

Annual Review of 2016

God's
amazing
family



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For the financial accounts for 2016, and the 2017 electoral roll, please
see the files available in church, or go to
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Start here...

If you've been around church for the last three months you'll have hopefully noticed the phrase "**God's amazing family.**"

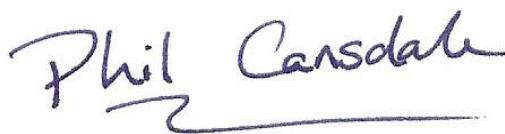
When we sat down as a staff team in autumn 2016 and thought "what would we want to say about who we are as Trinity Churches, and what would we want to pray we become", that was the phrase which came to us. We belong to **God**. We are **amazing** in his eyes, or as Paul puts it "God's handiwork" (Eph 2:10). And – as all God's people – we are **family** together.

There's something so important about family. "No man is an island" as my tenth-great-grandfather John Donne put it. In most of us there's a yearning to belong. In most people I meet we share that desire to relate somewhere wider than ourselves. And this can be the gift of God in the Church. Where we can be known and know others. Where we can be loved and give love. Where we can serve and encourage and bless and grow.

Perhaps this year's report can be like a family photo album – or should that be a group Facebook page in today's social media culture? You'll see some stories from different parts of God's family, reporting back on what has been going on over 2016 and what is coming up ahead this year. You'll see also some reminders of a few members of God's family here, a reminder that behind all the events, services and business of the life of a local church lies a community of people. God's amazing family indeed.

With thanks as usual to you all across the parish and beyond, God's amazing family in Shrewsbury, whom 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

Our recent preaching theme in our morning worship has been ‘God’s amazing family’, and it’s been great to reflect on that together as a 10.45 congregation. It’s been a particular joy to welcome new members – those moving into the area, those encountering God for the first time, and those who have just been born!

Thinking about what it means to be family is perhaps a good way of seeing the 10.45 congregation. We’re a big family made up of lots of members with different experiences, backgrounds and interests; and at different stages of our walk with Jesus. We want to continue to encourage one another along in our ‘Monday to Friday’ lives as well as coming together to worship on a Sunday. We are a family who recognises that everyone has a part to play, no matter how young or old, and it’s a joy to see more children and young people serving in our congregation.

Family is often a bit messy around the edges, and as a leadership team we are grateful for your patience and help with the fast turn around from the 9am. Thanks to the Big Sunday Lunch, we are a family who eat together regularly with opportunities to get to know a smaller section of our church family more intimately. Perhaps our biggest challenge remains to be a family that serves one another really well; and we would love to see each member of the 10.45 congregation involved in blessing others in a practical way in the year ahead.

Fi Iddon

The 6.30pm congregation

The 6.30 evening service has grown this year and current congregation numbers are around 35 regular attenders, filling the chancel area on a Sunday evening. The service continues to have a more contemplative feel, with space for reflection and prayer ministry for those that want it.

‘Presence’ – our monthly communion service has moved into the Bradbury hall this year in order to accommodate numbers and give us space to be more creative in our worship. Over Christmas we enjoyed a ‘Contemporary Christmas’ and shared a meal with the young people from ‘B’.

As with other congregations, the 6.30 needs to get more people involved. This is sometimes difficult, perhaps because the style of the service attracts those with a need to ‘sit and be’. We still have a number of regulars who are part of other churches across Shrewsbury, often in leadership roles as well as a number involved in full time Christian work across the town who see the 6.30 service as their time to just be in God’s presence.

The 6.30 leadership team are a passionate, praying bunch with a heart for God's spirit to move and hear people's stories of faith. Our regular 'Frontline' interviews have continued and this is something we would like to develop in the coming months.

Charlotte Gompertz

The 9.00am Congregation

The 9am Congregation continues to flourish, with a steady average attendance of 65 people, which often includes two young children. While some members have, sadly, died this year, we are delighted to note that several new people have come to worship with us and become regular members of the congregation.

Our music group has grown this year, both in number and expertise, and is much appreciated both in leading our music and in providing some musical gems at the end of our services. We now have two new service booklets and new hymnbook supplements, both of which widen the scope of music and liturgy available to us.

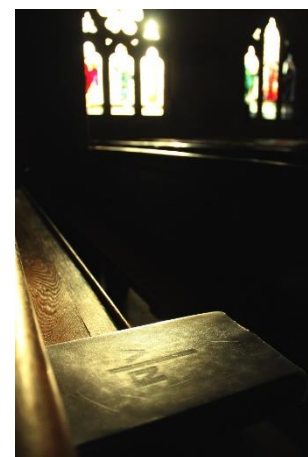
The 9am congregation continues to welcome a variety of speakers and is glad to support Neville Willerton and the Church Army, Meole Brace Primary School and the Severn Hospice in prayer as our mission links. As a congregation, we are in good heart and enjoy meeting together week by week as part of Trinity Churches.

Valerie Pitt

Thursday 10am congregation

The Thursday morning Holy Communion service remains a very special time for a small but faithful congregation. Not even "Hurricane Doris" could dampen the spirits of this hardy group nor prevent them getting to Church as the wind roared around them. A recently introduced feature of the service is a song request each week, and this has proved popular as members of the congregation choose their favourites.

People coming to this service for the first time are quickly integrated into the congregation and the reluctance of most to leave after the service is testament to the love and fellowship which is typical of Thursday morning.



Shirley Stevens

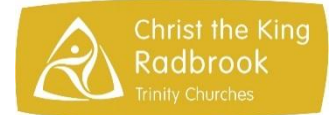
Name: Trish

Favourite family moment: Whenever the whole family is together sharing good times and sad times, especially when one member returns from a long period away.

God's amazing family: A blend of fellowship and friendship, sharing and caring, warmth & encouragement, being open and growing together, learning to be disciples and above all sharing spontaneous pools of quiet time to pray together.



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.

It has been a changing season for CTK. Following a period of Extended Study leave for Peter, in October we said farewell to the Hubbard family as they moved to Bayston Hill. We are all deeply grateful for their ministry amongst us, and Miriam, Naomi, Debbie and Peter all went with our prayers, love and heartfelt thanks.

Having been part of the leadership team at CTK since their departure, it has been a privilege to serve amongst such a committed and faithful group of saints. As the year has rolled on, the congregation has grown in confidence and been encouraged to see 'CTK' as not just the 10.30 service on a Sunday morning, but as a broad and creative collection of ministries that go on throughout the week. The re-launch of 'Messy Church Radbrook' on the second Sunday of the month, and the simplified, less formal morning service on that same Sunday are two encouraging developments which are blossoming into life and full of potential.

