the reader to choose which to be.

A follow-on course will be running after Easter 2016 to help our guest to 'belong' as they consider what they 'believe'. Positive feedback from our guests supports our huge thank you to all of our volunteers who assisted in this being a great course.



Gordon Lamb and Hannah Lins

Hospitality across the parish

Eating and drinking together is not only a natural part of being human. but it is something that Jesus did frequently. At Trinity Churches there are several ways of doing this – for bringing a friend.

Radbrook Community Tea – a monthly Wednesday afternoon in Radbrook Community Centre. One of the highlights of 2015 was a visit by Bishop Mark in November, complete with St J's Gospel choir singing, some great music, and lots of extra cake!

Trinity Table – a lunch, held on the first Tuesday of the month in the Bradbury Hall. In 2015, Steve Clarkson and his team continued to do a superb job of providing us with an excellent two course meal, ably served by students from Meole Brace School. Each month we have had a “Thought for the Day” talk by a variety of speakers and at Easter, Harvest and Advent we held a short service in church before the lunch. Attendance at lunch has been good, but there is room for a few more.

Morning Coffee – held weekly in the church on a Tuesday morning. We are grateful to a small committed group from the 9am congregation, who have continued to offer a warm welcome and time to chat over coffee and a scone. Some people have come regularly, others have dropped in occasionally, perhaps as they walked by, or came in to see the church windows.

Afternoon Tea – a monthly tea party, held on the third Wednesday in the Trinity Centre, generously provided by Judy Creyke and friends. In 2015 this has generally been thriving, but with some quieter months. The tea is given free, but there is a voluntary collection for charity. The Tea Party continues to be an excellent place to bring a friend, perhaps someone who has recently been bereaved or seldom gets out.

Valerie Pitt

Regular Hospitality at the Trinity Centre and Holy Trinity Church

Tuesday Morning Coffee

Home cooked scones, teas, and coffees. Every Tuesday, 10.30am - 12pm in Church.

Wednesday afternoon Meole Village tea

Sandwiches, cake and refreshments on the third Wednesday of each month, 2.30pm to 4pm in the Trinity Centre.

Trinity Table

A two course home-cooked meal. First Tuesday of the month, 12.30pm to 2.15pm in the Trinity Centre. Cost £4.

Thursday Fellowship

First Thursday of the month, starting with 10am BCP service, then 10.45am refreshments in Church.

For more information—including booking for Trinity Table - contact the Church Office on 01743 362399, or go to www.trinitychurches.org. And don't forget **Cafe Connect**, the church-run Coffee shop in Radbrook Green which offers good food and a warm welcome, Mondays to Saturdays.



 Trinity Churches

Mission, Relief and Development

Generous giving from Trinity church members continues to allow us to support many Christian causes both locally and overseas. In 2015, we awarded £28,000 in total.

We continue to respond to the crisis in Iraq and Syria through Open Doors who provide practical support to the persecuted Church. We are delighted to introduce Destination, led by Mike and Julie Hong, as our new partner for CTK.

Partners	Congregation	Link Person
Neville Willerton, Church Army	9am	David Leake
Destination, Middle East and North Africa	CTK	Margaret Philips
The Gallaghers, North Africa	10.45	Sylvia Ruxton
The Fletchers Thailand	6.30	Annali Hindle
40% of funds support our mission partners listed above		

A further £12,000 was awarded in grants to our friends at Shrewsbury Youth for Christ, Soul Purpose and the Bible Society. New one-off grants were made to Yellow Ribbon and Transform Burkina.

Six individuals received a small grant to support short term mission work and we encourage you to get in touch if you are considering your own venture and need help with the costs.

Please continue to pray for our mission partners including the Gallaghers who recently returned to North Africa. Please contact me or the relevant Link Person if you would like to find out more.

Andrew Jowett

Weddings, baptisms and funerals

Occasional Offices can so often be seen as “something we have to do” in the life of the church but for those of us who work in the church office they are often a very real frontline for our ministry.

