

# **Holy Trinity Headington Quarry**

## **REPORTS ON CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

### **January – December 2017**



***PLEASE RETURN BOOKLET AS SOON AS YOU CAN FOR***

***OTHERS TO READ OR VIEW [www.hthq.org.uk](http://www.hthq.org.uk)***

#### **1. Overall Governance**

- PCC
- Wardens

## **2. Children and youth**

- Children and Families work
- LaZers youth group

## **3. Music, worship, spirituality**

- Music, choir, music group
- Servers
- Julian Group
- Bible course
- Mindfulness
- Home groups
- Church Library

## **4. Communications**

- Parish magazine
- Web-site

## **5. The church building**

- Flower arrangers
- Church cleaning
- Visitors and CS Lewis Group
- Caretaker/Verger
- Friends of Holy Trinity
- Building Development
- Churchyard

## **6. Community and outreach**

- Pastoral care Team
- Christmas and Summer fairs
- Wood Farm Event
- Bournemouth Seaside Trip
- Gatehouse and Lifts to Church
- Thursday Lunch Club
- Lent Lunches

## **7. The wider world**

- Deanery synod
- Parish charities – PCDC, Archway
- Eco-Church
- Mothers' Union

# **Overall Governance**

## **PCC**

During 2017 the PCC met on five occasions, with an additional extraordinary meeting, on 21<sup>st</sup> February, to discuss the faculty application for the church buildings development project.

April 2017 saw a change of Churchwarden, as Peter Garside took over from Anne Tarassenko, whilst Janet Masters continued in office. Our May meeting also saw the election of a new Treasurer, as Andrew Colleran took over the role from John Macaulay, and a new Secretary, with Anne Tarassenko returning to that role upon the retirement of Ian Alexander.

Anne also took on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer, and reported to each PCC meeting on safeguarding issues. On the recommendation of the Diocese of Oxford, we have changed our Disclosure and Barring Service umbrella body to Access Personal Checking Service Ltd (APCS); the new system was up and running by the end of the year.

The Eco-Church group reported to each PCC meeting during the year. One of their successes of 2017 was to get the Co-Wheels scheme up and running in the Coach House car park. They even obtained a grant from Headington Action, which covered most of the cost to the PCC of preparing the car's space. The PCC was also very pleased to learn of another success, namely the award of the Eco- Church Bronze award.

The house in Binswood Avenue has seen a huge improvement in 2017, thanks in large part to the work of Andrew Colleran. The PCC handed the management of the property over to Andrews, in Headington, with Andrew serving as the link person for the PCC; and by the end of the year, after substantial sums had been spent on sorting out its damp issues and subsequent redecoration, the property was let to new tenants at an increased rent on an annual lease.

The PCC enjoyed another awayday at Cuddesdon; this year's event took place on 11th November, and explored issues of discipleship and lay leadership in ministry. Led by Tina Molyneux, this was a fascinating day, and raised issues that will be particularly relevant during the period of vacancy that we are now facing.

The PCC was saddened to hear at its December meeting that Tim and Susie Stead will be leaving us in April 2018. Tim told us something about the recruitment process, and recommended that the wardens write to the Archdeacon as soon as possible to get the process started. The PCC wishes Tim and Susie well in all their future endeavours.

At the APCM on 26 April Andrew Colleran and Linda Davies were elected to the PCC for the first time and Philippa Logan was welcomed back. Also elected were Hesper Bunch (who had been co-opted to the PCC for 2016-

17) and Anne Tarassenko (who had been a PCC member *ex officio* as a Warden). Margaret Woodcock agreed to serve for a second term of three years. Four people were elected as representatives for the Cowley Deanery Synod: Flora Alexander, Sheila Allcock, Susie Stead and Felicity Wallendszus.

Anne Tarassenko  
Secretary to the PCC

### **Church Wardens\_**

Holy Trinity has been very fortunate in 2017, in the service provided to us by the clergy. In the early part of the year, Tim Stead was unfortunately unwell, but we are grateful for the steadfast work by Rob Gilbert our Associate Priest, and Joan Walding our Lay Minister, supported by our retired clergy and chaplains, who enabled us to continue to provide regular services throughout the spring and early summer. We are very grateful to all those who assisted us during that time, and are pleased that following surgery in the summer, Tim has recovered his health.