CTK very much sees itself as called to bless the community of Radbrook, telling Jesus' story and sharing his love in practical ways. Whether it's at First Steps, Café Connect, in Radbrook House or the Nursing Home, through the Community Tea or the 'Open the Book' assemblies in the Primary School, the Gospel is proclaimed and lived out.

As we begin to look forward to the shape that future leadership will take, we've been really fortunate to have the wisdom and guidance of David Cundhill- the Diocesan Deputy Director of Mission, to help us better understand the ways in which the Holy Spirit is at work in Radbrook, and the ministry gifts that future leadership might need in order to encourage, equip and enable members of the church to join in with the mission of God. There is a sense of excitement and anticipation as the future opens up. We welcome proposals to refurbish Café Connect, and the renewed potential for creative engagement that will bring, and we are also thinking, as part of the vision of Trinity Churches, about how to pioneer new ministries that are embedded in positive relationships within community life.

To all who serve at CTK, I would like to say a deep 'thank you' for your faithfulness- to all those involved in midweek ministries, to those on Sunday rotas, to the DCC and Leadership Team (here we remember Sophie Smith- an amazing sister in Christ who we miss tremendously), to Judith and Michael (Michael has now stepped down) as Wardens - we eagerly await the revelation of God's plan for the next chapter!

Hannah Lins

Community outreach in Radbrook Green

The Church of Christ the King continues to reach out to the community of Radbrook Green and beyond, sharing the love of Jesus to our neighbours. Community teas are still well attended, and this is thanks to Rita and her team. We have now seen a change in our outreach of Refresh, this has now become Messy Church, and the small increase in families attending is a joy to see. The blessings that we share each week through First Steps, Nursing Home visits. Radbrook House fellowship, taking Home communions are all Jesus led. We see changes happening in Cafe Connect under the management of Lissi and Dave.

The outreach from the Cafe continues to embrace the customers and the wider community. With changes happening within Christ the King, Peter leaving as Minister and Michael resigning his post as warden, we must thank Judith Drury for her faithfulness and her inspiration that has made the congregation stronger and willing to step out and open their hearts to our community. We thank God for His continued presence within the community of Radbrook and look forward with excitement to new ministries and Gods greater plan for 2017.



Ollie Abbott

Name: Joy

Favourite family moment: Sitting on rocks at sunset in the north west of Scotland seeing our first otter go by.

"God's amazing Family?" Being with people who think, explore and wrestle with what the gospel means today - its utter simplicity and its mind boggling depth. It's a mix of world changers and those with the quiet courage to walk the talk in the toughest of circumstances - and all stations in between.



Meole Estate Ministries



Last year we spoke of how the onlookers became admirers and they in turn chose to follow. The followers then learn to become obedient as they choose to imitate a Christ styled life, going full circle as the onlookers in the community see something of Christ in the new followers.

Part of the vision within the Church in the Meet Place is to see His kingdom come in our community. And we have seen growth as the attendance increased over the last year. I believe that this can be attributed to a number of actions; prayer, the intentional discipling of disciples and thirdly encouraging the community to take ownership of all that we are.

Ownership happens at different levels and at different stages. So the onlooker can be the person of peace and befriender well before they are a follower. And all of our guests are encouraged to invite friends and neighbours to join in the process of growing community.

We also partner with a number of outside organisations at the Meet Place we have come to be a hub of information as a by-product of this.

One of these organisations 'The Shrewsbury Food Hub' has also been a major contributor toward our growth. For more information about them see shrewsburyfoodhub.org.uk. The Food Hub has allowed us to talk to the community about loving your neighbours. All are encouraged to take food for themselves (as their need requires) and then to take more for their neighbour. They then may also come to know of the generous heart of God.

Through our ministries we are teaching that it is right to have a deep and personal relationship with God, whilst we are also teaching that it is right to have a deep and honest relationship with each other. This is community becoming family.

How does this look practically? We have for example lovingly redecorated a number of homes and organised carpets to be laid; as well as helped with lifts to appointments for those without transport. Some may say that this is only what you would expect if you live in a Christian community. Yet I see that we live in a time of fear and mistrust, anxiety and stress and so we are demonstrating through Meole Estate Ministries that there is hope, there is trust, there is an unconditional love, freely available to all.

So thank you to all who obediently serve in our community. I pray that you know the peace of God in your life, and His blessing upon blessing.



Gordon Lamb

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

Café Connect is still a focal point in the community in Radbrook, reaching out with the servant heart of Jesus. We have a lot of regular customers who come back week after week to the Café and I regularly get comments about how they appreciate its existence!

During 2016 we continued to support The Ark, both with money and donated food stuffs. At Easter we collected 131 Easter eggs for the charity Shrewsbury Houses For All, and at Christmas time we collected 64 hampers as well. A big thank you to all who donate to these charities! An ongoing project is the dementia-friendly coffee afternoon once a month, this is run by Ollie Abbott.

Breakfast Club and After School Club take place once a week and are run by Matt Guilder. About 10 youth attend these clubs. During the year we have had about 10 students doing their volunteering for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They do an hour a week for 12 weeks with us. They are a good help in the afternoons as we finish off the day. We also had two foreign students who worked full-time in the café for a few weeks in the summer. They were a good help to us in the holiday season.

The café is run by Dave Aberley and Lissi Small with the help of 40 fantastic volunteers. A BIG Thank You to all the volunteers! Without them we could not operate at all. We would also like to say a big Thank You to Ollie who has been a tremendous help as Dave and I have taken over the management of the Café. We would like to welcome Abby Liew who is working with Trinity Churches for a year and will spend time weekly at the café, helping us out at two busy lunch times.

During the year we introduced new menus, but for 2017 we're looking forward to refurbishing the café completely, after 15 years in service!



Lissi Small

The Trinity Centre

It's been another strong year at the Trinity Centre, with a healthy and interesting combination of bookings. I think there is a sense in which we've grown in confidence as a team in understanding and pre-empting 'tricky' bookings - we now have a much more developed position on activities that might conflict with Christian values (naming ceremonies for example) and we also have a stricter policy for teen parties, after one particularly testing experience!

A significant focus this year has been on addressing some of the issues surrounding car-parking. William, Helen and Mike Haddaway have been part of a working group looking at this issue and exploring creative ways of resolving problems. There is now the provision for the employment of Parking Attendants when big multiple events are on, and this has been a most welcome development.

Hospitality is at the heart of all we do, and a few small things have made a difference over this past year - we now have some filter coffee machines for smaller bookings, a welcome desk and (you may have noticed?!) air freshener devices in the toilets. We continue to look for opportunities to increase the impact of our welcome and extend our provision. One of our priorities moving forward is to take a fresh look at the reception area - how might our notice boards distinguish us as a Christian place? What opportunities are there in that space to proclaim the good news of Jesus? What could we do to better orientate people who are there for the first time?

