

**Holy Trinity Headington Quarry**  
**REPORTS ON CHURCH ACTIVITIES**  
**January – December 2018**



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# Overall Governance

## PCC

2018 was an extremely busy year for the PCC, as there were several extra meetings due to the Vacancy, which arose upon Tim's departure in April 2018. Janet Masters, as senior warden, took over as Chair of the PCC from May 2018, with Peter Garside becoming Deputy Chair.

We were lucky enough to have continuity in our main officers, with Janet and Peter continuing as Churchwardens, and with Andrew Colleran and Anne Tarassenko continuing as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. During a Vacancy, the Churchwardens are responsible for the smooth running of the church, and this has meant an enormous amount of extra work for Janet and Peter; the PCC owes them both an enormous vote of thanks.

The normal pattern of PCC meetings continued during the Vacancy, with meetings being held in March, May, July, October and December. However, we also held an Extraordinary PCC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March after Tim kindly gave us permission to begin the business of recruitment whilst he was still with us. The Archdeacon of Oxford, Ven. Martin Gorick, came to this meeting to tell us about the vacancy and recruitment process; the PCC is very grateful to him for answering our questions for two hours and taking such pains to ensure that the PCC knew what needed to be done and were reassured as to their ability to do it.

As part of the vacancy and recruitment process, we held a Section 11 meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, at which we elected Janet and Peter, our Churchwardens, to be our Parish Representatives in selecting our new incumbent. The second formal meeting in this process was the

Section 12 meeting, which took place on 13<sup>th</sup> June, and was led by Martin Gorick as the Bishop's representative. Here we agreed the Parish Profile, the result of a great deal of work by Philippa Logan, Karl Wallendszus and our wardens; with the Bishop's Statement being agreed by email, we were ready to advertise our vacancy in the first two weeks of July.

Unfortunately, we were not able to recruit anyone in the first round of interviews, held in September, so Martin Gorick had to make one further appearance at a PCC meeting. He came to our October meeting, partly to explain to us what had happened at the first attempt to appoint, and partly to learn from us, so that he would have a better idea of what to say about us to prospective candidates as we prepared for the second round of recruitment interviews.

One issue that Martin raised was about our buildings project, as our faculty application had been granted in the summer of 2018. He wondered whether we wanted to push ahead with our current building plans, asking our new vicar to lead us and promising to back him or her to the hilt; or whether we would prefer to allow our new vicar time to get to know us and to become involved in shaping his or her own plans. A majority of the PCC was in favour of proceeding with the project as it stands, and the Archdeacon noted that the Diocesan Advisory Committee believes that we have as good a solution as can be found to meet our needs.

The PCC held a further Extraordinary Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October, to listen to, and discuss, a presentation from David Saint, the professional fundraiser whom we hired to carry out a fundraising feasibility study for our buildings project. The study was carried out in August 2018, and included interviews with a small number of members of the congregation. The report suggests that the project

will be financially viable and that a large proportion of the money required can be raised from within the congregation. Accordingly, a group was set up after the December PCC meeting to manage all aspects of the early stages of fundraising.

As well as all these extra meetings, bringing with them extra work, the PCC carried on with all its usual business in 2018. Amongst the important business of the year was the implementation of the GDPR initiative, under which we are required to strengthen data protection rules. Most of this work has been done by Andrew Colleran, to whom the PCC is extremely grateful.

A new group was set up and approved by the PCC at its December meeting: the Social Justice Group, which aims to take practical action in reaching out to people who are in need, focussing particularly on Wood Farm. The Eco Church Group continued to be very active, and the PCC agreed in December to support it in aiming for the Silver Eco Church Award (we already hold the Bronze Award).

At the APCM on 11<sup>th</sup> April, two members of our PCC, Diana Harrison and Karl Wallendszus, stood down, having served their six years of office. Dave Smith and Dominic Vickers were elected in their place. During the year, Hesper Bunch resigned from the PCC due to a change of circumstances.

