

**THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY
MINCHINHAMPTON
With
ST BARNABAS, BOX**

**ANNUAL REPORTS
CHURCH COMMITTEES
AND
ORGANISATIONS**

APRIL 2017 - APRIL 2018

STATUTORY REPORTS

Parochial Church Council - Jamie Dalrymple Hamilton (Hon Sec)

It would be no exaggeration to say the past year has been a challenging one for our Church. The planning, funding and enactment of the Re-ordering programme would have been a sufficient hurdle in its own right. However, there was also the question of the Rector's prolonged periods of absence due to ill-health and ultimately her sudden departure in January 2018 to take up a new post in Dorset. Throughout all this period, your Church has continued to function and enormous thanks are due to all who made this happen. The remainder of the clergy team (sadly less our Curate Deborah Curram from mid-summer) did a magnificent job supported throughout by our Church Wardens, Mandy Jutsum and Howard Browning and your PCC. We are indebted to the School for allowing us to use their Assembly Hall for our Sunday morning worship while we were out of the Church and to Nick Miles and his team of craftsmen, not only for their outstanding workmanship, but the care they have taken of our beautiful old building.

I have referred to your Church Wardens Mandy and Howard but I would also like to add in this respect the third and invaluable member of the team driving the Re-ordering project - John Jutsum, our Treasurer. The fact that Phase 1 of the project has come in on budget is little short of miraculous and the PCC owe John an enormous debt of gratitude for the comprehensive financial statements he provides every meeting so we can go on to make informed decisions.

Finally, on a personal note I would like to add how lucky we are here in Minchinhampton to have so many individuals prepared to commit time and energy into supporting our worshipping community. You will, I hope, go on to read the reports of the various committees and organisations within this document. The scope and variety of what goes on is truly humbling. With the first phase of the Re-ordering programme completed, the prospects for building on these firm foundations is very exciting and whoever ultimately becomes our new Rector will be truly blessed.

2017 Church attendance figures for Holy Trinity Minchinhampton and St Barnabas Box, previous year in brackets.

Attendance on Sundays: 6,694 (9,192)

Attendance on Weekdays: 2,128 (7,744)

Electoral Roll - Pam Page (Electoral Roll Officer)

We have ended the year with 282 entries on the Electoral of which 86 live outside the Parochial Parish. During the course of the year there have been 11 deaths, 4 members have moved away and we have 3 new members. The number of members who can be contacted by email is increasing slowly and it is important that you notify the

Electoral Roll Officer, both when you obtain an email address and if it is changed at any time. The clergy find it very useful to be able to keep in contact in this way.

Next year there will be a complete revision of the Roll and if your name is not yet on it, I would urge you consider joining during the course of this year, since if you are not included you will not be able to participate fully in the life and decisions of the Church, either locally or nationally.

Finally, I would like to thank Jackie Natt who has taken over from me as Electoral Roll Officer. I know she will greatly appreciate your continued support in keeping the Roll up-to-date and hopefully, increasing in numbers.

Fabric - Howard Browning (Church Warden)

A lot of change has happened to the fabric of the church in the last year. The project, which has taken a lot of effort by many people, was first worked on in 2012, but the grant from the David Thomas Trust really gave impetus to the project from early 2015, and to further fund-raising to be able to carry it out. The 2012 exercise established that the congregation and local populations were supportive. In early 2015, we had an input from Richard Giles, well-known in this field, and a series of meetings to confirm that church and community were still well behind a change. A separate analysis of the state of the building told what we had to deal with, an architect and other specialists were appointed, and the RIBA process was started in mid-2015. By April 2017, we had the support of the Gloucester Diocesan Advisory Committee, giving us the green light to go further.

The period to August 2017, involved getting formal permission and advice from the relevant bodies, the statutory consultees: Historic England, the Church Buildings Council, the Victorian Society, the Twentieth Century Society and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings: the Ancient Monuments Society also joined in on the day. Mostly, they were supportive, but the Twentieth Century queried the movement of the rood screen. Any doubts were resolved by reference to the Diocesan Solicitor, a High Court judge, who joined the DAC in supporting the original proposal wholeheartedly.

Protecting the Past - Practical work started in August 2017. Immediately, the timescale had to be adjusted as asbestos was found in the basement, and in the organ blower housing. A firm of specialists removed the asbestos, taking three weeks, removing and destroying most of the contents of the cellar and the blower box.