This is my final report as Chairperson of the Trinity Centre Management Committee, and so I'd like to finish by thanking all those who have been part of this group down the years - I'm so grateful for your wisdom and guidance as we live out our faith in service of those who use the Trinity Centre.



Hannah Lins

Name: Keith

Favourite family moment? My son's wedding in Hungary... and the fun of Hungarian dancing which broke down all language and cultural barriers!

God's amazing Family? The joy and fun working in the Trinity Kids team, and sharing with children from within our church family.



A church of all ages

Toddler Groups

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

Each term we have a theme which for the last term has been 'People Jesus Helped'. Each term we finish by having a small service, applicable to the time of the year.

At First Steps we average 30 children plus their carers each week, we have a good team to "man" our group, but I want to say a big thank you to Doreen and Eric Hedges who are the mainstay for refreshments which they have continued to do despite a few health issues this past year. At Trinity Tots we usually have around 15 children plus their carers each week. This team is also an integral part of the service that we offer to our families each week, enabling them to chat, hold a baby or just to watch over a child.

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

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

Carol Booles



Trinity Kids

Come into the Trinity Centre on a Sunday morning and you will see our 3 - 11's fully engaged with some amazing leaders. Through discussion, craft, listening, puzzles they are exploring what they believe and why. Some are still questioning what faith is all about, some are ready to go deeper in what they believe and they are guided on their journey wherever they are. Some of Trinity Kids come to We ROC (We Rely On Christ), our weekly small group and again we have a lively, fun time thinking about how we can be true disciples of Christ.

In addition to this last year we did two exciting new things. We took a group on a pilgrimage to the Monastery at the edge of the Stiperstones. We had a lovely time thinking about why pilgrims make journeys and we spent time looking at how we can meet with God through creation. We also had our own Secret Church where we tried to think what it would be like not to be able to worship openly and it gave us chance to think about those who are not as free as we are.

If the children aren't quite ready for Trinity Kids we have a crèche in the Tower Vestry where little ones can go and be shown God's love by the leaders in there and through stories and play. We are so blessed to have so many children – and thanks must go to all leaders who without whom the experiences the children have would be much diluted.

Judith Clarkson

Primary Schools

We continue our links with the primary schools with our weekly Open the Book assemblies, our Schools Experiences each term where we explore key events in the church calendar and being involved in class visits to church taking place in both schools.

Because it is a church school and as I have the privilege of being Lay Chaplain for the school, we have a bit more input in Meole. Last October saw the third Prayer Space here when each class spent an hour with our amazing team exploring prayer – what it is and how to do it! Our Holy Post box has been much busier since then and the prayers the children put in are prayed for on a Wednesday morning 9am – 9.30am by a team who meet in the school.

Another slightly scary thing we have started is a Big/Little Question drop in club once a week – and do they have some questions. Ranging from 'what did God have for breakfast' to 'why did he colour the things the way he did' to 'I pray every night – but how do I hear God speaking to me' we are kept on our toes. But it is such a great forum that allows the children to question, challenge and make up their own minds about what they believe.

Judith Clarkson

Messy Church

This year has seen a few changes in Messy Church. September saw the re-launch of Family Feast at Holy Trinity and Refresh at CTK and now both are known as Messy Church.

Messy Church at CTK is still held on the 2nd Sunday of the month but as well as our regular families from the



community, we are delighted that several members of CTK congregation have decided to commit to this. There is a real church family feel to the group and it's great to see young and old(er) doing activities and worshipping together. Our prayer is, that as we get to know each other better we can find opportunities to share our faith and help disciple each other.

Messy Church at Holy Trinity now meets weekly on the 1st Thursday of the month and most people come from the local primary school although we would love members of our church family to join us as well! We explore all sorts of topics through crafts, discussion and during our celebration in church. We are getting to know our families really well – we may even be heading for our very first Messy Church Baptism!

Strong teams head up both Messy Churches and thanks must go to all of them. But we do have a few challenges to think about: how can we effectively disciple our families? How does Messy Church fit into the wider family of the church? How can we support our families between each Messy Church sessions? Lots to think and pray about – but all very exciting problems to have!

Judith Clarkson

Work with young people

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. Over the course of 2016 we continued with our vision of “COMMUNITY - LIFE - CHURCH”, and it has been a joy to see growth and development in our work across each of the three distinctive categories.



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

Our **life** groups are the core of much of what happens midweek, meeting Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings as a place where we can come alongside young people and support them in their journey of faith. We seek opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ and support them as they learn what it means to be a Christian, and in particular it has been a joy to see some of them get baptised and confirmed over the last year.

Meanwhile our work in **church** means that we can gather young people together on a Sunday morning as part of the Pathfinders and Anon groups; the monthly “B” is also a highlight of the month. In particular we want to encourage the young people to develop a heart which serves other people, and we've had a few opportunities to do just that over 2016. We also got involved in Soul Purpose in May, and Soul Survivor in July, and are looking forward to time away at different conferences over the summer of 2017.

We couldn't do it without our amazing youth team volunteers and all those who give and pray for this ministry. It's my privilege to lead a great team of people who love Jesus and young people, I love that more have come forward to support the ministry

Matt Guilder

Young adults

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.

We host a small group each fortnight on a Wednesday evening from 8pm to 10pm. This is a place to encourage and support one another, to catch up over cake and coffee, read scripture, pray together, and set a challenge for the next fortnight ahead. It's been good to see this group take on leadership roles within the 18s-30s group, as well as wider areas of church life.

Meanwhile we also hold social events on alternate fortnights, where we get involved in a number of different activities.

Matt Guilder

Name: Julie

Favourite family moment? On a family holiday when younger, when after 13 hours drive in a Ford Anglia we reached the top of the hill and saw the sea.

God's amazing family? Being accepted as I am - receiving unconditional Love - Learning together.



Living for Jesus

Prayer across the parish

We are a church that prays. Are we a praying church?

Through the year there are many opportunities for prayer across the church community. Home groups, Growth groups, prayer 'triplets'. 'Prayer for Healing' at Cafe Connect, prayer ministry at our services, plus prayer for our services before our services.

Thanks are extended to Terry Cripps and Tony Sharpe, who faithfully contribute to a monthly Prayer Diary for the church. Every morning (except Saturday) 'parish prayers' take place, at different venues across Trinity Churches.

Every Wednesday morning a small group meets with Judith Clarkson to pray for and at the primary school in Meole Brace; fortnightly Men's Prayer Breakfasts take place in the early morning in the Trinity Centre; a dedicated team of pray-ers pray, in their own homes, for marriage couples, in the lead up to their wedding; monthly prayer for Christ the King happens on Radbrook.