Anne Tarassenko  
Secretary to the PCC

## **Church Wardens**

Holy Trinity has been very fortunate in 2018, in the service provided to us by the clergy. In April Tim Stead left us and we have been busy in the subsequent Vacancy. We are extremely 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 enable us to continue to provide regular services throughout the vacancy. We are very grateful to all those others who have supported us.

In the absence of an incumbent we have attended and chaired meetings of the Ministry team, Standing Committee, PCC meetings and the Jackson Trust, as well as liaising with groups from within the congregation, the Parish and the Diocese.

Much of our time has been taken up with producing a Parish Profile and liaising with the PCC, Area Dean, Bishop and Archdeacon in order to appoint a new incumbent. Interviews were held in September and as no candidate was appointed on that occasion further interviews took place in December 2018 and we are very pleased that Rev Laura Biron-Scott has now been appointed as our new vicar. We very much look forward to working with and supporting her in her ministry here at Holy trinity.

It is important that people are welcomed into the church and we are very grateful to the welcomers who perform this vital task at each of the services.

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, but further work was required for snow damage. The gutters and gullies have been cleared and emergency repairs made to the leaking vestry roof. 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. The boiler is now working well on a set background temperature. The churchyard has been well managed with the input of our gardener and the Churchyard Committee group. 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 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. Ecclesiastical Insurance have reviewed our Church Insurance Policy this year and the wardens have updated various church policies including Health and Safety, Lone Workers, Working at heights and Risk assessments have been carried out.

Janet Masters and Peter Garside.

## **Children and youth**

### **Children and Families**

It is with a slight tinge of sadness that I compose this annual report of my work with children and families this year, as I draw my time at HTHQ to a close.

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

#### **HT4U**

We describe HT4U as a fun, informal, family-friendly church service ran 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.

I love HT4U. It has a great team, (including a great band) a committed collection of attendees, (including a good number that have begun to attend having initially come to the Pram Service), and we have had some very warm feedback from both children and adults.

I am also happy with the purpose that it serves within the overall context of the work of Holy Trinity, as the fun, family-friendly, alternative.

In terms of opportunities for development, my thoughts are that we can and should try to spread the word about this more widely, and increasingly look to include our older children and young people in the creation and presentation of the service, if we can. Although, I may be missed to some degree, as there is probably nobody else on the team that loves the sound of their own voice as much as I do, I feel that there is a strong team in place and that this work will continue to progress nicely with some input and direction from our new vicar.

### **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.

We are certainly a warm, welcoming and hospitable team and there is still a good number of attendees who clearly appreciate it. Having said that, I do have some concerns about how some of the content of The Pram Service connects and communicates to either the carers / parents, or their children and I believe it would be worthwhile to continue to reassess how we do what we do.

I see other potential development in terms of improved publicity for related church events, and in creating more follow-up opportunities for parents and carers that want to know more about the faith or get more involved in the broader work of the church.

## **Sunday Club**

Sunday Club is the name for our Sunday morning activities for children at Holy Trinity Headington Quarry, whilst the main 10am service meets.

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. Dave and Andrea do a fabulous job of responding flexibly to whoever might arrive, but it is not easy to make this work.

My suggestion for this work going forward, is that this is a good time to reassess, and it would be very useful for the new vicar to meet with Dave and Andrea to discuss the related issues and what Sunday Club could look like going forward.

## **Whole Church Family Service**

Rob has really taken this on, and it has been lovely to watch this service grow and develop into what I feel is now a really valuable part of the programme at Holy Trinity.

I am very pleased that we have seen folk regularly attending this from the Pram Service and HT4U and that families within the church also see this service as a priority in terms of attendance.

There is definite potential for growth and development in all kinds of directions, but I am very confident that between Laura and Rob, this service is in good hands and that it will continue to be shaped and developed

## **Quarry School**

Over the past year I have been running regular story-telling and story creation sessions. Quarry is a great school with lovely staff, and it is a pleasure to be involved. I am sure that they would be very open to meeting Laura and discussing what our church's support for the school could look like.

## **Wood Farm**

Although I could not attend every week, up until recently I had been regularly involved in a weekly after-school club on Wood Farm, which runs each Friday.