The wardens' primary task is to maintain the church fabric, and there have been ongoing issues that have kept the wardens busy this year. The tree pruning in the churchyard, which had been required by the last Quinquennial inspection and subsequent tree survey, has been completed, as well as work that was required following snow damage to some branches in December. The gutters and gullies have been cleared and soakaways re-dug. Damage to the lead work in one of the west end windows, has required the removal of the window, so that it can be taken to the glazier's workshop for repair. There have been continuing issues with the boiler and heating system; advice from plumbers and heating engineers has culminated in the system being flushed out and filters installed. Thanks to the hard

work of Derek Taylor, temporary lighting along the pathway to the Coach House is now available for evening services, and a number of the security lights on the church have been replaced by Kevin Masters. We are grateful to the Friends of Holy Trinity who have agreed to pay for the repairs to the window and heating system. We would like to thank all those who helped us to look after the fabric of the church during this year, particularly Adrian Wood, Derek Taylor and Kevin Masters.

Tim Stead's announcement in December that he and Susie will be leaving us in April, will herald a new chapter in the life of our church, with new challenges and expectations. Although saddened by their leaving we are aware of the many contributions that they have made to our parish life over the last ten years, which will strengthen us as we move forward. The wardens would like to wish them well in their future plans and new life.

Janet Masters and Peter Garside.

## **Children and youth**

### **Pram Service**

There is a lovely buzz in the Church on a Tuesday morning as children, carers, helpers, priests all arrive at about 10am for a joyful service. We sing songs, light and blow out candle, listen to Bible stories, pray, and take part in the Eucharist. There is noise and movement and always fun.

After the service we move to the Coach House for coffee and cake and plenty of toys for the children with. This is time for the carers to talk, compare notes, and find a listening ear. As priests and helpers I know we are energised by our involvement with this vibrant group of younger people and honoured to be part of it.

Jane Hedges

## **Children and Families**

It has now been almost one year since I first became involved in the work at HTHQ. From day one, I feel I have been made very welcome, Tim and Susie were both of great assistance in helping me to settle into the role and I feel very blessed to have inherited such a capable and lovely team.

On the whole, these have been enjoyable months of getting to know people, seeing how things operate here and formulating a clearer picture of how our work in this area of the church's life could develop.

Below, I will briefly state how I see assess things at the moment, in the various sections of our work with children and families.

### **HT4U**

We describe HT4U as a HT4U is a fun, informal, family-friendly church service run by Holy Trinity Headington Quarry. As part of the morning there are songs, a story, a chance to think about an idea, chat, or ask questions and things to do, make, and create.

After what I felt was a somewhat shaky start as regards to my involvement in this, I now feel happy with the format that has been developed and with its usefulness to our work with children and families. There is an excellent team in place, a reasonably sized and reasonably committed collection of attendees and some good feedback from both children and adults.

In terms of our opportunities for development, my thoughts are that we can and should try to spread the word about this more widely through more regular publicity of these events and increasingly look to include our older children and young people in the creation and presentation of the service.

### **The Pram Service**

This is our church service for pre-school children and carers, followed by drinks, snacks and toys at the Coach House and time to chat and play. Despite some early doubts about how a Eucharistic service could work for this age-group, what is clear to me is that there is a good number of folk within the community who really appreciate this.

I also feel that I have been able to bring something to the table here and that my involvement in this, is good, useful and to now some degree important to its continued running.

I see potential development, in terms of improved publicity for this and related church events, follow-up opportunities for parents and carers that want to know more about the faith and perhaps (where appropriate) tweaks to the format and content of the service

### **Sunday Club**

This is the new name for our Sunday morning activities for children at Holy Trinity Headington Quarry and has now replaced the Footprints, Trax and 9plus groups.

One of the real challenges continues to be that you have no real idea how many children of what ages might turn up from week to week. However, I have seen some improvement in numbers and we have a fabulous team of people that want to work with these children and can respond flexibly to whoever might arrive.

Going forward, I would like to improve our format, see if we can increase numbers and I would like to reinstate and rebrand a form of the nine plus group, at least once a month.

### **Our Work in Schools**

Although we have offered my services to all the local schools within the parish, it was only really Quarry School that responded with enthusiasm.

However, I am now involved in running story telling and story creation sessions on a weekly basis and I have been part of their harvest service and a project for World Book Day.



Quarry is a great school with lovely staff and it is a pleasure to be involved. but in conjunction with the school I will continue to assess my role there.

### **Wood Farm**

Having spent a bit of time getting to know the area and chatting with the folk who were regularly involved there, it was felt that something of a change of direction was needed for the work.