The results of surveys carried out by various specialists showed that the building was seriously damp, was over-resonant, that the heating was outdated but that overall, it was remarkably well-built and amazingly free from leaks to the outside. The most serious of these was the dampness, which was threatening the building structure.

The decision was made with the architect, builders and archaeologists to remove the pews, dig out the floor to around a metre deep, and build up from a rock base. In so doing, a blocked and broken drain, probably predating the Victorians, was found: it channeled the water from the north side of the roof to a point under the middle of the

nave, where it leaked seriously, and was the obvious cause of the perceived damp. It has now been replaced by a modern drain. A consultant structural engineer advised that four of the six pillars holding up the roof had inadequate foundations: cementitious concrete was used to reinforce them. He also advised building a number of doubly-reinforced concrete floats above areas where a proper base could not be established, and these were also laid. Any archaeological remains were duly recorded and documented.

There was also a damp problem in the relatively modern roof structure, caused by lack of ventilation, but vents have now been installed. The NW corner drainage is via a very large tank under the sacristy, but at least this works, and has been doing for 150+ years, therefore it has been left as is.

The heating system was renewed. The old conventional boiler was replaced by two modern condensing boilers operating in tandem, with a new flue in the existing chimney. Finally, a soundproof door has been installed in the bell-ringing area.

Preserving the Present -The main focus of the work in the last year has been the installation of a new floor. After remedial work in the nave described above, successive layers of Type 1 fill, coated glass foam laminate, and a crushed slate leveling compound were installed, separated by geotextile membranes, bringing the floor level to roughly where it was before. Provision was made in the floor for heating, electrical cables and future audio and visual feeds. The floor level was then raised by roughly 17.5 cm more by the installation of a Jupiter underfloor heating system, and finally the final stone surface. The Jupiter system of hot water heating loops was connected by manifolds under the floor to the boilers, avoiding any joints in the heating pipes being below the final floor level. The stone chosen was from a Lincolnshire quarry in the same seam as the Cotswolds, but known for its hardness, and used widely for carving memorials. The upper levels of the quarry were of a blue-grey colour, rather than buff, and were used to make the patterns, such as the trinity symbol. The final level achieved is the same as in the main part of the chancel, eliminating the step near the organ, and giving a flat floor throughout apart from a gentle rise in the baptistry, as one approaches the nave proper.

The rood screen was duly moved to the Lady Chapel arch: after removing the crest, it was easier to move the rest in one piece, but it fitted the new position superbly. The view of the important double east window has been greatly improved. The chancel tiling has been extended and modified to accommodate the new position. New tiles, identical to the original, were sourced in Shropshire by Nick Miles, the builder, and laid over the new underfloor heating pipes at either side of the chancel.

With the removal of the pews, there was a need to consider seating. Most parishioners wanted to replace the pews with chairs, since the pews were of poor quality. Originally, the famous Victorian architect, William Burges, had recommended replacing them with chairs in 1872. Various proprietary chairs have been displayed, and a vote was taken to decide between the most popular two. The final choice was the Theo chair, which has now been successfully in use in the church and the Porch Room since Autumn 2017.

At the time of writing, the sacristy and choir vestry are being fitted out, based on designs developed by the users. The Lady Chapel will be repaved using stone that has been recycled from the old floor in the church. Plans for re-installing the other church furniture are being developed.

A very thorough Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by our architect, Antony Feltham-King, finishing in March 2017. Routine inspections of most services used by the church were carried out over the last year as part of the reordering project, so we are well set for the current quinquennium.

Planning for Posterity -Two projects are seen as highly desirable in the near future; improvement of the entrance area, and updating the audio-visual system. These are medium-size projects of £50-65k each but finance is not available currently. In both cases, though, design is well-advanced– when/if we have the money, we can do them.

Longer-term, the quinquennial recommends that in the next five years if possible, we have three more significant projects – refurbishing of the organ, primarily involving the action, replacement or upgrading of the glass in the south and east windows, and improving the overall lighting.

The church is now a very much more flexible space, and will lend itself to being used for a wider range of events, as it was used pre the Victorians. Already there has been interest expressed in using the largest space in Minchinhampton for a greater variety of concerts, talks and events than has been possible up to now. This will involve both the church population and the wider community, and is a challenge to them to build a future together.