There are definitely ways that we can develop the work on Wood Farm meaningfully, both in terms of creating new projects and supporting groups, such as the after school club and the parents and toddlers group that are already working in that community.

## **Trips**

The trips to the seaside and Cotswold Wildlife Park were, for me, a proper highlight of this academic year, with a lovely mix of folk from the church, the Wood Farm community, and the Pram Service / HT4U in attendance. Many thanks to Fran for her continuing sterling work in organising these.

## **Creche**

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

## **Stay and Play**

Once again, this August we ran two weeks of a Stay and Play group for parents / carers and small children in the Coach House. I think that this is a really valuable and simple way of serving and connecting with the local community during the summer holidays when there is not a lot else on for them. I would love to see this continue, if it is possible.

## **Volunteers**

We are properly blessed with an amazing group of volunteers that are involved in so many aspects of our work with children and families. There are too many to list, and I wouldn't particularly want to in case I left anyone out. But they know who they are, and they have my heart.

Chris Matthewman

## **Pram Service**

In spite of some of the children going on up to school, we are lucky to have a steady attendance of little ones who are now not- so- little, and into blowing out candles etc.! It is wonder-ful, truly, to see their confidence grow and their skills develop. Then at half term and in the holidays we carry on as usual, so get the older children coming back to show us how grown up they are. Our team of helpers consists of Elizabeth, Alison, Roy and Nell, while clergy taking the service are Rob, Jane and David.

In the summer there is an evening party, which is a bring- and- share Supper for parents, and also a Pram Service Picnic with shared lunch in the Vicarage garden, with games, races etc. It is always very cheerful.

We shall miss Chris Matthewman, who brought puppets into play with good effect, and supervised the toys in the Coach House store. We have 2 new babies recently so seem set to carry on!

The Parents/Carers take it in turn to provide teas/coffees, biscuits/cake in our playtime after the service, and in summer the children play on the outdoor equipment in the little garden behind the Coach House.

Nell Slocock

# **Music, worship, spirituality**

## **Music**

2018 has been a year of changes, as we said goodbye to our vicar, Tim, in April and prepared for the interregnum. It is testament to our well-established service formats, brilliant clergy and wonderful team of singers and musicians that the period of transition has gone incredibly smoothly. There necessarily have not been any big changes to the music at Holy Trinity during this time as we worked to keep everything steady in anticipation of our new vicar arriving in June 2019. It was very welcome news to hear Laura's name announced at the end of 2018 as our new incumbent. Her personal musical experience will undoubtedly be valuable as I work with her in future.

The pattern of 4th Sundays being Whole Church Family Services, with an emphasis on accessible hymns (though still from our regular hymn book), is now well embedded. The Music Group continue to provide a varied repertoire of songs as introits and during communion and support the singing of less familiar hymns for these services. I assist with the planning and rehearsal of the Music Group as required, particularly supporting and conducting their contribution to the Carol Service.

The Choir continue to provide music almost every week, only taking a break for one week after Christmas and Easter and for the summer holidays. The range of periods and styles of music covered is vast, and I am very grateful to all of the singers that have been part of the choir in the last year. Their dedication and commitment is a joy and has enabled us to tackle some extremely challenging music. Perhaps a personal highlight was Advent Carols 2018, when the Choir sang an entirely a cappella collection of Early Music

anthems. I am continually impressed by their ability to rise to the occasion and provide music that is moving and really able to enhance the services we hold at Holy Trinity.

Congregational & Choral Evensong is ever-popular, having a regular and dedicated congregation that appreciate this traditional style of service. I purchased a number of psalters for use at Congregational Evensong so that people can enjoy even greater musical participation in the service. At Choral Evensong the congregation are also invited to join in the psalm, and several times a year we use the well-known Ferial Responses to increase involvement there too.

Rosie Tweddle  
Musical Director

## **Servers**

Very sadly, this year we lost one of our servers through the death of Suzy Webster, who was a valued member of our small team. Our numbers have been reduced in other ways, through health issues and people moving away, and those of us who are left are sometimes unavailable because of family responsibilities. So although we have been delighted to have Carrie Barron join us recently, we are urgently needing two or three new people, so that we can continue to provide two servers to take part in the ten o'clock Eucharist each Sunday. Sometimes recently we have had only one server, and at the Midnight Mass the clergy had to manage without anybody, because the single server who should have been there was ill.

