



Building God's House

Anniversary Year



1966-2016



Annual
Report
2016

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2016
Legal and Administrative information

Chair of ECC

Revd Trudie Wigley
11 Merlin Way
Covingham
SWINDON
SN3 5AN

Charity number

1143702

Churchwarden

Miss Viv Craig
13, Passmore
Covingham
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Churchwarden

Mrs Diane Killick
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ECC Secretary

Mr Mo Davey
13 Mundy Avenue
Eldene
Swindon,
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ECC Treasurer

Mr Anthony Prichard,
1, Poltondale
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Swindon,
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Bankers

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Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent Examiner

David J. Horne FCA
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Church Address Details

St Pauls
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Swindon SN3 5BY

St Timothy's
Grundys
Liden
Swindon SN3 6HP

Church office at St Pauls: 01793 435987

www.dorcanchurch.org.uk



THE DORCAN CHURCH

*A Local Ecumenical Partnership between
The Church of England & the Methodist Church
serving the Swindon urban villages of Covingham, Nythe, Liden & Eldene.*

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the world has been reconciled to God, and in Jesus Christ unity has been offered to all people. Through the Word, we are called into a relationship with God and with one another as the children of God – a relationship inaugurated by Baptism into Christ through the Holy Spirit, nurtured and deepened through the ministry of word and sacrament and expressed in a confession of one faith and a common life of loving service.

(from the Declaration of Intent of The Dorcan Church)

OUR PURPOSE

“Transforming lives and communities
Knowing Jesus, and making Him known”

OUR PICTURE OF CHURCH

“A growing and vibrant church,
confident in its purpose and trusting in God”

a church which makes Jesus known
a church of disciples
a church in, and for, the community
a church which cares

ROLE OF ECC

The Trustees of the Dorcan Church are the Dorcan Ecumenical Church Council, which has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent(s) in promoting the activities of the Church in the Community. Members of the Dorcan Ecumenical Church Council are either ex-officio, elected at the Annual Church Meeting or co-opted in accordance with the Constitution Governing Document dated 10th April 2011, as amended from time to time thereafter.

MEMBERSHIP OF ECC

During 2016 the following served as members (*appears in 2 roles)

Clergy

Revd Andrew Wigley	ECC Chair (until APCM 2016)
Revd Trudie Wigley	ECC Chair (from APCM 2016)
Revd Stuart Fisher	

Churchwardens

Viv Craig*	also Senior Church Steward (St Tim's)
Diane Killick	also Senior Church Steward (St Paul's)

Elected Members

Mo Davey	(2018)	ECC Secretary
Tony Prichard	(2018)	Treasurer
John Davidson	(2019)	
Peter Mulcock	(2017)	
Chris Rose	(2017)	
Alex Scott	(2017)	
Nathalie Marshall	(2017)	
Janice Shellard	(2018)	
Mari Wheatley	(2018)	

Co-opted Members (for one year)

Neil Marshall
Paul Tayler

Deanery Synod Representatives

Viv Craig*	(2017)
Mavis Mason-Williams	(2017)
Jenny Poole	(2017)

CHANGES IN APPOINTMENTS OF AUTHORISED MINISTRIES

None to report

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of ECC members is set out in the Constitution Governing Document dated 10th April 2011, as amended from time to time thereafter. All those who are part of the church are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and may then stand for election to ECC. The maximum number of elected members to ECC is 13.

Meetings of ECC

The trustees usually meet every other month, a pattern which continued in 2016 with an additional meeting in October as we started to prepare for year end matters. The trustees therefore met 7 times during 2016.

Committees

The aims of the charity are affected through a number of committees and teams, as follows:

Standing Committee: The standing committee has the power to transact the business of the ECC between meetings, subject to any direction from ECC. It comprises: Clergy, Churchwardens/Stewards, Chair of ECC, Treasurer, Secretary, a member from Eldene and Liden. A minimum of 5 is required from this list to meet and, if possible, at least one person from each centre. It did not meet during 2016.

Ministry team: The ministry team meet every month and comprises clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers, and Local Preachers, and looks to the spiritual focus and direction of church life.