Weddings are a happy moment in people’s lives and something that a lot of time and effort has gone into planning and we work hard to honour that. In 2015 Phil, Dave, Peter, Valerie and Charles took 20 weddings between them and a particular joy of last year’s weddings was welcoming back several people who had grown up in the church and whose parents still worship and serve here. Weddings offer 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. I would like to thank all those who work ‘behind the scenes’ to make the weddings happen each week particularly, Shirley, Clare, Judith and Nicky and the Flower Guild, the bell ringers and Rowan.

The same is true for funerals as they offer the chance to become someone’s neighbour when they are in need. Again, Phil and the clergy and the volunteers that work alongside them seek to support those in their time of bereavement. In 2015, there were 39 funerals.

One of the great aspects of booking a baptism is being able to tell people that it's free. In 2015 we welcomed 25 families for baptism or thanksgiving. Phil, Judith and Carol have developed significant relationships with those seeking baptism for their children and it's great to welcome families into activities such as Messy Church and toddler groups as a result of the baptism process.

Isabel Willerton

Parish Nursing Homes

It remains a great privilege and a pleasure to take Holy Communion into the Nursing Homes, each month, where we continue to receive enthusiastic welcomes.

The services showed a steady growth in numbers, during 2015, as residents encouraged each other to come along.

The residents, in particular at Radbrook Nursing Home, enjoy special occasions and highlights of 2015 were the Harvest Festival Service, where they donated a large box of groceries for the Food Bank, and the Carols by Candlelight Christmas Carol Service which was widely attended by residents and staff. For the last two years, this has taken place late afternoon, rather than evening, which has worked very well for the residents.

During the last year, the residents have been asked to make song requests for the service the following month, with the encouragement to choose something we have not had before. Their choices have sometimes been surprising, but popular, and all sing along.

At The Ferns, we said goodbye to Dave Bruce, who was very much liked by the residents and we also said a very sad final farewell to Beryl, who aged 97 and blind, played the piano by ear for us and would proudly say that we would not find a tune she could not play. We never did.

Shirley Stevens

Holiday at Home

A very well attend summer program brought fun and laughter to many folk from across the parish. This three day holiday club aims to bring people into community and to demonstrate God's unconditional love for everyone.

Each day comprises of games, dancing, quizzes, a short talk and great food.

This year we introduced a music and movement hour, where a wonderful young lady helped us all to exercise our joints and muscles to music as we remained seated. This activity was greatly appreciated by all guests and helpers. We had a trip out on one afternoon to a garden centre close to Welshpool. Tea and scones were served and it was commented by the staff that our guests were the best behaved customers at the centre!

Gordon Lamb

Trinity Money Advice Centre

We continue to serve the community with this much needed service of debt counselling. There have been changes over this past year that have made improvements to the service we provide.

The software package has been upgraded and all advisors have had further training. Training has always been fully in line with Financial Control Authority requirements.

Our regular team meetings continue to be fruitful and we are aiming to produce a clearer induction package for new advisors that will include a directory of regional contacts. This directory will endeavour to include all areas that our clients could potential need.

We have only three advisors at present and we will be looking for new volunteers in the period after Easter 2016.

Captain Gordon Lamb.

Work with vulnerable adults

It is not an easy time to be in need of help in Britain today. With continued cuts to services and endless changes to benefits the most vulnerable members of society are often those who suffer the most. If ever there was a time for the church in this country to speak up and support those people who are in need it is now.

As a church we welcome many vulnerable adults to our activities and services across the parish. Sharing God's love and acceptance with all is something lots of people within the church excel at. We continue to look for ways to help all feel that they belong to and are valued members of God's family.

Causeway

This is a group for adults with a learning disability which meets once a fortnight on a Monday evening at church. The group offers bible teaching, worship and fellowship. Over the last year they have seen a decline in their numbers. However, for many of their regular attendees it remains an important part of their week and a chance to spend time worshipping God with others. Please pray for wisdom for the team who lead this work that they are able to discern the best way forward for the group.