We have replaced the monthly Wood Farm event with 'larger' quarterly event (Christmas, Easter, Summer, Harvest) that I am working on with Fran. I am also now involved in an after-school, youth club on Wood Farm every Friday.

Although, I personally am pretty much working to capacity, there are definitely ways that we can develop the work on Wood Farm meaningfully, both in terms of creating new events and supporting groups, such as the youth club and the parents and toddlers that are already working in that community.

### **Creche**

For under 3s, the Creche meets in the vestry during the first hymn and are supervised by DBS checked volunteers led by Bryony. I have met with Bryony recently and it is great to have someone with her skill-set involved.

There are some challenges here, that spring from irregular numbers and working within the space that we have, but we will continue to monitor this and improve the situation and facilities, as we can.

### **Fourth Sunday**

Though not my idea, I am big fan of the format for these all-together, all-age, fourth Sundays and I have been very encouraged by how they have worked so far.

The numbers of children and families attending and the engagement from all sides has been positive. But as with all things, we will continue to look at what we do and how we do it

### **Other Things to Note**

Other things that are worth mentioning include the two weeks of a Stay and Play group for parents / carers and small children that we ran during the summer holidays, the Family-Friendly Church, Silver Award that we will be going for over the next few years, seeking to establish more involvement in Risinghurst and exploring how we use social media and our CS Lewis links.

Chris Matthewman

### **laZers**

It had been disbanded with exams for most members at the end of summer term and now with some members going to University in September and busy with gap years or college, laZers has been trying to meet once a term but with Tim leaving there is a need for a new leader as well as deciding if the group needs to be changed to suit the needs of its members or potential and new members

Frances Farrar.

## **Music, worship, spirituality**

### **Music**

2017 was a busy year at Holy Trinity, and I continued to work closely with the team of clergy and other service organisers in arranging suitable music for the wide range of services we have here. Music Group sing every 4th Sunday, and the Choir every week. Both groups are greatly valued by the church.

As has become traditional, we invited singers from St Andrew's, Old Headington to join Holy Trinity choir to sing on Ascension Day and some of our singers boosted their choir numbers at the service

for St Andrew's Day. This is a valuable connection between us and our neighbours across Headington. I have worked with our choir on a wide range of music, including a brand new piece commissioned especially for us, which received its world premiere at our Advent Carols service.

It was also a busy year personally for me, as I took 6 weeks of maternity leave to have my baby (who is already a firm supporter of all things musical at the church!). I am indebted to David Knight for covering my absence so generously and expertly. We are indeed very fortunate to have so many talented musicians in our midst.

Congregational Evensong has remained a much-loved evening service, alongside Choral Evensong when the augmented choir sing a wide range of repertoire. We are intending to increase participation of the congregation at both of these services by inviting everyone to sing the psalm and responses at Choral Evensong.

I have continued to support the Music Group both in planning and rehearsals whenever possible. They led the music for Easter Songs of Praise, which was a joyful service of anthems and favourite Easter hymns. Music Group also sang an uplifting song as part of the Carol Service.

We continued to use the set of congregational responsorial psalms at the 10am service during Lent that was successful the previous year, allowing for a more reflective period before the gospel reading.

I was unable to hold the traditional welcome-back lunch in September owing to my absence on maternity leave, but my baby received a very warm welcome upon my return and I would like to thank the Choir in particular for their support as I returned to work so soon after the birth of my son.

Rosie Tweddle

### **Servers**

The team of servers is now eight, because Andy Gosler has moved on and is now training at Cuddesdon. Only two servers are used at each Sunday 10 am Eucharist, but we do need to have about eight people, because people have to fit in occasional duty as a server with family and/or work commitments, and holidays. The role is not particularly demanding, and those of us who share it find it interesting and rewarding to play this small part in the Sunday morning service.

Flora Alexander

### **Julian Group**

I am pleased to say that the big news is that there are now two groups meeting every month. The first meets in the evening of the first Tuesday of each month at my house, 3 Barton Road, to meditate on a prayer, poem or Bible passage and then discuss it over tea, coffee or chocolate. The second meets in the evening of the third Friday of the month at 109 Bulan Road, the home of Rhonda Riachi and Rikky Rooksby.

There is a core of members of HTHQ but I'm pleased to say that we are attracting people from other churches as well. We take it in turns

to provide the words for meditation, choosing something that has encouraged or challenged us in our spiritual lives. If you have not experienced a “shared silence” in this way you are invited to join us and realise how powerful it is. Following the silence we have wide ranging discussions sparked off by the passage and these are often very illuminating.