Finance Committee: The team worked under the delegated authority of ECC and looks after our financial resources, managing the day to day finances of income, giving and expenditure. It looks to prepare an annual budget for approval by the ECC.

Children and Young People: This committee looks to the ministry to children and young people, spanning our extensive schools work, missional outreach to young people in our community, as well as nurturing and caring for those children and young people who worship and are a part of The Dorcan Church.

Worship and Mission: The remit of this committee is currently being undertaken by the Ministry Team, particularly through the Building God's House Programme.

Property: The Property Committee meets 'to co-ordinate Property-related matters across the Dorcan Church in support of the Church's Vision and Mission'. It provides a link between the 'do-ers' and the decision-making processes at Finance and ECC.

Safeguarding: Safeguarding practice is central to the mission and ministry of the church. The safeguarding team work to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are safe in our churches, and that all those who are survivors of abuse are listened to, valued and supported. Safeguarding remains the legal responsibility of ECC and the incumbent.

Policy Review Committee: This committee looks to ensure that a) we have the right set of policies, and b) the policies are regularly reviewed, updated and implemented. The policies themselves are produced and updated by the various committees and teams within the church. This did not meet in 2016 and the need for such a committee will be reviewed in 2017.

Electoral Roll

2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
161	159	152	135	137	154	154	157	156

Currently there are 161 signed up Members of the Dorcan Church. This number includes eight new Members who have signed forms since our last ACPM. Sadly we've said 'goodbye' to ten Members who have either moved from the area, or passed on to glory. However, I'm happy to report that the number of people we can actually consider to be part of our regular worshiping congregation to date, is 205. If any of you wish to consider Membership, please speak to one of the Ministry team, a church warden today, or myself.

Barbara Wilcox

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other non-trustee elected Positions

Church Stewards:

St Paul's

John Davidson

Chris Rose

St Timothy's

Lella Thwaites

Sarah Paterson.

North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit Representatives:

Diane Killick (ex officio as Churchwarden)

Tony Prichard (ex officio as treasurer)

Additional Facts and Figures

Average Sunday Attendance (October count statistics):

St Pauls 73 adults 12 under 16s

St Timothy's 30 adults *7 under 16s

Messy Church 39 adults 39 under 16s

Total 142 adults 58 under 16s

* skewed by Baptism service and Harvest Parade service

Typical week-day attendance:

Mid-week communion 8-12 adults

Tiny Tots St Paul's 34-40 adults 35-40 pre-schoolers

Tiny Tots St Timothy's 13-18 12-15 pre-schoolers

Total 55-70 adults 47-54 pre-schoolers

Occasional offices:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Baptisms	14	15	8	10	24	27	21
Funerals	13	16	13	22	32	30	28
Confirmations	1	4	0	0	5	5	2
Weddings	0	1	0	1	0	1	2

CHARITY TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Dorcan Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership between The Church of England & The Methodist Church, serving the Swindon urban villages of Covingham, Nythe, Liden & Eldene. The partnership includes the congregations worshipping at St Paul's, Covingham and St Timothy's, Liden. The Church continues to advance the Christian faith across the locality, both as a worshipping community but also as a serving community. Through the Building God's House programme, established in Autumn 2015, the church continues to develop the life and mission of the church, encouraging discipleship of its members, but also reaching out to the community it serves, following our four main themes of Outreach, Discipleship, Care and Community. The 50th anniversary of the church was celebrated with a Community Fun Day, provided free as a gift to all who attended, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving, also attended by representatives of the wider church and community.

The church continues to provide for the development of children and young people, both through our 'in house' programmes, but also significantly to local school-children through the in:School programme, which teaches over 400 children about key aspects of the Christian faith, including Christmas and Easter. Church members take assemblies and classes in local primary schools, and support work with the local secondary school. The church hosts the weekly meeting of the local Senior Citizens club, which is supported by church members, as well as providing fun and lively Tiny Tots sessions for little ones and their carers at both centres.

The church has strengthened its provision of pastoral care, offering support to the sick and bereaved and others according to their need. Members are also encouraged to support other charitable activities, both in Swindon through the Foodbank, Restore, the Breakfast Club and the Women's Refuge, and abroad, through our links with projects in Uganda and Kenya.