Deanery Synod - Sarah Rogaly

In the past year the Deanery Synod has met three times with one extra meeting which was an open one to consider Parish Share. In addition to varied Diocesan business, the meetings always involve a visiting speaker. During the year these were as follows;

May 31st 2017 Sam Cavender- Diocesan Communications Officer, specialising in digital media. Among other things, Sam highlighted the “A Church Near You” website which is gradually being taken over by the Church of England. We were all encouraged to look at the new Diocesan website;

www.gloucester.anglican.org/communications. Sam’s presentation slides can be found there under Synod Documents. July 26th 2017 Open Deanery Meeting on Parish Share. This was well attended. Julie Ridgeway gave a presentation in which she explained in detail the position and how that has been worked through down to local level so that everyone is fully informed. For more information on this meeting see the Deanery website. October 4th 2017 Rob French from PSALMS (Putting Sports Alongside Local Ministries) Rob talked about the original vision of PSALMS being to use the universal language of sport, health, fitness and outdoor opportunity to explain faith and to support young people in their life journey. A short film of photographs was shown to illustrate the PSALMS residential week. Will Mansell- The Grace Network “Creating life-changing opportunities in the Five valleys”. The Grace Network is a business rather than a charity. It began with Will’s involvement in a football coaching initiative called Kick-Off Stroud, and grew to encompass the

Stroud Food Bank, the Furniture Bank and Kids Stuff. The aim is to see people reach their social, emotional, spiritual and economic potential by using the medium of business to develop, train and mentor people. February 21st 2018 Noel Sharp – Regional Coordinator for Christian Aid. Noel talked about the Global Neighbours Schools Award Scheme and the Salt Business Network. Margaret Sheather - Lay Chair, General Synod gave us the opportunity to gain a clearer picture of what is discussed at General Synod and of how the decision making process works. At this meeting we also had a Parish and Benefice update which is as follows;

The Stroudwater Team; appointment of Liz Palin as Team Vicar Stroud Team Ministry; Revd Kate Stacey licensed as Team Rector on 28.1.2018; Bisley Benefice- Revd Sue Murray to be licensed 18.3.2018, Brimscombe, Woodchester and Rodborough - Revd Deborah Curram licensed as Curate 29.1.2018

The Beacon Benefice, Minchinhampton and Nailsworth are all in vacancy.

Annual Report and Financial Statements - John Jutsum (Hon. Treasurer)

Report available separately

COMMITTEE REPORTS

St Barnabas Church, Box - Colin French

Life continues smoothly at St Barnabas Church. We are extremely grateful to the clergy who conduct our weekly services and very appreciative when the rota allows them to spend ten minutes or so with the members of the congregation after the service and join us in a cup of coffee. We have been delighted to welcome some new members to our congregation which ranges from 12 to 16 for a normal Sunday service.

Christmas and Easter as ever are highlights within the year when the congregations are swelled by villagers, visiting friends and relations. The Carol Service held on Christmas Eve was very well attended. We were grateful to Bob Philpott who played the piano and led the congregation in the singing of traditional carols. Sadly Bob has decided that the time has come for him to give up playing for us and we are extremely grateful for his lively playing of the piano and our small organ. We have recruited two new pianists to play for our Sunday services, Rebecca MacKinnon and Peter Parker. However, we still need a pianist for the first Sunday in the month.

Our particular thanks are due to Sarah Moseley and her team of flower arrangers. Flowers appear and decorate the church throughout the year. We are also indebted to the quiet and dedicated group of volunteer brass polishers and sacristans who ensure that everything is in order for the services. Our thanks also go to Beris and Jacquie Hanks who ensure that the church is opened and locked each day.

The St Barnabas Committee usually meets three times a year and we are always looking for additional members to support our work throughout the year. During the past year the cleaning of the spire and the repainting of the wooden supporting structure has taken place. This has revealed that the spire needs further work prior to regilding. We are looking to undertake this in the coming year but first we need to raise the £150,000 we estimate the project will take. We have made a start on tidying up the church surroundings and have replaced the oak half barrel planters either side of the main door.