If a few more people, of any age, were able to offer one Sunday a month, it would make it very much easier for us to do this job. It

doesn't require any special skills, and those of us who do it enjoy playing a small active part in the services. All that is needed is to turn up at 9.50 in the vestry. Anyone who would like to explore this informally can speak to Janet Foot or Flora Alexander, both on the Parish Contact List. We do hope that some people will consider helping us.

Flora Alexander.

### **Julian Group**

As last year we have two Julian meetings every month. The first meets in the evening of the first Tuesday of each month at my house, 3 Barton Road, at 7.45 p.m. to meditate on a prayer, poem or Bible passage and then discuss it over tea or coffee. The second meeting is held in the evening of the third Friday of the month at 109 Bulan Road, at 7.45 p.m. the home of Rhonda Riachi and Rikky Rooksby.

There is a core of members coming from 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 item 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

## Home groups

At the moment we have four active home groups and one in abeyance. They all study different material and meet in different areas of the parish and just beyond.

The evening group that meets at the McLeod's have combined with the group that met at the Alexanders. They have studied Karen Armstrong's book 'The Case for God' and they have had some challenging conversations which have helped them think about 'living creatively, peacefully and even joyously with realities.....mortality, pain, grief, despair, and outrage at the injustice and cruelty of life.'

A group meets at Sheila Alcock's home at 4pm on Monday afternoons usually monthly but it's happening weekly in Lent. They have been reading together Henri Nouwen's 'The Return of the Prodigal Son'. They have also studied the Bishop of Oxford's booklet on the Beatitudes.

Another group meets at the Herklots, monthly, on a Wednesday evening. Joan Walding has been going through the churches festivals in the year and they have also discussed several books. The group I convene meets in a number of different members' homes and meets monthly on a Thursday evening. We have used the theme of Pilgrimage to explore our Christian journeys. At the moment we're looking at our prayer lives, the different ways we pray and once again we learn from our differences.

The Risinghurst home group which meets at the Twycross's is in abeyance at the moment but they hope to start in the summer as a three times a year light lunch group. So there's plenty of variety on offer.

If you would like to try a home group and, in my experience, it's a great way to get to know people at a greater depth than is possible on a Sunday then do get in touch with one of the convenors or one of the staff team. 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 – but it has been up at 250 a few times this year and we have had to do a reprint!

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

Local advertising in the magazine has been bringing in some revenue but the number of adverts has been reduced due to the issues around administering the payments.

The magazine continues to be available on the church website (in colour!)

A huge ‘thank you’ to everyone who has contributed to the magazine over the last year – there have been so many ideas, suggestions and articles, which has made it a pleasure to compile.

Felicity Wallendszus

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

The parish web site ([hthq.uk](http://hthq.uk)), now that it has been set up using the most common software for web sites is a parish resource which can be used much more to support church activities on-line. If parishioners are interested in using it to publish what they are doing contact Karl or Andrew.

The web site is very much like a church porch on-line and is being used to publicise interesting and important parish news. Over the next year we expect it to grow both in the content and who accesses it. As well as being a static source of information about the parish, it can be used more dynamically to support parish life. Groups can use it to publicise what they are doing and news can be posted about what has been done. To give an idea of how the site is accessed, in February 22,738 people found the site on Google. 124 people searched for “headington quarry”, 80 people for “cs lewis grave” and 74 for “trinity church oxford”.

Andrew Colleran

## **The church building**

### **Flower arrangers**

I have a lovely and loyal team of helpers. Doreen Jarvis, Sylvia Martineau, Helen Nowicki, and more recently Alison Stockford. Come rain or shine they turn up cheerfully every Friday morning except during Advent or Lent. We rely entirely on donations from the Congregation and I have learnt over the years that when I feel a little anxious about the state of the flower fund someone quite unexpectedly gives me money! I have even been handed very welcome donations in M&S and Waitrose. I also want to thank

Susan Houlton who has been invaluable in providing us with excellent greenery over the past years.