We are currently exploring the idea of a weekly prayer slot on Wednesday evening in the Trinity Centre (enquiries to Mike Haddaway – 362151).

We plan to join in 'Thy Kingdom Come', a national (and international) call to prayer between Ascension and Pentecost (25 May to 4 June 2017) and hope that as many as possible in our church will find a way to pray daily during this time, for God's Kingdom to come in Meole, in our town and country and for people we know to come to know Christ.

You yourself will know of other opportunities for prayer, not listed above.

We are a church that prays. Are we a praying church?

Mike Haddaway and Charles Ruxton

Music and worship

A huge thank you to all who serve faithfully and lead us each week in the worship ministry within Trinity Churches.

It has been a busy and very exciting year. We were extremely blessed this year to have our Church weekend away in June and so thankful to all those who lead us so well and gave of their time and gifts.....

Under the heading of "Blessed to be a blessing" a group of our male members were able to lead worship at the Men's conference held earlier this year. Also a small team have attended The Filling Station initiative on a few occasions during the year to lead worship and resource this wonderful outreach.

At home, during the autumn term, we held 'Worship Central' a monthly midweek evening for musicians and worship leaders, those currently involved and anyone interested in finding out more about the worship life here at Trinity churches. Its aim is to provide some input, to learn new songs, to practice, to pray together and to grow team. From this we have seen people take their first steps into the worship life here and that is very exciting.



This year we have been re thinking the 10.45 all age services and our hope and prayer is that it will become truly intergenerational both for those in the congregation and those leading every aspect of the service. So far we have had two services, February and March, in which a group of our young people have joined the existing band and have lead us in sung worship. It is such a joy to see the young people step out and use their gifts to lead us. I pray that this will be the start of their journey in the worship ministry and that we can all encourage and nurture them through the coming months and years.

Sue Gregory

Holy Week 2016

Holy week saw a walkthrough of the Easter events, at the time they occurred and the places they occurred.

We superimposed a map of C1 Jerusalem onto a map of the C21 parish, meeting together each day to tell the Easter story real-time, and in the Shrewsbury-equivalent of where the gospel accounts took place.

The week saw donkeys walking from Bayston Hill, money-counters being disturbed in the church vestry, intrigue in a Radbrook Café, late-night arrests on the Meole Estate, and trials in a local playground, just off the appropriately-named Roman Road. The week finished in a local cemetery - where Golgotha and the nearby garden tomb fell on the map – for a Easter morning sunrise service.

A number of people involved felt that it was really exciting to get the Easter story out of church buildings and into the local community. If nothing else we got more idea of the sort of geography, distances and context of the Holy Week story.

Phil Cansdale

Church Weekend Away

June 2016 saw 140+ people from across the parish enjoy a weekend away at Cefn Lea.

Our theme for the weekend was "The shaping of a saint" with some superb teaching from Canon David Hughes. We looked at the life of Peter, and his transformation from fisherman to disciple. His journey was one of failure to fruitfulness, and denial of Christ to a life given fully over to him. The feedback from David's teaching has been superb.

Meanwhile the children and young people were in their own groups, with the kids looking at the book of Ruth, and the young people looking also at the life of Peter. Seminars included themes on spirituality in the second half of life, the EU Referendum, and finding God in the broken places.



It wasn't all work either, with lots of time to catch up with old friends, and make some new ones. Meals together, Saturday evening entertainments, Euro 2016 football, sport... and a bit of late night revelry... all added together to make a great time had by all.

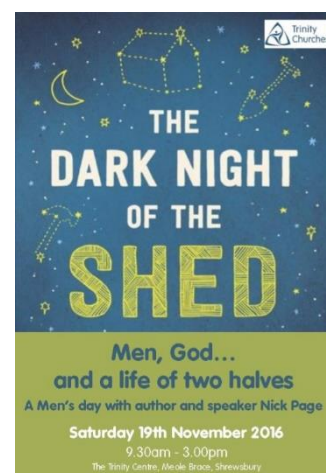
Phil Cansdale

Mens Conference

On Saturday 19th November, about 100 men from churches in Shropshire met at Holy Trinity for the first Men's Breakfast Plus conference. This was a natural development of the occasional Mens' Breakfasts, which in turn originated from a combination of a vague idea that our small group could do something for the wider church and Phil's pointing out that the church (as in UK church not Holy Trinity specifically) engages poorly with men – as shown by a relative scarcity in attendance – and this needed to be addressed.

Numbers meant we could not have the usual full cooked breakfast, but bacon butties were followed by a starter from Bishop Mark and Phil, then two meaty sessions from Nick Page based on his book 'The Dark Night of the Shed' in which he explored men and mid-life – what happens when we get to the 'Is that it? So what now?' stage of life and how we can continue to develop as disciples. With that, and a chilli lunch, under our belts, in the afternoon we considered ways of applying that in practice in our lives with a number of seminars, before ending with a final session from Nick including anointing with oil – 3-in-1 oil naturally.

Peter Taylor



Name: Nicky

Favourite Family Moment: Arriving at my 70th birthday lunch to find not just my kids – as suspected – but my entire extended family too!!

Gods amazing family: People in the 9am congregation are so caring and if word gets round you have a problem, even those you don't know so well come and show they are there for you!!

*God's
amazing
family*

Loving One Another

Small Groups

There are currently 25 small groups across the breadth of Trinity Churches - some grouped geographically, some demographically. In all cases, they are places where worship, word, welcome and witness come together in order that people grow with God and with each other. Although there is often one piece of obligatory study material each year, small group leaders are encouraged to use whatever materials suit their group - whether it be a traditional bible study guide, a Christian book, trendy(!) YouTube clips or DVDs. This diversity and freedom is something to be affirmed, and I'm so grateful to small group leaders for their wisdom, grace and creativity in organising their own programmes.



Recently, we've 'gone live' on our church website, and this has led to a flurry of enquiries about joining a group. It's interesting to note that, in changing times, people are not always able to come to a Sunday worship service, so midweek spiritual nourishment becomes all the more important - for an increasing number of people, the provision of great quality, open and welcoming small groups meets a discipleship need and is therefore of fundamental significance. As a new team takes over the oversight of groups in the coming year, we hope that more groups will form and mutual encouragement will deepen as this vital means of belonging continues to flourish.

Hannah Lins

Restore Course

Over the autumn we ran 'Restore', a course looking at aspects of mental, emotional and spiritual health. Up to 35 delegates have met in the Trinity Centre for six sessions, exploring subjects such as self-esteem, anger and loss.