Worship Prayer and Spirituality Committee - Chair Margaret Sheather

The Committee has met regularly through 2017, continuing its regular review and planning of all the services across the year: the weekly routine, major festivals and special services. Some key points noted in our meetings have been:

- discussions relating to the arrangements for worship during the re-ordering work, both to anticipate what might be possible and respond to events as they unfolded; as chair I contributed to discussions about the storage of all the various contents of the church
- the creation by Julian Elloway of a card to guide people through Evensong, as this congregation had grown over the previous year
- Bishop Robert's leadership through Holy Week and Easter had been greatly appreciated and he had also very much enjoyed the week with us.
- difficulty in running further "Experience" events as some of the regular contributors had stood down and were not immediately replaced
- Wednesday Cuppa's thriving position has led some people to become more involved in church life generally
 - Prayer vigils have continued successfully through the year.
 - Some proposed developments in worship, arising from the benefice Vision Day in 2016, were discussed at the start of the years, but were affected by the Rector's sickness absence so have not yet been pursued. This also related to the need to review the work and composition of the committee as necessary to take forward any new aspects. The current year will, in any event, see us sharing in starting to work out the way to use the new space created by the re-ordering, pending the arrival of a new incumbent.

I'm grateful to all the committee members for their lively and thoughtful contributions to our discussions, and their commitment to ensuring our worship is varied and welcoming to all.

Servers - Margaret Sheather (Senior Server)

The servers' role is quietly to support the dignity and the drama of our worship, whether at a routine Sunday Eucharist or one of the major festival services of the church's year. This year has been rather different as we adapted our roles to the changes in worship required as we used the school hall and then the different arrangements over the Christmas period

The serving team is now an experienced one and I am very grateful for their commitment and the flexibility that enables us to fulfil this role reliably in normal times and responded well to the different arrangements during re-ordering work. However, we continue to be a small team, and it would be very good to add two or three more members to the team. A larger group means we can share the tasks more widely and cope better with holidays and other absences. We all started from scratch at one time so no special expertise is needed! If you are interested in joining the team and would like to know more about what's involved, or can suggest someone who might be interested then please do speak to me or any of the current team members.

Stewardship – Tim Mowat (Chair)

The following were members of the Stewardship Committee: Tim Mowat, The Rev.Helen Bailey (Rector), Peter Lapping, John Jutsum (PCC Treasurer), Mandy Jutsum (Church Warden), Geoff Lloyd and Pat Swift (Recorder).

The Stewardship Campaign of Autumn 2017 was a muted affair because of the concentration on the 6P's Appeal to fund the re-ordering. In 2017 receipts were below forecast by £2,800 in sharp contrast to 2016 when they were £5,200 above. A further 7 stewardship givers have converted to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), during the year (20 in 2016). In total we received a cash flow benefit of £14,500 from PGS in 2017 down from £15,195 in 2016 - NB Gift Aid Tax Relief on donations through PGS has the benefit of being credited more quickly.

Our forecast for 2018 (2017 figures in brackets) assume 192 regular contributors (193) with a total pledged including Gift Aid of £116,227 (£123,617). It is planned to raise the profile of Stewardship with a campaign this Autumn in the hope of increasing the numbers signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme. However we are very pleased the 6P's appeal has been such a success while also very grateful for the continuing support for Stewardship campaign. Use of the Parish data base has helped greatly in communicating both with the Diocese and with our parishioners. We will be writing shortly to the latter to remind them of the details we currently have on file (as required by the forthcoming GDPR regulations to ask that we may continue to hold these details for communication purposes.

Finally while the loss of Johnny Wilkinson continues to be strongly felt Tim Mowat and the Committee would like to offer their heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported both Churches over the past year, not only with their money but their time and talents.

Pastoral Care Team (PCT) - Linda Jarvis (Co-ordinator)

We now have nineteen lay people on the pastoral care team who regularly visit parishioners from the Minchinhampton and Box community. Of these nineteen, nine can take communion to the housebound. Welcome to both Christine Gibson and John Walden who have recently joined the team but it is with great sadness we had to say goodbye to Mollie Worrall last year. Mollie is sorely missed.

Thank-you to Mike Gwilliam and Diana Lapping for ensuring that the pictures of those on the PCT can be displayed. This can be found at the back of the Porch Room on top of the cupboards. The picture frame will be moved back to the Church when the re-ordering is finished, so you can put a face to a name!