The church also supports the local community in other ways, offering halls and rooms for local community groups to meet in, providing pre-school and after-school activities, acting as a Polling Station for two key elections, and hosting regular Blood Donor sessions. Significantly during 2016 and beyond, the church is supporting the ongoing provision of library facilities within the premises, despite the announcement of the withdrawal of funding by the Borough Council from 2017.

The Dorcan Church continues in good health, providing a centre for Christian witness, discipleship and service, whilst expressing its care and support for the local community.

Andrew Wigley

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2016

Overall financial report

Our income from all sources in 2016 was £110,858 against an expenditure of £109,716. We have had no major outlays during the year. At the end of the year we had a cash balance of £55,161 in various funds, which includes £34,117 in restricted or designated funds) as shown in the Church Accounts.

We continue to be able to carry on our good work due in part to the generous donations from our congregation.

My thanks are due to the people who count and bank our weekly offerings which make the job of treasurer so much easier.

Tony Prichard

Review of 2016 Budget versus actuals

We have much to give thanks for and a huge thank you for your generosity which empowers, enables and releases God's mission and ministry in this community. During 2016 we held a gift day and thank you for your overwhelming response and generosity.

2016 was the second year that we produced a budget after many years of not having one. It was helpful to use the experience of our first budget in 2015 to produce a more accurate and less conservative budget for 2016. The budget focuses on our day-to-day running of income and expenditure "to keep things going" and therefore major capital expenses such as for the heating system and chairs and their associated grants are not included. The budget therefore measures our bottom line of being able to make ends meet and therefore the numbers are not directly comparable with the audited accounts because these on-offs have been stripped out.

Income					
Description	2014 Actuals	2015 Actuals	2016 Budget	2016 Actuals	2017 Budget
Pledged Giving	4,741	5,176	2,800	56,025	5,820
Lettings (St. Paul's and St. Tim's)	40,012	6,607	3,880	33,192	36,900
Tax Recoverable on Gift Aid	31,660	10,991	9,950	8,506	8,520
Other Income	5,212	8,545	4,000	10,844	2,900
Occasional Offices Fee Income	2,253	3,280	2,184	2,412	2,550
Total	133,878	114,599	72,814	110,979	106,690
Expenditure					
Description					
Mission and Evangelism Charitable Giving	3,064	8,458	4,250	4,986	2,525
Ministry parish share etc. (cost FT priest - no central costs)	40,008	42,000	44,100	44,100	47,100
Methodist Circuit Quota	17,271	17,271	18,000	17,453	18,848
Children & Young People	434	897	1,100	231	800
Fees due to Diocesan Board of Finance*	29,216	1,651	1,378	1,138	1,200
Other Church Costs	3,902	2,742	2,470	5,562	3,160
Working expenses & training	3,395	1,366	2,100	1,888	2,550
Church running - electric, gas, water, council tax	1,360	3,336	3,890	3,099	3,808
Church running - insurance	1,894	1,620	1,690	1,691	1,663
Church maintenance - St. Paul's	458	16	240	403	600
Church maintenance - St. Tim's	392	679	1,000	736	1,000
Hall running - electric, gas. - St. Paul's	9,668	5,071	6,560	4,697	5,640
Hall running - maintenance - St. Paul's	5,886	7,616	8,000	8,878	8,000
Hall running - maintenance - St. Tim's	127	247	900	228	600
Staff Wages	11,084	13,975	18,500	17,420	18,000
Church Office - phone, internet, admin etc.	1,348	3,267	1,980	2,233	2,140
Total	129,507	110,212	116,158	114,743	117,454
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	4,371	4,387	-8,344	-3,764	-10,944

* Includes catch up payment of parish share from 2013

You will see from the table that the budgeted deficit was £8,344 and this was reduced to a lesser deficit of £3,764, almost entirely due to the generous gift Day held in November 2016 which raised £4,500 included gift aid relief. Pertinent numbers to highlight are as follows:

Income: Overall income was £3,000 greater than budgeted due to the following factors:

- Pledged and plate giving was greater than budgeted and marginally up from 2015. Giving at messy church saw the plate giving noticeably increased
- Whilst income was up year on year and above budget, the mix of giving has changed with less eligible for tax relief and therefore tax recoverable was below budget and noticeable down on 2015
- Other income was above budget and this was due to the giving from our gift day, donations towards the new books and other one-off gifts kindly offered.
- Income from lettings was noticeable down on budget and follows a trend downwards over the last three years. In 2016 there was uncertainty with availability due to the new floor and screen, and the tired look of the hall has not helped secure bookings.

Expenditure: Overall expenditure was around £1,500 less than budgeted due to the following factors:

- Running costs for heating St Pauls centre were meaningfully down due to the mild winter weather at the beginning and end of the calendar year
- Staff wages were £1,000 under budget
- Other church costs show as substantially above budget, but this includes the unbudgeted expenditure of new hymn book for which there was an unbudgeted corresponding income (see commentary under income above). Other costs were above budget due to the fee payable for the agreement to replace our floor and screen, and an overspend in Messy Church and Sunday services payable on resources.

Overall our deficit was less than budgeted due primarily to the generous gift day and our expenditure less than budgeted due to reduced fuel costs from the wild winters at the beginning and end of 2016.

Budget for 2017

In November 2016 ECC set and agreed the 2017 budget. You will see from the table that a deficit of £10,944 was agreed against a backdrop of a projected reduced income over 2016 and increased expenditure. 2017 is a time where ECC have stepped out in faith and agreed this budget on the principle of taking responsibility, being generous and having faith, of which more is explained in the next paragraph entitled "financial planning going forward". Pertinent numbers to highlight on the 2017 budget are as follows:

Income: overall income budgeted to be £4k less than 2016, with commentary as follows:

- Pledge and planned income to remain the same as 2016
- Lettings to increase over 2016 but remaining less than we have seen over the past few years due to reduced availability for letting due to the floor and screen, and uncertainty with income from the room currently occupied by the library
- Other income for 2017 is budgeted lower as this is a highly uncertain income stream as it includes unexpected and difficult to budget incomes such as one-off gifts and income from fayres which can only happen if there is a champion who can organise them.

Expenditure: overall expenditure to increase by £3k, with commentary as follows:

- Parish pledge is projected to increase by £3k to £47,100. This commitment was an act of generosity and faith by ECC and reflects us as a church taking responsibility for the ministry that we receive in Dorcan. The pledge was £1,600 more than the minimum request we were asked to consider
- The quota to the Methodist circuit also increased by £1,500 and reflects the size of Dorcan and the ministry we receive from the circuit.
- All other costs have been maintained broadly the same, or slightly reduced considering final expenditure figures for 2016.

Overall, we are budgeting a deficit of £10,944 primarily due to: a lower expectation of one-off unexpected gifts due to the uncertainty of being able to budget for them; less income from lettings due to uncertainty with the library and the availability of the centre and the library; an increase in expenditure predominantly from increases in parish pledge and Methodist quota.

Financial planning going forward

2017 is a pivotal year in our financial planning. You will see from the commentary on the budget that we are looking at a significant deficit and this is likely to widen in the years ahead. Finance Committee and ECC have been exploring a way forward and there are three areas of consideration to highlight:

Parish pledge and parish share: This year saw a helpful approach to our parish pledge with a letter to ECC from the diocese suggesting a minimum pledge. We are asked to take responsibility for the cost of the ministry we receive at Dorcan, to be generous, and to have faith in God's provision. Here at Dorcan the cost of the ministry we receive is £65,900 which covers components such as: clergy costs, training for future ministers and central support such as HR, legal, resources etc. This is before we make any contribution to help financially stretched parishes such as in Urban Priority Areas. Based on the levels of wealth and deprivation in the community, our income and size attendance we are asked to see how we might be able to cover our cost of ministry over time. This is a significant increase, together with similar rises in the Methodist Quota, but one which ECC would like to move towards.