Margaret Woodcock.

## **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. Each team cleans once every 5/6 weeks.

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 April, so all the cobwebs were dealt with.

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

We would 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 2018 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 three years the extended opening hours have resulted in greater sales of church souvenirs.

In late July 2018 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. I am pleased to report that the SLU will be returning again to Holy Trinity in the summer of 2019. I am very grateful to the SLU for the very generous financial donation they always make to Holy Trinity.

The best-selling items in the C S Lewis corner in 2018 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. At the time of writing I am awaiting the stock for 2019 that should arrive in time for Easter.

Over 2018 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 2018. 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 the small but valuable team that has assisted me in this work - Roy Kerry, Zig Nowiki, Susan Houlton and Rosemary / Jeremy Herklots. I am very grateful for their assistance. 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. I made the

decision to keep the temperature at a constant 16 degrees over the Jan-Mar 2019 period to ensure the church was a warm and welcoming place. This has been appreciated by both regular attendees and also by one-off visitors.

I prepare the building for the various services and ensure that candles and microphones 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 Rob and Joan is an excellent one and I am thoroughly enjoying this varied role.

Adrian Wood

### **Friends of Holy Trinity**

During 2018 the committee of the Friends of Holy Trinity met on four occasions, including an AGM on the 6th July 2018. On the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the records show that the Friends had a net profit for the year of £206.2 with a balance of £29,838.12. Funds raised in 2018 were achieved through the Friends subscription and interest. We remain extremely grateful for this loyal support during 2018.

During the past year, the Friends provided a grant of £2,850 for repairs to the West Window. It is confirmed that the Friends are compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulation. Members were asked to give consent to the holding of information in a secure form and to receipt of communications. Seven members who did not respond to the request were removed from the membership list. The church redevelopment programme remains a focus for future funding opportunities, however, the Friends are also discussing other projects including professional cleaning of the War memorial and contributing to a Garden of Rest. 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 continue to be on public display in church. Having had planning permission from our local authority the previous year we went on to apply for “ecclesiastical planning permission” – a Faculty. This has now been granted. The PCC then invited a Fund Raiser, David Saint to produce a report and to speak to them. He showed that the amount required [around ½ a million pounds] was “do-able” and we should have confidence to proceed after nine years of intensive discussion. In January 2019 David Knight arranged an open morning’s consultation marking out the layout of the extension and the internal developments which was much appreciated. A small PCC group has since worked on material for a public appeal for funding.

DCK

## **Churchyard Group**

The Churchyard Group continues its care of the churchyard, with 5 volunteer work parties in 2018.

However, the year started with a hitch, since the first work party (in March) had to be rescheduled because of snow – the first time we can remember this. Snow also damaged the yew tree on the north side of the churchyard. This had to be trimmed professionally.

Our work in the churchyard last year included:

- Maintaining the flower beds alongside the church which are most visible to and appreciated by passers-by and members of HTHQ. Particular thanks are due to Susan for her

creative, muntjac-resistant planting around the church itself.

- Keeping highly visible yet untended graves neat, tidy and flower bearing
- Encouraging pollen and nectar-bearing flowers in marginal areas to increase biodiversity
  - self-guided walking tours for guests at the Eco Church festival in May
  - removal of (probably) hundreds of tree seedlings. This continues.
  - creation of a leaf mould pile under the large yew tree
  - replacement of one of the box shrubs, which had been struggling, with a Cotoneaster in a pot.
  - planting of a patch of comfrey and some shade loving shrubs and bulbs where a rose had died to encourage pollinators
  - planting shrubs close to the compost bins to discourage dumping of stones and sub-soil. This also provides material for the church flower team.
  - continuing to “adopt” untended graves and fill them with plants and tidying the shed!

We are aware that the composts bins, now 10 years old, need replacing; this will be a project for the current year.

Large quantities of plastic waste are still deposited on graves, in contravention to Diocese regulations; this has to be carted away by members of the group to join their domestic waste.