Sandy and Linda would also like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Pastoral Care Team who have worked incredibly hard during the past year.

Please phone Linda Jarvis on 01453 884545, if you know of anyone who would welcome a visit.

For your information I list below all those who are currently DBS checked and are on the PCT.

Paul Boon	Peter Goodwin	Cheryl Ritter	Alison Whitaker
Anne Brookes	Linda Jarvis	Sarah Rogaly	Roy Wilson
Mick Evans	Judy Lucas (Box)	Margaret Sheather	Christine Gibson
Julia Gerard	Jackie Natt	Jo Smith	John Walden
Sheila Goodwin	Gill Price	Lyndsey Swift	

Hospitality and Social Events committee- Nich Rutherford (Chair)

This report covers the calendar year 201& matching the Church's accounting period.

In the period under review the Committee continued to provide hospitality for a significantly reduced variety of occasions in part because in the second half of the year the Re-ordering of the Church had started and there were only two Music at Minch. Concerts and no Lecture series in the year. It must be stressed that without such events it remains difficult to generate a sufficient surplus to cover the cost of refreshments at those events and services at our Church, when donation are not requested. The cost of events hosted by the Church in 2017 were £357 (£439.92 in 2016). The surplus over costs at 'donation events' was - £181 (£298.98 in 2016). An additional £236 was raised specifically at 6P's/organ fundraising events.

The total number of events covered/provided for in the year was 13 (21 in 2016), of which (8) were 'No Donation' occasions. Input costs have been maintained at reasonable levels by bulk purchases and taking advantage of discounted offers when available. Benefice events were held with the hosting church providing main organisation and reciprocal support from the others. Efforts to build a joint Benefice account fund for these events continued. The committee members remain very grateful for the support of many other people for their help at events and also generously supplying food and cakes for several occasions.

After the completion of the Re-ordering this spring, the Committee look forward to once again providing refreshments for an increasing number of events for both the church and external organisations

The Home and International committee - Cheryl Ritter (Chair)

The past year has been a quiet one for the committee. Our '**Come and Pray events**' continued until the closure of the Church for Re-ordering. Until that time the quiet morning of prayer, divided into half hourly sessions continued to be popular with its dedicated group of followers. It is now hoped that a re launch of this small but much appreciated event, can be used to refocus our prayer life. There was also no Country Fayre this year where we had planned our usual presence.

Charitable Giving:- During our rather nomadic existence last Autumn, it was agreed by the PCC that the charities for Christmas 2017 and Easter 2018 would be as last year, namely: Medecine San Frontier, Save the Children and Alzheimer's Research, Stroud Court and Minchinhampton Riding for the Disabled group. Once back in the church this summer we will ask for your nominations for Local, National and International Charities to be considered by the PCC for Christmas 2018 and Easter 2019.

Due to ill-health Sybil Cox and Bil Evans have had to step down from the committee. My thanks to Tim Mowat and Linda Jarvis for their help and guidance and to all those who help us set up our 'Come and Pray' mornings especially Ruth Mowatt and Colin Brooks.

OTHER ACTIVITIES, GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Safeguarding Report - Judy Little (Safeguarding Officer)

During the last 12 months I have continued the work of Joan Goldsmith. I have completed 7 new checks for volunteers and there is now a total of 45 people who have undergone checks. Renewals are due after 5 years and 'Reminders' will be sent out from September 2019.

I have undergone training in Safeguarding and set up a training session at Amberley Church. This was very well attended but sadly no one from Minchinhampton Church attended.

A sub group led by Linda Jarvis (Reader) developed a 'Lone Worker Policy' for Minchinhampton Church which has been distributed as a flyer in the Church News. This policy was developed in the light of recent problems encountered in Minchinhampton Church of a young man being verbally abusive and physically threatening to some in the congregation.

The Tower - Angie Ayling (Captain)

2017 was another successful year in the ringing chamber (and in the Tower as a whole, as some preliminary steps have been taken to address the sound proofing).

The standard of ringing continues to improve steadily- even though it can sometimes be two steps forward one step back- and for the second successive year we were nominated 'Tower of the Year'. During 2017 we practiced on a total of 43 Fridays. There was no practice on six occasions:- Good Friday, too few ringers, Stuart Singers Concert (x2), no electricity and on the 29th of December, however there had been an extra ringing on Christmas Day and there was to be ringing twice on December 31st. The average number of ringers at practices was 9.