Letting income: After the new floor and screening are installed the uncertainty over letting availability is reduced and the building is far more attractive. The uncertainty with the income from the library room may remain for a while however. Centre Management Committee is currently looking at reviewing our letting policy and rates, as well as our processes to ensure that we maximise our income. Income from lettings has gradually declined and we urgently need to address this, yet it is not currently clear what increase in lettings we may be able to secure.

Pledged and planned giving: It is some years since we looked at financial stewardship as a church and in May and June 2017 we will be journeying through a programme called *Giving in Grace*. It is a super resource and will help us consider God's generosity to us and what it means for us to give generously as disciples. In May, the ministry team will be following a preaching theme looking at some of Jesus' parables and what he taught about wealth and money, and there will be literature produced to help us consider what our personal response might be, with our celebration day in June.

In addition, we have been approached to pilot a scheme called Parish Giving Scheme which is a direct debit scheme (rather than standing order) which enables the church to reclaim tax relief within 10 days rather than every quarter, and provides the opportunity to increase giving by an inflationary-type indicator each year, at the givers direction and agreement. One of the challenges of our finances is regular giving and claiming tax relief so would you be prepared to move to this new direct debit scheme, particularly if you currently given by weekly envelope? More details will follow on Giving in Grace and the Parish Share Scheme.

God is generous and faithful to us and we move forward with this assurance as we challenge ourselves and think about our financial stewardship.

Trudie Wigley

ADDITIONAL REPORTS FOR 2016

Mission – Building God’s House

Building God’s House continues to provide a focus and direction for our life and mission as a church. Our key areas for focus are:

- o *outreach and growth*
- o *deepening faith and discipleship*
- o *appeal to 10- to 40-year olds*
- o *needs of the local community*

Our four streams together provide a helpful structure for our activities:

- Discipleship, equips and strengthens us for the task
- Outreach, reminds us to look beyond ourselves
- Community, points us to those whom we serve
- Care, reminds us of God’s values that govern our actions

Our various activities may focus upon one or more of these streams. For Lent 2016, our theme was Discipleship and over 60 people took part on a course “Life Calling” exploring how God calls each one of us individually to follow and serve him. We were able to run an Enquirers course for those wanting to know a bit more about our faith and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The celebrations for our 50th anniversary as the Dorcan Church had a major focus on Community as we provided a free fun day for all on the Saturday, free refreshments, free ice creams, free bouncy castle. This was followed by a wonderful service of thanksgiving for the past and commitment to the future on the Sunday. Our Tiny Tots, school programmes and Messy Church activities all continue to thrive and meet needs. Our children and young people are engaged in their activities. Our pastoral care has been strengthened as we ensure everyone has a church link person assigned to them. Our prayer ministry continues to provide much-needed support and encouragement. A new venture offering a time for ‘Tea and Toast’ on a morning at St Tim’s provides the opportunity for people from the community to pop in for a chat and to be welcomed in a warm and accepting place. We have introduced Sunday School for All on one Sunday each quarter, enabling us to share in teaching on some of the core themes of our faith. And for our Christmas services, we delivered over 3,000 invitations across the community as we celebrated again the gift of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

All these activities show that we are heading in the right direction towards the picture of church that we felt at the outset that God was calling us to:

*“A growing and vibrant church
confident in its purpose and trusting in God”*

And all the while, we as God’s people, the church, are taking part in God’s mission:

*“Transforming lives and communities
Knowing Jesus, and making Him known”*

This annual report is full of the many different aspects of the life and mission of our church. Our thanks to all of you for your support and encouragement as together we go about “Building God’s House”.

There is much still to look forward to . . .

Andrew Wigley

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to go from strength to strength following its launch in April 2015. Last year we saw between 30-40 children and a similar number of adults at each gathering - and whilst many are now familiar regular faces, each month we see new people coming to see what it’s all about. The busiest time we have had was at The Dorcan 50th anniversary where instead of our regular Messy, we hosted a couple of gazebos during the Saturday fun day - it was great to see it so busy with some new families joining us for our regular gathering.