Sheila Allcock

### **Autumn Course: Living Questions**

2017 saw the introduction of a brand-new autumn course, which we called ‘Living Questions’ because we wanted to reflect upon key shared experiences, asking how each related to four areas: our own experience, the Bible, tradition, and reason and society. We covered subjects such as science and medicine, suffering, relationships and end of life and of course discovered that it was impossible to discuss each of these as thoroughly as we should have liked during the course of one evening.

The course was ably led by Tim and Rob, aided and abetted by Sue Saville and Lionel and Anne Tarassenko. Each of us led one or two evenings, and we all acted as facilitators for discussion in small groups. But the real stars were those course participants who were brave enough to talk to the whole group about their own experiences concerning the topic of the evening. This helped enormously towards creating an atmosphere of warmth and support as we addressed what could sometimes be very difficult areas of life. Each evening began with a meal, as always, and it was wonderful to sense the fellowship emerging amongst us as we ate together over the eight weeks of the course. Sue Saville and Deirdre Twycross were an enormous help to me with the cooking; and we’re very grateful also to all those who acted as drivers to get all our course participants to Horton-cum-Studley each week.

We hope to run the course again, refining it with the help of the feedback from those who attended its very first running. Thank you to them all.

Anne Tarassenko

### **Mindfulness Drop-in**

This has continued to be a really successful out-reach activity involving Church members, ecumenical links with those in other denominations and a group of people who, despite Mindfulness being generally taught as a secular activity, have actually welcomed the link with Holy Trinity. They may not choose to be members of the congregation, but a few have started attending services as a result.

We have always put an emphasis on being friendly and accessible and we have been very fortunate in having a Vicar who is also an accredited teacher. There have been courses, half-day retreats and mindful shared meals, in addition to the weekly drop-in itself. Warm thanks are due particularly to Tim, but also to those who help lead the sessions and do all the incidental things which are needed to keep the show on the road.

Looking ahead now, it is not clear how things will work out in the future, but 2017 was a very fulfilling year in terms of creating a relaxed group who felt part of a community and wanted to take spiritual values back into their everyday lives.

Julia Cousins

## **Home groups**

We have six home groups in the parish. They are all different and distinctive. It is a great way to get to know a few members of the congregation in greater depth. They take place in different homes around the parish mostly monthly. The material they use to study varies too though three of the groups have been using Bishop Stephens Beatitudes course and found it helpful. Other groups have looked at life questions in relation to their Christian faith. Do think about joining a group and speak to Joan Walding, Rob Gilbert or Sue Saville.

Sue Saville

## **Church Library**

The Church Library is bursting at the seams, so until we have more shelf space it is a question of one book in, one out. Many thanks to the people who donate books. Please let me know what you have donated so that I can keep the catalogue up to date. I do also buy books for the Library, but funds are limited. There is a small group of people who borrow books regularly. I think that if more people stopped to look at the shelves and they would also find books which interest them.

Sheila Allcock

# **Communications**

## **Parish Magazine**

The parish magazine continues to be printed six times a year and the circulation remains at approximately 200 copies per month. This can vary, for example in the summer when there are more visitors, but extra copies are printed if necessary.

There has been a slight reduction in the number of copies that are delivered by hand.

Local advertising in the magazine has been bringing in some revenue but it is planned to review the viability of this in 2018.

The magazine continues to be available on the church website.

Karl and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the magazine over the last year – with ideas and suggestions, articles, photos, poems etc. We really do appreciate all the support and variety.

Felicity Wallendszus

### **Website [www.hthq.org.uk](http://www.hthq.org.uk)**

The church's website has seen more traffic during 2017, gradually increasing to around 600-700 unique visitors in a typical week, not all of whom are Russian bots. After the home page, the most popular page by some distance is the latest notice sheets, followed by the mindfulness page and audio recordings of the sermons. We have received messages of appreciation for the sermons through the contact form, including one from the USA, so our preachers have a worldwide audience!

Andrew Colleran has been developing a new style website on a different platform, which will be launched during 2018. This will introduce some new features and make it easier for more church members to manage different sections of the site.