A huge thank you goes to Alison O'Brien and her team from 'Ashar Bringing Hope' who, along with our own team made this course a great success in beginning to open the door on mental health issues within our community.

Here's what some people said about the course:

'The course has enabled me to respond to various challenges around the way I think, the way I act, the way I feel, and consider ways of modifying or changing those things'

'This was a great opportunity to explore wide ranging and deep thinking subjects... I am well on the way to doing 'restoration' work in me personally.'

'I wasn't sure what I could take away in my mind and heart from RESTORE, but it has 'reminded me' that I am wonderfully and uniquely made by God and so Loved by him. RESTORE has guided me through all sorts of emotions relating to LIFE.'

I've found this course really enlightening, I've had a walk with the Lord for many years but to actually have tools that I can help myself with has made all the difference.'

Charlotte Gompertz

Windfall and Causeway

As we look to the future, our challenge is to continue to seek ways that we as a whole church can provide the community which Jean Vanier identifies in his book, 'An Ark for the Poor':

While it is true that people with disabilities are called to develop and grow towards greater autonomy, they need above all a whole network of friendships and a community that gives them security and a sense of belonging, awakens each one's gifts, encourages growth, and develops love and a sense of service.

Two specific groups are run currently at church for Adults with a learning disability.

Causeway

This is a group that runs fortnightly for adults with a learning disability. It offers worship, fellowship, teaching, friendship and a whole lot of laughter. Over the last few years it has seen its numbers dwindling, however for many of its members it is their only regular time to worship, and have fellowship so is a really important part of their lives. All who attend are really committed to the group.

The Windfall Project

The Windfall project is a small community interest company that works with adults with learning disabilities to make delicious jams and chutneys. This teaches kitchen skills, work based skills, and builds confidence and self-esteem. We are blessed with 8 wonderful team members who attend, 4 on a Monday and 4 on a Thursday. This year sees us reach the grand old age of five. We are thankful to God for his faithfulness and the church for their continued support and encouragement of the project. We continue to look at ways to grow the project.

Rachel Woods

Name: Leslie

Favourite Family Moment: Dad, frantically searching for keys, family LOL Miraculously, keys found. Dad's away. Late, But smiling. It's April 1st.

God's amazing family? Step inside the Church, see, hear discover, Witness. God's Amazing family. I'm in. Thanks be to God.

God's
amazing
family

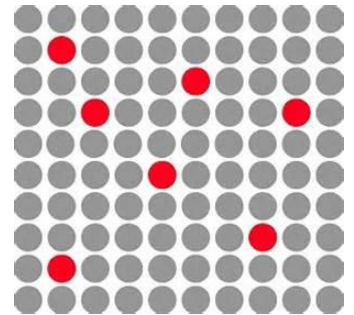
Setting a table for the world

God on the frontline

The concept of frontline ministry is rooted in the truth that 'Jesus is Lord'. Jesus lived among those he came to save, and his disciples walked in his footsteps sharing his daily frontline. We are called to live as whole-life disciples today, every part of Christian living belongs to Jesus, and he wants to use each one of us to build his Kingdom here on earth.

'Setting a table for the world' is part of our parish vision, and that means being engaged with God's mission in every area of our lives. Church is where we find family and fellowship in Christ, where we are nurtured and nourished through prayer and scripture, equipped and enabled by the Holy Spirit to go out as disciples into a new week. We all have frontlines, the places where we spend most of our lives: among family and friends, in the workplace, out and about involved in a whole range of activities - wherever God chooses to plant us.

Across the parish we are shaping the concept of whole-life discipleship in several ways, encouraging people to live more fruitfully on their frontlines. During 2016 a group attended 3 excellent frontline seminars led by Neil Hudson from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, who also visited church to speak at morning services. 'Transforming Work' is a well-supported course currently running at church, a scripture-based approach to being effective Christians in the workplace.



At Holy Trinity's 6.30 service individuals are regularly interviewed about their lives outside church; where they spend their weekdays, what God is doing there, how we can pray for them. The CTK congregation celebrates whole-life discipleship, sharing their stories and praying for one another as they go about their daily lives as people of God. The Church Army missional living presence on the Meole estate is an integral part of frontline discipleship, touching every area of people's lives. There are regular services at Church in the Meet Place, attended by a faithful group of Christians, as well as activities and fellowship offered to everyone throughout the week.

As a church family let's commit to encouraging and praying for one another on our frontlines during 2017 as we grow in whole-life discipleship.

Trish Allan

Weddings, baptisms and funerals

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

I think 2016 was one of the busier wedding years for us, accompanied by the usual mix of blushing brides, nervous grooms and stressed mother-in-laws! 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. There's a well-ordered team of people who support this ministry from flowers to music to bells to registers to verging, brilliantly overseen by Isabel Willerton, who we will thank elsewhere but deserves particular mention in this role.

We also welcomed a good number of baptism families, some of whom follow weddings which we've taken here as well, a reminder of the "bond of trust" that we can build up when we do occasional offices well. A brief aside, but it's been interesting to see that whilst we often struggle to keep in meaningful touch with baptism families, Messy Church and our work in the primary school is often where baptism families are reconnecting with the life of the church. We are also exploring having a Messy church baptism...

Funerals also offer that opportunity and privilege to walk alongside families in need, before, during and after the service itself. 2016 saw us publish a new booklet for those who have been bereaved, as well as a slightly clearer plan for bereavement care etc. Again, my huge thanks to a number of different colleagues, clergy and lay, who support this important part of our life together.

Phil Cansdale

The Alpha Course

This well-attended course had a very special treat on their launch night as Tony Maidment (a local Church Army Officer) stunned us with tricks at the table with which he spoke of the gospel message. If you ever have the chance to witness this it is a sight that should never been missed.

It was a privilege to hold our away day at Preston Hall in Preston Brockhurst. The setting facilitated an excellent opportunity to discuss and look deeper at the working of the Holy Spirit.

It was a very special Alpha course for me because there was a very young man who attended with his mother. He is still talking of the experience of learning more about the bible and God. He also tasted the different foods each week and now has a much wider appreciation of food.

Each guest was handed a book at the end of the course – 'Not A Fan' written by Kyle Idleman. It speaks of being a follower and not a fan of Jesus. I recommend this as a good read for those who are still searching to find a faith in Christ.

Gordon Lamb



TMAC

Jesus tells a story in the Bible about a man wanting to build a tower. "Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?" (Luke 14:28 NIV.) That's something of what we try and do at TMAC, and to support clients where they have found themselves in financial difficult for all sorts of different reasons.