We strive to maintain the beauty and atmosphere of a village church in an urban setting, which is the hallmark of HTHQ.

We will continue to enhance the churchyard biodiversity under guidance from “The Nature of God’s Acre”.

Terry Wood

## **Community and outreach**

### **Pastoral Care Team**

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

Holy Trinity has a great many wonderful people in its congregation who extend friendship and support to neighbours and friends; but the pastoral care team are there to fill in the gaps and to offer support where it is most needed, amongst our congregation and beyond. For that, we rely on members of the congregation to let us know where we might help, even if it is only a listening ear that we provide. We can also take Holy Communion into people’s homes if they are unable to get to church.

Our major outreach activity of 2018 saw the inauguration of the Grave Talk events, intended to provide a friendly and supportive space for people to talk about end-of-life issues. We all face these things, but they can be very difficult to talk about. During the year, we held five Grave Talk coffee mornings, all at the Risinghurst Community Centre, where we are able to sit in small groups around café-style tables; at each of the events, we had a short talk about a pertinent issue, for instance coping with bereavement, or the more practical matters of setting up powers of attorney or arranging funerals. We were fortunate enough to have the help of a retired



lawyer, Susan Houlton, on several occasions. We are taking Grave Talk forward into 2019, and are planning an evening event in June.

In addition to Grave Talk, the pastoral care team also hosted a tea party at the Vicarage in July, where we were entertained by the Canadian singer Jeannine Noyes; we helped with the Healing Service in November; and we hosted the refreshments after the Carol Service in December.

Anne Tarassenko

## **Summer Fete and Christmas Event**

### **Summer Fete 14 July 2018**

Total: £2,193.26 plus approx £230 Gift Aid

### **Christmas Event 17-18 November 2018**

Total: £1,785.35 (inc Gift Aid)

The Fete Committee start work in January, writing to companies which secure gifts for our raffle mainly in the form of vouchers for attractions like 'The Cotswold Wildlife Park'. Work then starts in earnest around March. 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. The summer fete had 'Al's Owls' in attendance as well as the Headington Quarry Morris Dancers who are regular attendees and draw the crowd. You will see from our totals we are still making a tidy sum. The amount of Gift Aid we claim back from both events usually adds up to the equivalent takings of a successful stall so well worth pursuing, even though it is a time

consuming task. We could always do with more helpers and a fresh injection of help into the committee wouldn't go amiss, but we have a very efficient committee who work well together

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

## **Lent Lunches**

The Sunday lunches held during Lent in 2018 at **12 noon** helped raise in total £2,576 + Gift Aid for the following charities. PCDC, Sanctuary Hosting, ACDI and Archway. 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.

**'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.

**Sanctuary Hosting** This is a small charity started in Oxford in 2015. Its aims to match asylum seekers and refugees to people in the community with spare rooms to stay rent free for an agreed period of time. Not everyone is in a position to offer a room so they are also grateful for much needed funds to run the charity.

**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.

**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

Helen Day

## **Bournemouth seaside trip - 30 June 2018**

We had a great day at the seaside - it was beautiful weather, the beach was the busiest we had ever seen it. We took a coach full of people - the coach was made up of people from church, Wood Farm event families and friends from the local community. With seats costing £12.50 each with Wood Farm event families seats being subsidised by the church - with them paying £5 a seat and church topping up the rest. We look forward to our 2019 trip which is filling up fast.

Frances Farrar

## **The wider world**

### **Deanery Synod**

The three Deanery Synod meetings that I attended in 2018 were all presided over by Geoffrey Bayliss. We learnt that much is being done to promote Eco Church in our various Churches, and we had a very interesting talk on The Food Bank at our neighbouring church of St Francis. The Parish Share was also explained to us. The overriding concern at all three meetings was the St Ebbe's 'plant ' that is due to take place in the old United Reformed Church in Cowley. The particular areas of disquiet are the fact that St Ebbes does not contribute towards the Parish Share. And more importantly their antiquated views on women and their refusal to give Communion to men and women who are openly gay. There was a real sense of consternation and dismay from the Priests and lay people who attended these meetings about this new Church, although we understand that it is in the interest of 'Outreach and we have been urged to pray for it.