Karl Wallendszus



## **The church building**

### **Flower arrangers**

Margaret Woodcock has continued to manage flower arranging for the church, assisted usually by a small group of helpers, but by a larger number on big occasions like Christmas, Easter, and Harvest Thanksgiving. Weddings, especially in the summer months, require more work and more people. Normally the arrangers meet at 9.30 on Friday mornings, to put the flowers in place for Sunday and the following week. This happens throughout the year, except in Advent and Lent when there are no flowers in church. Margaret is always happy to accept donations to the Flower Fund, and to talk to anybody who wishes to provide church flowers to mark an anniversary or for any other special occasion.

Flora Alexander.

### **Church Cleaning**

Our Church building is important to us all and we want to see it well cared for. It is not a miracle this happens, it is cleaned every week by volunteers who give up their time to keep it that way.

Many visitors come from far and wide and comment on how welcoming the church looks and this is all credit to these people. Spring cleaning took place in March, so all the cobwebs were dealt with.

Lots of behind the scenes work by these volunteers helps to keep our “little Church” special for future generations.

I would like to thank the following for their committed help in the past who reluctantly have had to leave our team- Janet Lever, Jill Lowe Joan Walding and Flora Alexander.

We welcome some new members to our little band so our work is able to continue on a regular basis.

Margaret Taylor

### **“Visitors and C S Lewis Group”**

During 2017 once again the church had many, many visitors – literally from all over the world. It is impossible to estimate numbers as we try to ensure the church is open on the vast majority of days throughout the year. The idea is that it is to be used by local folk as well as by visitors. As in the previous two years the extended opening hours have resulted in greater sales of church souvenirs.

On July 21st we warmly welcomed the annual visit from the Student Leadership University when around 350 people (70% students) from USA visited. Fortunately the weather was kind and the morning was a great success and was reported in the Sept/Oct 2017 Parish Magazine. In Jan 2018 I met up in Oxford with my contact from the SLU and am pleased to report that this year’s visit will take place on July 27<sup>th</sup>. I look forward greatly to this repeat visit.

The best-selling items in the C S Lewis corner in 2017 were once again the old favourites - the China Mugs depicting the church and “The Kilns”, and the Narnia tea towels. Income from the “corner” remains a valuable source of revenue for Holy Trinity. Some new lines are planned for 2018 including Tea Pot Stands and Mini Bells. In 2017 the new items introduced - Milk Jugs and Egg Cups - both sold out.

Over 2017 we again worked very closely with the C S Lewis Foundation. The Kilns has a lot of visiting groups and, if possible, we always offer these groups the opportunity to visit Holy Trinity.

Adrian Wood

### **Caretaker / Verger report**

The role has continued to develop over 2017. I am responsible for checking that the building is open for visitors / private prayer if possible every day, and then locked in late afternoon before darkness falls. Also that it is left in a tidy and presentable condition. My thanks go out to Roy Kerry in particular and also to Zig Nowiki who has helped with the unlocking / locking of the building - especially over the winter months. I check the building, and any maintenance issues are reported to the churchwardens. Once again the boiler has been misbehaving, often cutting out, and it has needed regular checking. Also we have had problems with the external water tap.

I prepare the building for the various services and ensure that candles and microphone are in position, also that the relevant orders of service are available. At weddings and funerals I do the preparation and clearing up enabling the priest to concentrate on the actual service. My working relationship with Tim, Rob and Joan is an excellent one and I am thoroughly enjoying this varied role.

Adrian Wood

### **Friends of Holy Trinity**

During 2017 the committee of the Friends of Holy Trinity met on four occasions, including an AGM on the 8th September 2017. At the end of 2017, the records show that the Friends had a net profit for the

year of £312.17 with a current balance of £32,593. Funds raised in 2017 were achieved through the Friends subscription and interest. We remain extremely grateful for this loyal support during 2017. During the past year, the Friends anticipated the church redevelopment programme and providing a major grant of up to £25,000 to support a major project involving a specific improvement or specific improvements in the church. The 2017 AGM was pushed back in the hope specific funding recommendations would be available to the membership for approval. The Friends agreed to extend the availability of such a grant until summer 2018. Though it has been a quiet year the Friends have been available to support other projects and towards the end of the year grants were considered for repairs to the church heating and also a window repair. These projects are still active at time of this report.