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. 2017 also saw further changes in our working relationship with Community Money Advice who oversee our work, which means that we can continue to offer excellent service locally but with slightly simpler management structures.

We have only three advisors at present and we will be looking for new volunteers in the period after Easter 2017.

Real hope for those in Financial Difficulty

ILL HEALTH? LOST YOUR JOB? RELATIONSHIP BREAKDOWN?

"I came to Trinity Money Advice Centre not knowing where to turn but left confident and happy that I could see the way ahead"
Ben

Please call TMAC on 01743 357711
for more information or a confidential appointment

We offer

- Completely free debt advice
- Negotiation with creditors
- Assistance with budgeting
- Help with benefit claims

Impartial and non judgmental, our advisors will give you as much support as you need. More details overleaf.

TMAC, a local debt counselling service supported by
Trinity Churches, Shrewsbury. Regd Charity No. 113506

Dave MacKay

Mission Relief and Development Committee

Generous giving from Trinity church members continues to allow us to support many Christian causes both locally and overseas. In 2016, we continued our practice of giving ten percent of our freewill offerings to God's work further afield, about £28,000 in total.

Our core mission partners remained unchanged through the year, with the Gallaghers in North Africa, the Fletchers in Thailand, Destinations in the Middle East, Neville Willerton in the UK Church Army, and Ben and Gita in Nepal. We recognise that communication isn't always easy, and the importance of developing a relationship that goes far beyond money, and is a two-way commitment to pray and share. It is always good when mission partners can come and visit, and we get to hear at first hand something of what they are doing, and how our support and shared ministry is being worked out.

We also continued to support some other networks and organisations like Shrewsbury Youth for Christ, the Bible Society, Soul Purpose, and Open Doors. Open Doors in particular feels a timely reminder of the persecution of fellow Christians across the world, and we've been glad to use their prayer resources this year at mission lunches, church services, and Trinity Kids.

We would still welcome applications for small grants from individuals in the life of the church, and it is disappointing that there have been no requests made recently. Whatever age or stage of life you are in, if you would like support to go and get involved in God's work further afield then please do ask.

Please continue to pray for our mission partners as we share with them in "setting a table for the world."

Andrew Jowett

Hospitality

Hospitality continues to be a key theme of Trinity Churches, with regular Tuesday coffee mornings and the monthly Trinity Table, community teas in Radbrook Green together with a host of occasional opportunities to eat and drink together.

There have, however, been some significant changes this year in the regular pattern. After many years of serving monthly village afternoon teas, Judy Creyke has made the decision to stop. We shall miss Judy's baking and the opportunity to bring neighbours to enjoy her teas.

Trinity Table, our monthly lunch for mainly elderly folk, has been running since the Trinity Centre opened, but last autumn Steve Clarkson decided it was time to hang up his apron. We are very grateful to Steve for inspiring our team of kitchen volunteers over the years. With a crisis at hand, we prayed for a replacement chef and were delighted when Clive Szczepanek offered to chef for us. Trinity Table is now growing, with some new volunteer helpers too.

The Tuesday coffee mornings continue, as a weekly opportunity to meet for coffee and a homemade scone, and to bring a neighbour too. We are very grateful to the small team who make scones and serve for us, but new helpers are needed for this important weekly expression of our hospitality.

At Radbrook Community Centre, the Community Teas are continuing to be very popular, with 30 – 50 people coming every month on the first Wednesday. Rita Davies and her willing team of helpers provide a veritable feast of tea, scones and cake which are enjoyed by people from all over the parish, with significant numbers coming from Radbrook House and Radbrook Nursing Home, some brought in wheelchairs by relatives.

Valerie Pitt

Nursing Home Communions

The Nursing Homes monthly Holy Communion services continued to be popular with residents during 2016. We visit three homes on a monthly basis, The Ferns, Radbrook Nursing Home, and Maesbrook. It is a pleasure to go into these communities where our small team of three are greeted with enthusiasm and smiles.

Residents speak often of their sadness at no longer being able to attend Church and their gratitude that we are bringing Church to them. Their enthusiasm for worship, often in the face of severe illness or immobility is both humbling and uplifting. It is very encouraging that one very regular attender is not actually a resident but comes in especially for the service, and some short stay residents also take the trouble to attend.

At The Ferns attendance at the services dropped during the year as we sadly lost a number of our regulars. However, I am very happy to report that numbers are now very much on the increase. Following the loss of our resident pianist, last year, we now have a new member of the team, Paula, who has added a new dimension to the worship. Residents enjoy the singing, often proudly declaring that they know all the words.

Overall, we felt very welcome in the Nursing Homes during 2016 and it remains a privilege to be involved. A reminder that we are also able to take communion to people's homes. If you would like to know more please contact the Church Office.

Shirley Stevens

Holiday at Home

What an amazing time was had by all. This ministry has been set up to draw those of a certain age together from across our parish. In the region of thirty adults come together for three days in August to enjoy a holiday of fun and hopefully sun at the Trinity Centre.

There have been a number of highlights this year as we celebrated ten years of Holiday at Home. This year our outing was to a nursery / coffee shop near to Welshpool. The cream tea was awesome (freshly baked scones) and not only were the plants good value but there was a special offer on the wool too. This was very pleasing for the Knit and Natter team!

Once again we had so much fun and laughter with our dance and movement to music whilst seated each morning.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, young and old alike you and your efforts are very much appreciated. God bless you.

Gordon Lamb



Name: Ann

Favourite family moment? I have many favourite moments from family camping trips which in recent years, have also included our grandchildren!

God's amazing family? Feeling accepted and valued as a member of the church family has enabled me to have a go at many different, enjoyable and sometimes challenging things that I don't think I would otherwise have done.

*God's
amazing
family*

Life at Holy Trinity

Wardens

As a church we give thanks for the legacy of a beautiful building and its dutiful maintenance over many years. The last 12 months have seen a continuation of that faithful heritage, with which we have been blessed. Care of our building and its environs includes the normal and the unusual, and owes much to our hard working Maintenance Manager, Mike Hinton and our Operations Manager, William Small, who between them coordinate much of the upkeep of our fabric.

The year has seen some work on the church roof, including the repair and regilding of both the tower weather vane and the filial cross at the east end of church. The eagle-eyed of you will also have noticed an invasion of 'hedgehogs' in the gutters around the building!

The unusual, last year, saw the somewhat traumatic removal of a bee's nest from a dead tree at the west end of the churchyard. This year Storm 'Doris' 'felled' part of the bottom churchyard wall, adjacent to Mr Hathaway's property.

We are currently exploring the control of our church heating, and the possibility of maintaining a more constant, but lower thermal setting, in order to keep the church at a more consistent and comfortable temperature, though its increasing use.