The Windfall Project

We are a small Community Interest Company who support adults with learning disabilities make delicious jams and chutneys. There are currently 8 team members; four who come on a Monday and four who come on a Thursday. We have two part-time paid members of staff and four volunteers. We are grateful to God for each individual who is part of the project. They all bring something unique and special. We work together through life's ups and downs and are able to support each other in good times and hard times. One of our many blessings this year was being asked to contribute our jam and chutney to make up hampers that went all round the world. The Windfall went global! We pray as ever for God's wisdom and grace as we continue to look at ways in which we can continue to improve what we do and to bless some of the most vulnerable members of our community

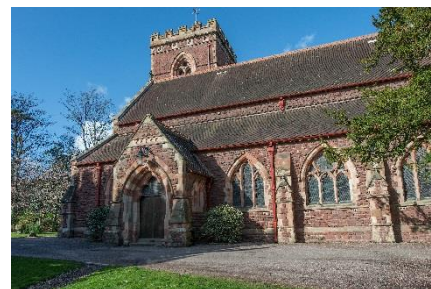


Rachel Woods

Wardens' Report

Our lovely church is still standing! The last 12 months has seen continued routine maintenance carried out to ensure that it stays that way.

The repairs to the worst of the stonework have been completed, although this is an ongoing process which will need to be revisited in the future as the soft sandstone erodes further. This work was entirely funded by grants.



Renovation and re-gilding of the weathervane revealed the surprise of finding two bullet holes in the cockerel. The scaffold was up rather longer than we expected - apologies to any who were inconvenienced. Scaffold was also needed to the church roof to replace several sections of leading, on the north side, which failed to withstand some strong winds.

The kneelers in church have been gradually getting more untidy as more and more suffer from broken hanging loops. Repair was going to be expensive, and as they are not used so much nowadays it was decided to remove them from the outer pews and fully populate the centre pews with serviceable ones. None have yet been disposed of.

Car parking is an increasing problem. The activity in the Church & Trinity Centre frequently leads to far more cars than parking spaces on the hardstanding. On Sundays we are fortunate to have the use of the school car park, but during the week there are frequently major problems. I would also ask those parking around the church itself to take the utmost care - a section of new stone was knocked off within a week of the Stonemason fitting it!

Finally my thanks to all who have helped Mike and myself over the last year. From Assistant Wardens to grass-cutters, from chair movers to parking stewards. You know who you are. Thank you.

Andy Digby and Mike Haddaway

Talking Money

Looking back over 2015

For 2015 we had set a realistic budget which reflected both the levelling off of voluntary donations (following significant growth in giving in the previous year) and also the increased costs following the expansion of the staff team in late 2013. We had set a deficit budget with an anticipated shortfall of c£12,000. This budget also allowed for substantial expenditure on remedial works to the Church stone work, the cost being covered in part by grants

God is good!

The financial outcome for 2015 was great. Our income exceeded our costs and a small surplus of c£6,000 was generated on the day to day activities of Trinity Churches. This result was due in part to a generous legacy of £10,000 which has been set aside in a designated fund for 2020 Vision Projects. Grants received were higher than anticipated and giving was also marginally ahead of 2014 levels. When the operations manager

resigned early in the year we took the opportunity to reorganise staff responsibilities resulting in modest cost savings; during the changeover we were operated for a several months without a manager resulting in one-off cost savings of around £7,000.

Looking ahead to 2016

For 2016 we have set a realistic budget with a planned deficit of £12,000. Our income is expected to be lower than that achieved in 2015 because we do not budget for legacies as these are infrequent and our grant income will be much lower as we have fewer schemes that would attract grant funding. However, we also expect our costs to reduce including Church maintenance costs as essential repairs to stone work have been completed. We are grateful that the Lichfield Diocese has reduced our Parish Share – this is the amount we contribute towards cost of the mission and ministry of the Church of England, which is primarily the cost of clergy. The planned deficit will be covered by drawing down funds from the reserve for new staff posts.