Mike Hill (Chair)

### **Buildings Development**

Since the last APCM there have been no changes in the actual plans for the proposed development on the North side of Holy Trinity. The plans have also been on public display in church. Having had planning permission from our local authority last year we went on to apply for “ecclesiastical planning permission” – we applied for a Faculty. This is normally granted by the Chancellor of the Diocese who is the legal equivalent of a Judge in secular courts. He has made enquiries of both proposers [The Vicar and Churchwardens] and objectors, but he is not going to hold a Consistory Court before he gives judgement and grants or refuses to grant a Faculty. We are awaiting his judgement before it is possible to proceed - or not – as the case may be. The pending interregnum will make no difference to his decision. The PCC has still to take decisions about fund raising

and grant applications should the project go ahead after eight years of intensive discussion.

DCK

### **Churchyard Committee**

In March, when this report was being written, the churchyard at Holy Trinity was blessed with a fine display of Spring flowers. Appreciative comments are regularly received from members of the public walking through the churchyard. The wildlife also seems to enjoy it, especially birds and insects. Sometimes the churchyard is full of butterflies and there was a spectacular hatch of Maybugs last summer. Conversely, we are trying to find plants that muntjac do **not** like.

In 2017 we had our standard 5 work parties, spread between February and November, and attracting an average of 10 participants. As well as thanking our regulars, we must also recognise the work done outside work parties. These include regular maintenance of some of the graves and an extensive area of new planting beside the entrance porch and around the church wall, both “difficult” areas.

We are pleased to report another relatively litter-free year. Nevertheless, there is still too much finding its way into the compost bins. Wreaths seem to be a particular problem.

Recent tree surgery carried out on behalf of the PCC has opened up a couple of grassy areas that will now benefit from more sunlight. Once again we “opened” the Churchyard for Oxford Open Doors in September.

Terry Woods

## Community and outreach

### **Pastoral Care Team**

(Jon Catterall, Helen Day, Sue Saville, Nell Slocock, Anne Tarassenko, Margaret Taylor, Deirdre Twycross, Joan Walding)

Holy Trinity's pastoral care team has worked hard in 2017 to make its members known amongst the congregation, so that everyone is aware of who to come to, whenever they, or someone they know, feels in need of support. To that end, there was an article about the team in the parish magazine for March/April 2017, complete with mugshots of us all. And we are delighted that we have added a new member to our team in 2017, one who will need no introduction to most of you: Helen Day, our Parish Administrator.

During the year, we have carried on our core activity of pastoral visiting, offering home communion when it is desired. We have also been involved in hosting social events for the church, including summer tea parties, Welcome lunches for people who are new to Holy Trinity, and mince pies and mulled wine after the Christmas Carol Service. In June, Margaret Taylor set up a summer outing to Aston Pottery, which was well attended and much enjoyed by all (especially the cream tea).

Perhaps our biggest area of outreach in 2017 has been the planning for our Grave Talk events, the first of which was held in January 2018. This is a Church of England-wide initiative, intended to provide a friendly and supportive space for people to talk about issues surrounding death and end of life, issues which of course we all face but which many find difficult to talk about.

We have also been furthering our learning as a group. Sue Saville kindly provided training in pastoral care for people with mental health issues, and Margaret Whipp gave us an interesting and helpful evening session on visiting the terminally ill. We are very

lucky indeed to have two people within our congregation who can offer training that is informed by their years of experience working in these areas. In addition, some of us attended a Diocesan training day about the spiritual care of people with dementia; and participated in a training opportunity offered by Archway, and led by Sue Saville, entitled 'The Loneliness of Loss'.

Anne Tarassenko

### **Summer Fete and Christmas Event**

#### **Summer Fete 15 July 2017**

Total: £2,420.92+ Gift Aid £228

#### **Christmas Event 18-19 November 2017**

Total: £1,666.50 + Gift Aid £230

We have a strong committee and each person carries out their tasks so effectively that the whole process works like clockwork. Both events draw people from the local community and we strongly believe this outreach is valued by them, with attendance being higher than from our church community. You will see from our totals we are still making a tidy sum. What I want to emphasise is the sterling work done by the committee to promote gift aid. A form is handed out and the donator asked to list their goods with an estimate of a price. This has resulted at both events in being able to claim back the equivalent of what a stall could take at each event so it's worth doing.

Lisa Hill

### **The Gatehouse**

Holy Trinity continues to support The Gatehouse which is located in St. Giles Church Rooms in Oxford. It is open six days a week between 5 and 7 p.m. and provides food and support in a non-judgemental way to anyone in need. We are responsible for the 4th Tuesday in

the month for which 11 members of the congregation provide 8 loaves of sandwiches and 3 cakes.