The continuing challenges of car parking capacity, in the middle of a village, in an age when 'the car is King', still occupy our minds, particularly during the football season, but work as best we can with the local school, community and council, to alleviate the problems as much as possible, and thank everyone for their forbearance in this matter.

The site also includes the churchyard and the Millennium Garden, both kept neat and tidy by Andy Digby and his team of mowers, and Tim Creyke and the gardeners.

Mike Haddaway and Erica Staples

Bell Ringing

In March, Charles preached about Worship, Prayer and Bible Reading. *Worship* was based on Psalm 98 : "Sing unto the Lord a New Song!" This is the strap line of the Trinity bell ringers. In the Latin, "*Cantate Domino Canticum Nostrum*", it accompanies the image of the Trinity Centre window, depicted as a wheel and rope, as the logo on our smart T-shirts. It is also the inscription on one of the bells.

Four years ago there was no song from our tower and a year later it was rather rough and discordant from our band of learners. But at least it was regular and much appreciated by the congregation and the community. We are making progress and hopefully the song is now sweeter and more even. There are nineteen active ringers in our band; the oldest is Lewis Roberts at 83 and the youngest is Joshua Oakley at 12.



It is a great blessing that as well as ringing together we have fun and enjoy each other's company; *an amazing family!* Teaching, maintenance, finance, decisions etc are all managed in a spirit of cooperation. Some of us are visiting new towers and learning new methods to enrich our experience of this ancient exercise. So the repertoire is expanding and if you listen carefully you will hear new songs!

Michael Carding

Flower and brass

Another very busy year for the Flower and Brass Team – the Festivals come round so quickly! We have only just put away the Christmas flowers and here we are preparing for Mothering Sunday and the 200 posies we have to make for the three Services, with Easter approaching fast!

In 2016 we arranged flowers for 22 weddings (14 booked for 2017 so far).

We are trying to cope too with the rise in the cost of flowers but as so many come from the Dutch Flower markets we fear that Brexit is going to affect our costs still more in the years to come.

We have a good supply of excellent silk flowers which we can use to augment the fresh ones which helps. We have also now a white silk arrangement which has been donated to be put by the church door to welcome people as they arrive and which is used other than at Festivals.



We have 22 in our Team ranging in age from 10 to 80 and are always looking for new volunteers – no experience required, just love and enthusiasm for arranging flowers!! We are sad that Muriel Newell has had to “retire” as she has been with us for many years, but it's exciting to have some youngsters who are getting really good and will be able to take over as more of us have to “drop out”.

We are so grateful to everyone who gives up their time to help us, and to members of the Congregations who contribute foliage etc.

Nicky Purcell and Judith Haddaway

Name: Chris, Polly and Thomas

Favourite family moment: Our son Thomas learning to crawl, and us realising we need to rearrange the living room!

God's amazing family: Being part of a group of people who are passionately following God, and passionately caring about each other.



Talking Team

Staff Team

“Change is here to stay.” Or at least that’s what I found myself saying to the PCC last week. That is certainly true of the staff team, those who have the privilege to serve us all across the parish in “living for Jesus, loving one another, and setting a table for the world.”

As mentioned already, 2016 saw the departure of Peter Hubbard from CTK, moving to become vicar of Bayston Hill. Hazel Tetsill also left her role as administrative assistant to take up an exciting job in London. It was such a joy to see her use her gifts and grow in experience, one of her final Sundays seeing her take the lead on us internet-broadcasting our Sunday services as part of the national Church:Live project.

On the “arrivals” front we welcomed the Gompertz family over the summer, with Charlotte beginning her curacy with us in June. She’s settled in to the life of the team with characteristic energy and enthusiasm, and it’s a joy to have her working with us. Meanwhile we also welcomed Jenny Jones as Finance Officer, and Ellie Jones (no relation!) as the new administrative assistant.

You’ll have read already of Café Connect, and changes to the leadership and management there over 2016. It’s great to see Dave Aberley and Lissi Small working together as co-managers, especially as they plan towards a complete refit of the café as we continue to develop its work in the heart of Radbrook Green.

Whilst not strictly in 2016, Isabel Willerton stepped back from her role as Church Office Manager in January 2017. A huge thank you to her, and for the considerable gifts and longstanding experience that she brought over eight years in the role. We’re currently in the process of thinking how best to recruit into this role.

The next few months see a number of changes in the wider staff team. I’m so pleased that Abby Liew is with us for twelve months, as part of the St Chads partnership between Lichfield Diocese and the Diocese of West Malaysia. Fi Iddon and Hannah Lins will be ordained in summer 2017, beginning curacies at St Georges Frankell and Severn Loop respectively. Gordon Lamb will be retiring and so is due to finish his role in September. Other changes may follow too. For me as vicar this feels like the “end of term” with real sadness at some colleagues leaving, alongside excitement and expectation as to what the “new term” might hold for staff and the wider church.

Phil Cansdale

PCC, Leadership and Deanery Synod

Decisions about what we do as a church, why we do it and how we do it are made by committees and groups that meet in the background, and they have continued their unseen activity throughout the year to ensure that the church runs well.

Trinity Churches is registered with the Charity Commission, and as a registered charity the PCC members are trustees and therefore have oversight and responsibility for 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. The PCC met six times this last year to discuss and

develop the church's vision, as well as making decisions on a number of more practical matters. The Standing and Finance Committee, delegated by the PCC to deal with the more detailed and day-to-day work of the church and the PCC met five times this year, and has also delegated responsibility to management committees for the work of the Trinity Centre and the Trinity Money Advice Centre. The latter has recently become a subsidiary of Bridge Debt Advice, and will continue to run as before.

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

Each of our congregations have members appointed by the PCC to leadership teams which oversee the ministry and mission for each of them. These congregational leadership teams comprise 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 which manages our giving as a church to worthy mission causes. The Stewardship Group that has been formed to focus on encouraging our stewardship of the church's resources, both people and financial, has temporarily stopped meeting due to the illness of several members

William Small

Diocesan and wider roles

A number of our church members have been involved in serving further afield in the diocese in the last year – from supporting filling stations to diocesan wide roles. Pauline Mack and Charles Ruxton continue to have a 'prayer portfolio', a particular highlight of which has been the hugely exciting try praying initiative which mobilised Christians in churches across Shrewsbury to share the joy of praying with others.

Gordon, Hannah and Fi stepped back from their roles as Evangelism Enablers before Christmas to allow them to take up roles at CTK and Prestfelde School. It has been great to hand this work, particularly co-ordinating a team of Faith Sharing Advocates from different parishes, to Chris Densham who is the new Evangelism Enabler for Shropshire. As a church with so many resources it is a real joy to recognise that we are 'blessed to be a blessing' and to encourage others further afield. Equally, we have so much to learn; and any role which allows us to share ideas as we work together to build God's Kingdom is a fantastic opportunity!