There was ringing every Sunday morning except two and in addition there were eight quarter peel attempts of which seven were successful. We rang for the Snow Drop Festival at Colesbourne as we will this year and enjoyed an outing in May to the Tewksbury/Gloucester area. There were no weddings due to the Re-ordering which had been planned to start in April but in the event did not do so until August 2017.

In June we once again took part in the branch Striking Competition which was held in Upper Cam. Our team was Tony, Paul, Mick, Naoko, Richard and Angie and, rather to our dismay we came last! However we enjoyed the barbecue at Horsley afterwards. We can now aim to improve on this when we take part again this year!

The Flower Guild - Kathy Hurst (Co-ordinator)

The Flower Guild was reformed in March 2018 after being disbanded during the Re-ordering. Several new people have recently joined and we now have a very strong team of 30 members. The first event was Easter flowers and the Church was beautifully decorated with Easter lilies. The next big event is the Re-dedication service on the 27th of April followed by the Open Day on the 12th of May and Trinity Sunday on the 27th of May. There are also 6 weddings booked between July and August, So there is a busy time ahead for the Flower Guild.

Please also note we have a fund raising Coffee Morning on Friday 22nd June in Mandy Jutsum's garden. We very much hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

Music – Julian Elloway (Director of Music)

During the previous year we had welcomed Malaika and Denzil Ind in the juniors, and now Denzil has just moved from treble to tenor as his voice changes. Neil Cooper has needed to retire from the choir but we look forward to keeping in touch with him and Clare and seeing them regularly at services. We failed to say farewell to Liz and Ray Cook, as they left us to sing in Cheltenham with the same swiftness as two years or so earlier they had left Cirencester to sing in Minchinhampton – we hope they will be happy wherever they presently are.

Bishop Robert led a rewarding and unified Holy Week last year for which we enjoyed singing, and at the time of writing the home team of clergy has just finished this year's 'Great Week' with a variety of approaches and musical rewards.

Although we concentrate on the music for the morning Parish Eucharist, a select number of singers attends bi-monthly evensongs, which is much appreciated. I must especially thank Linda Elloway for helping with the junior choir and much else, and also Alison Wood for organizing the music group, and everyone else who has contributed in all sorts of ways to our music. It would also be appropriate to thank two clergy no longer with us in Minchinhampton, the Revd Deborah Curran who had been

a great friend of the choir, and the Revd Helen Bailey who supported us throughout her time here and had a clear vision of the role of music in 21st-century worship.

Last year 'at the time of writing we await the reordering and refurbishing of the inside of the church building that will offer exciting opportunities (and a few challenges) for music in worship here.' The completion of the reordering is still awaited but Phase 1 is nearly complete: the opportunities come closer. The challenges are also clearer, not least in fitting in, moving and using the new, heavy choir stands that might have been more appropriate in a wider 'cathedral-style' space. But plans are afoot to make them more easily usable with both high altar and nave altar and be generally more flexible. The organ has had two new blower units, the second of which fits within the organ case and appears to provide sufficient air for the instrument. We look forward to the removal of the dust-proof organ sheeting followed by tuning and repairs that haven't been possible while the outside of the instrument is inaccessible.

Servers – Margaret Sheather (Senior Server)

The servers' role is quietly to support the dignity and the drama of our worship, whether at a routine Sunday Eucharist or one of the major festival services of the church's year.

The serving team is now an experienced one and I am very grateful for their commitment and the flexibility that enables us to fulfil this role reliably. However, we continue to be a small team, and have been glad to welcome Jamie Dalrymple Hamilton to join the team this year.

It would be very good to add at least two or three more members to the team to replace people who, over the last couple of years, have either moved away or had to resign because of illness. A larger group means we can share the tasks more widely and cope better with holidays and other absences. We all started from scratch at one time so no special expertise is needed! If you are interested in joining the team and would like to know more about what's involved, or can suggest someone who might be interested then please do speak to me or any of the current team members.