### **Lifts to church**

Several members of the congregation provide lifts to church for the Sunday 10 O'clock service. Two cars are available every week, the drivers working on a monthly rota. We are always in need of more helpers for this valuable service.

### **Thursday Lunch Club (TLC)**

This is a joint venture between Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi, the Roman Catholic church in St. Margaret Road. Lunch is provided in their hall on the first and third Thursdays of each month for a small cost. Guests are given a freshly cooked lunch and an opportunity to socialise. Transport is available if required.

Please note all the above are part of our mission to the community and are dependent on the goodwill and help of all the members of the church.

Many thanks to those who give so freely of their time.

Joan Walding

### **The Wood Farm Event**

At Christmas we relaunched the WoodFarm event with a production of Scrooge with a plan to run an event once a term. Scrooge went well as Chris and his lamps company put on an excellent family friendly production using woodfarm school main hall and we had a good turn out with with about 50 people attending, we hope to build on this with an Easter woodfarm event.

We have set up a mobile number for the event and have contact info for families that are interested in coming to future events we also



sent home posters at Christmas for scrooge with families that go to wood farm school as well as putting poster all over the community.

Frances Farrar

## **Lent Lunches**

**Lent Lunches** The Sunday lunches held during Lent in 2017 at 12 noon helped raise in total £3,590 for the following charities. ACDI, PCDC, Asylum Welcome, Save the Mothers, Archway and Cecily's Fund. All of the charities really appreciated the support given to them both on the day and by those who generously donated but who were unable to attend.

**Action Chretienne pour le Developpement Integral (ACDI)** which is a small charity working locally in and around war-torn Beni, Eastern Congo. Support is focused on orphans and widows.

**'Practical Compassion for Destitute Children' (P.C.D.C)** which is one of the charities our church supports. It is a small charity doing wonderful work in Israel/Palestine, supporting children regardless of race or faith but in great need.

**Asylum Welcome**, which had a busy year, helping to re-settle Syrian refugees, and expanding its English language teaching programme, in addition to all its regular activities [www.asylum-welcome.org](http://www.asylum-welcome.org)

**Save the Mothers** - an inspiring charity in Uganda which helps communities to improve the health of mothers and babies - teaching safe practices for giving birth and care for babies.

**Archway** an Oxford based charity helping those hurt by loneliness. Loneliness damages our whole being. A number of Holy Trinity members are involved week by week with Archway

**Cecily's Fund** founded in memory of Cecily Eastwood who tragically died in a car crash in Zambia. She was volunteering in her gap year and working with children whose parents had died of AIDS. We are now supporting 3,900 children in primary and secondary education, providing school shoes and uniforms, working with their communities by offering loans, training our older school leavers to teach Health Education in schools and offering training in entrepreneurship. Please donate even if you can't come.

Helen Day

## **The wider world**

### **Deanery Synod**

In May 2017 I joined Flora Alexandra, Susie Stead and Sheila Allcock as one of the four deanery synod representatives from Holy Trinity. This involves attending four meetings a year – each one at a different church in the deanery. The third is a joint deanery synod meeting at which Oxford and Cowley deaneries come together.

The meetings consist partly of administrative business but each one also has a separate focus linked to the deanery Mission Action Plan. In 2017, the Bishop of Oxford spoke at two meetings. The themes during the year were:

- Churches supporting asylum seekers and those affected by homelessness
- The Bishop of Oxford's vision for the Oxford archdeaconry
- Developing the diocesan vision: contemplative, compassionate, courageous
- Deanery Strategy: mission and finance

It has been interesting to meet different people across the deanery and archdeaconry and to see how we are working together and supporting each other with various projects e.g. with some deanery funding being made available for Chris Matthewman's children's work in Wood Farm – and to see how this co-operation might develop in the future.

Felicity Wallendszus

## **Parish Charities**

### **Archway**

Archway is a local Oxford and Abingdon charity helping those who feel hurt by loneliness. It runs regular social events, a call-in café in the city centre, and a befriending service for the isolated and housebound and occasional outings. It also liaises with other groups helping the lonely. We have also got involved with Headington Action recently around the issue of loneliness in our area. A number of the congregation help with Archway activities by driving friends to social events, helping to run the events and one to one befriending. We are very short of drivers for our Monday social evenings and so if any men or women in the congregation feel they could drive for us once a month then do please let me know or speak to Anne Tarassenko who drives regularly for us. I am now a trustee which has been an eye opener! We are entirely dependent on funding from various bodies but everyone is cutting back and as we know so well the vulnerable are always hardest hit. So our church contributions make a significant difference. Loneliness can and does damage your health but often goes unnoticed so let's go on making a difference.