Margaret Woodcock

## **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.

In response to Holy Trinity's Christmas gift of £1000 pounds to Archway, Sheila Furlong Archways CEO wrote in early December a 'thank you' for this generous donation which enables them to continue to respond to the flow of enquiries , and to help recruit and train the much needed volunteers to support the social groups, transport and one to one befriending. Holy trinity has six regular volunteers with Archway and I'm a trustee as well. Sue Saville

### **PCDC**

A Lent Lunch was held in aid of PCDC, and over £540 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 is the only charity working with children in Palestine. There are heart rending and heartwarming stories, such as that of John (not his real name) whose Father was killed on the road to Hebron in 2005, when his old 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 his school fees, each year as he grew older. This year 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 cared for. They are homeless. But the Franciscan brother protects 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.

## **Eco Church**

The most visible event since the 2018 APCM has to have been our second ECO FESTIVAL. We are grateful to Headington Action for the grant that enabled us to bring in speakers and stall-holders who otherwise would not have been able to take part. Following the pattern of our 2016 event, there were eco-themed talks at 30-minute intervals in the church, and stalls, road shows and demonstrations in the Coach House and car park. We were pleased that as in 2016, other Headington churches joined us for the event, and that individuals and groups attending included not only our own congregation, but residents of Headington and Oxford in general, among them a minibus-load from St Michael and All Angels (Summertown).

Since Holy Trinity achieved the Bronze Eco Church Award, the Eco Church Group has been authorized by the PCC to work towards the Silver Award. It is reassuring that in one of the five categories (Worship and Teaching) we already qualify for Gold, in two others for Silver. However, to qualify for the Silver Award it is necessary to reach Silver in all categories; despite improvement, we still fall short in Buildings and Lifestyle, and as a congregation we need to work on these.

The Diocese of Oxford, in conjunction with programme partners The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) and Inspired Efficiency, piloted a scheme whereby churches could apply for a discounted energy audit, and a grant towards implementing practical measures highlighted by the audit. Our application to participate was accepted; the audit gave us some eminently useful feedback, and we are in the process of applying for the grant.

Our Eco Talks Series started with a talk by Hugh Warwick, environmentalist, author and hedgehog expert, who spoke on the plight of hedgehogs, outlining ways we can encourage these 'gardeners' friends', by creating suitable habitat, and hedgehog highways in order to give them the space to roam. One street in Headington had already plotted hedgehog sightings, and as a result of the talk one of Headington's Residents' Associations has launched an initiative to plot sightings of hedgehogs and badgers and create hedgehog holes in fences. The second talk, 'Oxford's Library of Things' outlined how newly-founded SHARE Oxford enables people to borrow items which, due to very occasional use, it would be neither environmentally sound nor make financial sense for them to purchase.

The Eco Church Group has made known the dates of OCC's free tours of the Food Waste Plant at Cassington and the Energy Recovery Facility at Ardley. Those who have taken part have spoken very positively of the experience.

We have shared eco ideas with the Sunday Club, attended various informative Eco Events in the Oxford area, and have been approached by other churches keen to become Eco Churches, the latest being the University Church.

We are pleased that following initiatives of past years, the Co-wheels car in the Coach House car park continues to be used, and the solar panels on the vicarage and 20 Binswood Avenue are providing revenue for church funds.

Hilary Rollin (on behalf of Eco Church Group)

## **Mothers Union**

Although there is no Mother's union branch in Headington there are a few members in all the Churches. We are called Diocesan members, and we attend meetings arranged for us and Diocesan events. Some of us have also joined together to form a Bible Study group, meeting monthly. During this last year we have studied parts of St. John's Gospel, and read and discussed some of the Old Testament readings used in the Advent and Christmas services and have just started reading the Epistle of James. Anyone is welcome to join us for friendly discussion and a cup of tea or coffee. We meet on Tuesday mornings once a month, the dates are advertised in the magazine and the pew news and it is open to everyone, you don't have to be a Mother's Union member to come.

Jane Hedges