Fi Iddon

Life as an ordinand

Really all that we want to say is thank you! Thank you for your prayers, grace, encouragement, patience and wisdom as we come to the end of our training as Ordinands at Trinity Churches. Thank you too for the ways in which you have supported our families - it's been a bumpy experience for them at times, and it's deeply reassuring to know that they have your love and friendship when we've been on residential study weekends or working elsewhere. Thank you also for being a large and diverse group of people who are prepared to take risks, try new ministries and let us experiment too. Through engaging with other Ordinands in other contexts, we have a renewed appreciation for the depth and breadth of life at Trinity Churches, which has enabled us to experience so much and given us rich grounds for Theological reflection.

We'd particularly like to thank Phil as our supervisor - he noticed gifts in us many years ago, was prepared to take a risk in letting us explore them, and invested time in training us to use them wisely. We pray that the tradition of raising up leaders at Trinity Churches will continue- in the broadest sense- so that wherever people are called - inside and outside of the church - the fullness of God living in us will bless a broken world.

Fi Iddon and Hannah Lins

The Electoral Roll

The latest update of the electoral roll will be presented at the APCM.

Money Matters

Looking back over 2016

God is good! I am pleased to report that an overall surplus was generated in 2016 of £12,958. Whilst this time last year we had planned for a deficit of about £12k, we have been able to achieve a surplus position instead.

There are a number of reasons for this, including some one-off factors. In terms of income overall member's giving was 1% higher than the previous year, we secured grants and the Youth partnership with the Town Council, there were more occasional offices than we had budgeted for, and Gift Aid claims were more than we had expected. In addition to this our Charifund Investment which is tied up in the stock market increased in value by c£4k.

When it comes to expenditure Gordon reduced his hours and Peter Hubbard left in the autumn, resulting in cost savings. Children's work expenses were less than budgeted, and we saw savings in some ministry areas and administrative support due to the prudence and care of staff team.

The Trinity Centre and hospitality income for the period was £50k, lower than the previous year, leaving a small operating surplus over the year. Now nine years old, we need to ensure that it continues to be well maintained, and well used.

As of the end of 2016 our reserves stood at £317,888. This includes restricted reserves of £78,341 - money that, by law, can only be used for a specific charity purposes. Restricted reserves held by the PCC include a significant legacy for the education of children in Africa. Reserves that are generally available include those that are designated for specific purposes, such as a sinking fund for repairs and general unrestricted reserves. The PCC aims to keep a minimum of 3 months running costs as working capital, approximately £100,000. At the year-end, unrestricted reserves stood at £176,176. This means that there are funds available which we are able to invest in capital projects that are being discussed at the moment.

We are so grateful to the support of many different people across the parish. Thank you to everyone who gives generously and sacrificially; particularly if you are new or don't yet give regularly please do be in touch with the Church Office for more details, or go to www.trinitychurches.org/give. Thank you also to the team of people involved in finance work, from Gift Aid to counting collections, from office colleagues to my fellow treasurer Brian at CTK.

Jill Withington (Hon Treasurer)

Looking ahead to 2017

Whilst our income exceeded our expenditure in 2016 we do not expect this to continue, and for 2017 have set a deficit budget. Members' giving – our core income – has only very slightly increased since 2014, and in a year which will see new staff appointments these will have cost implications. We can go forward confident that in the short to medium term any financial shortfalls can be covered by our reserves, although we fully recognise that any commitments to employ staff need to be sustainable in the future.

In setting the budget for 2017 we also recognise that salaries are increasing by 4% to take into account current and ongoing changes to the Living Wage nationally. Our Parish Share contribution to the Diocese also goes up by 1.3% to £107k.

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

Note: the table below is a useful summary of the actual income and expenditure for 2016 and the budget for 2017. Full audited statutory financial accounts are available.

Jill Withington (Hon Treasurer)

<u>TRINITY CHURCHES</u>	<u>2016 Actual</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>	<u>£000's</u>	<u>£000's</u>
Giving (inc tax reclaim)	279	274
Legacies and Special Donations	23	0
Grant Income	11	3
Wedding and Funeral Fees (net)	16	13
Trinity Centre and Hospitality	50	49
Other Income	18	14
	<u>397</u>	<u>353</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Administration	22	25
Children and Young People	9	9
Evangelism and Special Events	12	17
Ministry Expenses	136	139
Premises	22	12
Total Salaries (excluding Trinity Centre)	94	98
Tithe and Restricted Grants	44	28
Trinity Centre Expenses	45	43
	<u>384</u>	<u>371</u>
2016 Surplus	13	
2017 Budget Deficit		-18

Looking Ahead

At the APCM in 2016 we outlined six areas for us to develop as a parish, and in many ways these have formed the basis of much of our work and energy at a leadership level: “empowering mission”, “equipping people”, “making disciples”, “reaching generations”, “strengthening parish” and “resourcing potential.”

Common themes emerge from these, including “frontline discipleship”, “growing younger” and the “rhythms of grace”. We have sought to develop these priorities through small groups and Sunday sermons, midweek activities and one-to-one conversations. These have also influenced some of our key budget decisions, including significant investment in children and youth ministry, a commitment to supporting mission locally and globally, and recognising the importance of hospitality in Café Connect and the Trinity Centre.

As 2017 continues one of the key issues we currently face is that of **strengthening parish**. How do we affirm and celebrate the diversity across Holy Trinity, Christ the King and Church in the Meet Place, whilst at the same time being one family? We have worked with the concept of “God’s amazing family”, and current leadership changes in the parish have given us a right opportunity to work more closely together and enjoy the benefits of wider family life.

Secondly is the challenge of **equipping people**, both across the congregations and within the staff team. We’re so grateful to many people who serve sacrificially and give so generously of their time, their talents and their money. However we recognise that there is so much more that we might do – within the life of the parish as well as on the frontlines of our lives – if more people were to more fully embrace God’s call to whole-life discipleship. We also recognise some significant changes in the life of the staff team these next months, in particular with staff members being called to ordination. This is a joy to see, but also a cause of change, and we pray for guidance and grace as we make decisions and appointments over this next season of the church’s life.

Finally we see the priority of **resourcing potential**, recognising some of the physical limitations we currently face in Café Connect, Church in the Meet Place, and Holy Trinity Church. There has been a working group and sub-groups meeting for some months, and we will feed back fully at the 2017 APCM with our response. We are hugely excited for what might lie in store as 2017 continues.

Phil Cansdale



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