Sue Saville

## **PCDC**

A Lent Lunch was held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb in aid of PCDC, and the wonderful total of £540.53 was raised, thanks to the generosity of many and the marvellous help of the kind Soup-makers.

Monthly reports are received by me from the Co-ordinator, Revd. Malcolm Jones, and I put them up on the board at the back of church for you to see. This months included 'We are now in the process of renewing ourselves. Some of us are getting on a bit (including myself) and we must renew our trustee base to plan, bring our administration up to date and be there for the years ahead. I thank God that we now have some more technological and younger people who can manage our finances and records in a more up to date way. It's hard to keep in touch with about 850 sponsors and donor on a voluntary basis. If you haven't had an update on your sponsored\*child, please let me know, and I will put you into priority.' This is the only charity working with children in Palestine. There are heart rending and heart warming stories, such as that of John (not his real name) whose Father was killed on the road to Hebron in 2005, when his od car had broken down and he was on the hard shoulder, fixing it. Another car didn't see him and crashed into the car. Mother was left alone with 3 children. She came to us for some help. We took all 3 into sponsorship. Meanwhile the Father's body remained at the roadside until the Israelis picked it up and dumped it on the Palestinian side A kind friend took the body and buried it at his own expense. Little John was not yet at school. We clothed him, saw that he had something to eat and checked any medical needs. Eventually John started school, and PCDC paid all hi school fees, each year as he grew older. This ear we have found the family again. The older boy is working. John and his brother are studying at a Christian

school in Bethlehem and well care for. They are homeless. But the Franciscan brother protect them, and PCDC pays their school needs. I have Standing Order forms for sponsoring children Or making regular donations. The minimum amount for sponsorship is usually £120 per annum (£10 per month) or you can give more. You can specify if you would like a girl or a boy, and the approximate age. Otherwise donations are at PCDC's discretion.

Malcolm ends: 'Thankyou for being part of all this, for your support and love and care. Bless you for your caring and for these broken one, God's sparrows, mostly unknown and forgotten.

Nell Slocock.

Two other charities are supported by the church, they are Asylum Welcome and Opportunity International.

## **Eco Church**

Holy Trinity is now officially an Eco Church, having gained a bronze Eco Church award in summer 2017. The Eco Church scheme assesses churches' environmental performance in all areas of church life, including worship and teaching, management of buildings and land, community and global engagement, and lifestyle. Thanks to the many people in Holy Trinity who have contributed to what we do in all those areas.

We have also moved forward with other environmental initiatives during the year, the most visible one being the Co-Wheels car which is now based in the Coach House car park. Co-wheels is a pay-as-you-go car hire scheme. Members pay a once-off-joining fee of £25, with vehicles available across the UK, bookable for a reasonable fee, by phone or online. This scheme enables members to have a car or

van only when needed, saving on ownership overheads: it benefits individuals, the community and the environment.

In October, we invited speakers from the Muslim, Jewish, Christian and Hindu faiths to take part in the 3rd Sunday evening service. We heard how their faiths informed their approach to environmental issues and there was an opportunity for questions. It was good to see this event well supported by the Holy Trinity church family as well as others.

Several members of the Eco Church group have been in contact with St Michael and All Angel's, Summertown, who were keen to know about our experience of Eco Church. We shared this with them at a number of events, including one of their Sunday morning services. They have now joined the Eco Church scheme themselves and were instrumental in setting up the FairPlay social justice network in North Oxford, with environmental matters as part of its remit.

Our plans for 2018 include a second Eco Festival on 20 May and to work towards the silver Eco Church award.

### **Mothers Union**

Although there is no Mothers Union Branch at any of the churches in Headington, several of us are diocesan members. We try to go to the area meetings that are held, and always advertise when these are to be held, in the Pew News, and an offer of transport is usually available. A group from all the Headington Churches meet monthly for Bible study, coffee and friendship, and again this is advertised in the Pew news, and new members are always welcome, please just come along.

The work of the World Wide Mothers' Union is sometimes overlooked as it works quietly on a small scale supporting women to improve and develop their own lives in their own situation, encouraging and enabling, working with women in their own

community. And here in Oxford there are members of the MU working supporting and helping people in their own community, not always known, but there all the same. Please remember these endeavours in your prayers.

Elizabeth Knight