Messy Church - Alison Wood

Messy Church is flourishing in spite of having an enforced break during the Re-ordering. Good Friday Messy Church and Water of Life Messy Church in June last year, were both well attended. Our next Messy Church was Christingle which took place mainly in the Porch Room and was huge fun despite of being very cramped and slightly chaotic. We were able to use the Church more for Messy Church which was well attended even though it was a Sunday afternoon rather than a Wednesday afternoon after school. The parents and children are very keen to enjoy themselves and make the the best of the slight difficulties thrown up by the Re-ordering. We have a dedicated team of helpers which seems to be growing. This means people do not have to help out at all the sessions. My thanks to all those who support and help with with this essential and rewarding part of our Church's mission.

Junior Church - Alison Wood

Junior Church is not very active at present. There are few if any children attending our Sunday services which makes it harder for helpers who spend time preparing sessions to which nobody comes. However we are very grateful to those helpers. Junior Church needs re-thinking and the commitment of a few more individuals prepared to help with this important aspect of our children's worship, is necessary

Traidcraft - Deborah Smith

It was with some trepidation that Jackie Natt and I took over from Clare Cooper at the beginning of 2017. She has always been so enthusiastic and committed to the Traidcraft brand and the whole philosophy of Fair Trade. However, with the support of many members of the congregation, and Clare's advice and experience, we have managed to have a very successful first year.

Fair Trade Fortnight falls at the end of February/beginning of March and we held a tea party in February, followed by a special Fair Trade service on the Sunday following. Many thanks to all those who helped serve teas, sell raffle tickets and make this a successful event. We held another pre-Christmas event in November which sold lots of stock and enabled us to send £500 to Traidcraft as a donation towards their projects. Due to bad weather our next sale was not well supported – so if you want to buy your 2018 Christmas cards early have a word with us

We held twelve Sunday sales during the year and we also supply Amberley who have one on the first Sunday of every month. One innovation is taking orders for some items – particularly Easter Eggs. These come in cartons of 6 so to avoid being left with 5 unwanted eggs we took orders and that worked really well. We do get a discount from Traidcraft which covers us against unsold items which have passed their sell by date and extras like carrier bags.

Summary of income and expenditure in 2017

Sales of Traidcraft products	£ 6,391.36
Donations and Fundraising (raffles etc)	£ 722.21
	£ 7,113.57
Cost of goods sold*	£ 4,993.97
Surplus on sales and fundraising	£ 2,119.60
Donation to Traidcraft	£ 500.00
Balance carried forward	£ 1,619.60
Cash in hand (floats and unbanked cash)	£ 115.00
Bank balance	£ 308.96
Value of stock at 31/12/2017	£ 1,195.64
	£ 1,619.60

* Goods purchased from Traidcraft, PLUS goods brought forward from Clare, LESS value of stock at year end.

Buying stock has been a bit of a learning curve. Some things (eg Geobars) fly off the shelf, others, such as sugar, rice and couscous hang around until their expiry date. Others take up a lot of space in my cupboards – like the 5 packs of kitchen roll I ordered by accident – instead of 5 doubles (10 rolls in all) I clicked the wrong item and ended up with 120. You live and learn! The Traidcraft cards go really well, very attractive designs and good value for money, and we would like to sell these every Sunday – ideally leaving a selection in the Porch Room all the time with an ‘Honesty Box’. It’s been a bit chaotic recently (you may have noticed) so that is a plan for the future. If at some point we could have some storage in the church or porch room it would make it possible to have sales more frequently. At the moment it is a case of bringing 6 or 7 big boxes of stock, bags etc from our spare bedroom, and inevitably we can’t bring everything so having a core stock in church would make a huge difference to our ability to provide what people want to buy. We try to have the sale regularly on the 4th Sunday but inevitably events overtake us and we can’t always do this, however we now try to advertise in the pew sheets for a couple of weeks before so our customers are well aware of forthcoming sales.

Many thanks to all our supporters. This is a really worthwhile project and we would like to continue as a Super Trader for many years to come.

The Masasi Group - Andrew Watton (Chair)

Our sponsorship of Barack's training in Mtwara has continued and we remain optimistic that in the fullness of time there will be a functioning Dispensary in Mtwara. The Cornwall Bursary continued and past student Douglas Patrick has benefited from his studies and succeeded in his business activities.