TRINITY CHURCHES

Income

Giving (inc tax reclaim)

272

269

Grants Receivable

19

2

Wedding and Funeral Fees

13

14

Hospitality (Trinity Centre surplus and CIC)

8

7

Other income

12

11

Legacy

10

-

334

303

Expenditure

Children and Young People

59

62

Charitable and Missionary Giving (tithe)

28

28

Mission and Ministry

38

38

Parish Share and Diocesan payments

121

112

Ministry Support

55

60

Church Premises

27

15

328

315

2015 Surplus

6

on day to day activities

2016 Budget Deficit

-12

to be drawn from staff post reserve

Wider Church and Parish

The Staff Team

2015 was another year of change for the staff team, particularly with the departure of Dave Bruce as curate, and Kevin Lawrence as Operations Manager. I'd want to pay tribute to both of them for their hard work, their wisdom, and their outstanding ability to get involved in so many different areas of church life. As Kevin left we took the opportunity to do some rearranging of roles, with Isabel Willerton becoming Church Office Manager, Hazel Tetsill being appointed as Administrative Assistant, and William Small becoming Operations Manager.

The autumn in particular saw us spending some time developing skills and relationships within the team, always important in a busy church, particularly where many team members are working part-time and not always closely together. We were hugely grateful for the support and input of a member of the 1045 congregation with expertise in this area, and look forward to continuing to find ways of building team, working together, and being more effective in how we operate. We've got some progress still to be made on this.

2016 sees changes again in the team, with the recent departure of Gloria Davidson as finance assistant, and changes in café staffing. We're really looking forward to the arrival of Charlotte Gompertz as training curate in June, as she – along with Adam, Molly and Noah – move into the parish and settle into life at Trinity Churches.

Phil Cansdale

PCC and Leadership Teams

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 9 am, 10.45 am, 6.30 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

Shrewsbury Deanery and wider church life

We continue to play an active role in Shrewsbury Deanery, and the wider life of churches in this town we serve. Members of the clergy team play a full part in chapter meetings, with Valerie Pitt acting as Secretary alongside Mark Salmon as Rural Dean. Fi Iddon and others have represented us at Churches Together in Shrewsbury (CTIS), and we hosted one of their main events of the year – the election hustings.

Teams from church have also been part of the “Filling Station” network, an exciting partnership of rural Christians who meet monthly for worship and teaching in places like Knockin, Craven Arms, Lebotwood and Clun Valley. We’ve also been able to support other local churches, and I’m delighted to see people from Trinity Churches involved in the trypraying initiative across town.

It’s good to be supporting, praying and enthusing about some of the exciting town-wide initiatives. There are a number of Street Pastors who worship at Trinity Churches, who occasionally look bleary-eyed on a Sunday morning having been out for much of the Saturday night – what amazing work they do. Then there’s Shrewsbury Youth for Christ, and Illuminate, the fair trade network, the Ark, the Food Bank, and a number of other projects.

Personally I’ve been privileged to have a fair amount of involvement at a diocesan level this past year as well, serving on Bishops Council, the “reaching new generations” strategy team, and various diocesan appointment panels. Thank you to the parish for releasing me to get involved in this! I’m keen to be living out – and helping us as a parish fulfil – our vision of “setting a table for the world” for the sake of churches across Shropshire and beyond.

Phil Cansdale

The Electoral Roll

Electoral Rolls should provide a true indication of the real membership and strength of the church both locally and nationally. Putting your name on the roll is a way of saying “I belong”; it is an act of commitment to your local church and to the church as a whole. It is also an important statement of witness, and a step along the path of discipleship. At the APCM meeting in 2015, Andy Digby stood down as Electoral Roll officer a position he has undertaken with great skill and we thank him for his many years’ service in keeping track of the membership of the church. The current electoral roll stands at 385 members, with 53 registered at CTK, 332 at Holy Trinity.

Isabel Willerton

Looking Ahead

We've spent some recently asking a really important question. What does God want this parish – and our ministry and mission across Trinity Churches – to look like in 2020?

The Bible passage we've been reflecting around has been Ezekiel 37, and the prophets vision of Dry Bones. "Can these bones live" asks Ezekiel. "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." Thank you to those who have contributed in different ways to this continuing conversation.

So we've given some time and energy to reflecting and praying around this question. As a PCC, as ministry leaders, within congregational leadership teams and some small groups, we've been dreaming, talking and writing some responses to this question, based around six 'headings' as below.

We've already made some progress on this, though as of March 2016 it is still a 'story in progress.' We'll outline some more details at the APCM itself.





Trinity Churches

The Trinity Centre, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury SY3 9HF

Tel: 01743 362399, E: info@trinitychurches.org

www.trinitychurches.org

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