Bishop James did a sponsored "Birthday Walk" from Sidano the place of his birth, close to the Mozambique border on the Diocese of Newala to the Cathedral at Mtandi a distance of 60 kms. The goal for the fund raising is to build a Girls Secondary School at Namasakata. Bishop James had hoped to raise £40,000 towards the project. Initially £26,000 was achieved by Bishop James and the local community. This was subsequently topped up by two generous benefactors. Bishop James was suitably in awe of such a marvellous result. We expect to hear more of the plans for this much needed school later this year during our forthcoming visit.

The restoration of the Rhondo Chapel continues to be a challenge. Steve Jarvis and the team will be carrying out an inspection during their visit. We understand there are still problems with the roof (leaking), and the glazing to the windows. Previously the chapel benefited from financial support from the Jerusalem Trust. At present there is £3,958.60 in the Rhondo fund.

There are many challenges for those living in Masai and Newala. Thankfully there are other churches in the United Kingdom that have an infinity with our brothers and sisters in the Diocese. During our visit this summer we shall be following up our support for the local schools, the blind school and the support needed for the albino children. Simple aids of creams, floppy hats are always welcome.. We are lucky in

having the support of a Trustee who helps on matters ophthalmic. Equally we expect to have further news of projects such as rainwater harvesting and general maintenance facilities which we may take for granted but may need assistance where the local contractors are starved of supplies.

In conclusion Holy Trinity Minchinhampton is blessed to have a historic connection (Rev'd John Cornwall), with Masai. Equally our friends in Tanzania are grateful for the support from our Parish. That appreciation is not just for the physical support we provide; but also for the fact we care and we hold the Diocese in our thoughts and prayers.

Mothers Union - Julia Gerard (Branch Leader)

The Mothers Union has had a very successful and enjoyable year. Our numbers average about 20 per meeting with 28 paid up members and about another 100 informal members. Highlights of meetings included the following: Tom Elliott - a Christian magician, Hypnosis, Christmas card design and the Rev'd Simon Topping. The Mothers Union has Christmas and summer socials and a pancake evening with profits buying the flowers for the Mothering Day posies. In addition a 'Table Top' sale was organised in November which raised over £600 which was used to purchase 3 chairs for the Church and the Mothers Union also supported Marah in Stroud in 2017 as our Charity, to which we regularly donate, cakes, toiletries and clothes etc.

Parish Magazine - Angie Ayling

Kathy Hurst retired from being editor of the parish magazine, the December 2017 edition being her last, and I took over, starting with the January 2018 edition. Peter Holmes has taken over managing the advertisements. We both aim to do as good a job as our predecessors! Thanks to Michael Gwilliam for the photos, especially those of the church reordering, and we are all naturally grateful to the army of volunteer deliverers and to Diana Lapping for organising them.

The magazine continues to have a colour cover/back page and 4 colour pages inside; we have debated moving to have more colour pages but that would be dependent upon an increased income from advertisers – particularly those prepared to pay more for a coloured advert. Contributions continue to be most welcome – ideally by the deadline date! – and in particular it is helpful to have some articles which are not time-specific (e.g. poems, recipes, interviews with people), so that empty pages can be filled with meaningful, interesting things to read.

Church Cleaning Guild - Mandy Jutsum

Grateful thanks are due to the 22 people who dusted the furniture and polished the silver and brass and to Liz and Richard Hughes for hoovering the floors up to August last year when the Re-ordering started. During the the Church closure the Porch Rooms and Kitchen have become even more busy with weekly services and other activities continuing as normal. This has added to the cleaning for the people concerned with these areas. Special thanks are therefore due to: Anne Brookes for keeping the Porch Room in shape; Cheryl Ritter for her vigilance and extra efforts in keeping the loos and Kitchen spick and span and Ian Hartnell who has taken over from Roy Wilson as the dishwasher guardian: topping it up and making sure that it is

in working order. Thanks are also due to Sylvie Thomas and her team for their care and cleaning of the Kitchen and providing us with delicious second Sunday breakfasts and Wednesday cuppa; similarly to Hilary Bellhouse and her team of Sunday morning coffee makers.

The Cleaning Guild will get back into action once the building work is completed starting with a get together for tea and cake - date to be arranged once we are fully installed back in the church. Four people have retired from the brass and silver cleaning rota this year and we thank them for their time and efforts. New volunteers are needed and would be very welcome. If you feel called to keep our Church beautiful in this way, please let me know.