Many of our Messy families attended the various Christmas services and Breakfast with Santa, and a few of the families now come to our Sunday morning services which is particularly encouraging as Messy was launched as a congregation in its own right rather than a transition to other services. We have also run an enquirer’s course to which some of the Messy mums came. Messy Church complements what we are already doing through our successful activities like Tiny Tots, in: School,

school festival services and assemblies and provides another connection with the community to build deeper relationships.

We have covered a number of themes this year, including The Lord's Prayer, The Easter and Christmas stories, Who is Jesus?, Pentecost, The Worldwide Church Family, Seaside Stories from the Bible, the parable of the rich fool, and Jesus the Light of the World. The theme has been explored through the wonderful crafts and games, and then unpacked during the worship time which has now been extended to around 20mins – this was initially to give the caterers more set up time, but this has been an unexpected great opportunity to have some more time together and explore the theme. We have then wrapped up our gathering with a superb tea prepared by the catering team.

Messy Church would not happen without the amazing team who are infectious with their enthusiasm and encouragement, together with their regular commitment and support. A **MASSIVE** thank you for making this happen each month. Some new people have joined the team, particularly on the catering team, and some are having a break, and a few of our older children are now helping out on the craft tables and enjoying being given responsibility within the church family.

As we look to 2017 we are exploring how to nurture those who come to Messy in the Christian faith. This will be reflected in our chosen themes for the rest of the year, as well as thinking about how we use the prayer room which was introduced in Autumn last year for quiet and reflective activities, yet is only visited by a few. Another enquirer's course will be offered this Spring/Summer and we hope that some Messy families will come and learn more. Thank you to Dorcan church for supporting this outreach and for the team of do-ers and pray-ers who make it happen.

Trudie Wigley

Worship

"Going to worship has only one good purpose in mind: so that God might meet us here, and surprise us, love us, forgive us, and sustain us. We worship not because God needs our worship, but because we need to worship God. We need to set ourselves before God not as creators, but as creatures of God's good creation." Bishop Abraham Allende.

To support us in this need to worship, we have continued our regular service pattern which spans a variety of ways of worship which can help each one of us set ourselves before God in a way that aids us – including quieter services, regular communion, tea and praise, all age, family friendly Messy Church and regular busy morning services where there is teaching for young and old alike. Whilst we took a break from Café Service this year, we launched a quarterly Sunday School for All which gives us an opportunity to explore more deeply an aspect of our faith in an informal style with breakfast first and with such positive feedback we will be continuing this. In the week we also continue our gathered worship with mid-week communion and our Bible stories and songs at Tiny Tots. Coming together as a church once a month for our united service is a visible way of reminding ourselves that whatever our regular worship service might be and however we worship in our everyday lives during the week, that we are one church together.

2016 saw some special services, including the uplifting worship for our 50th celebration, various visiting preachers and the festival services around Easter and Christmas. We have reviewed our music books this year and purchased new Songs of Fellowship word copies, and our music has been supported by our various musicians to whom we are grateful for offering their talents in worship. Particular highlights were the music group which came together for the 50th celebration and our Christmas services.

Looking to 2017, we will continue our constant review of worship services within the backdrop of resources, energy and *Building God's House* priorities. We will look to continue the nascent Sunday School for All given the supportive feedback and also build on the musical momentum of the music group. We also plan to review the Tea and Praise service which has now been running for three years, and possibly explore other worship opportunities away from Sunday morning.

Trudie Wigley

Children and Young People

Sunday Club

We continue to see growth in the numbers of children on a Sunday morning, for which we thank God. The age spread continues to be a challenge, and we ask for continued prayers to enable us to make Jesus relevant to these children. The children, young people and Adults got a large amount out of their visit to the Urban Saints holiday "Spree" last year, and we are now looking towards this year. Please continue to pray for and support these young people on their spiritual journeys.

Nathalie Marshall

Ignite

Ignite has been both a joy and a challenge. We continue to run with a rota of leaders and Deb and Clare being there every week. Some of our youngsters attended Spree South West in the summer and had a fantastic time with some of them making a further step in their faith. We had an amazing Big Mix weekend with Leatherhead Methodist Church Surrey in February 2017 which some of our youngsters attended. In January 2017 we started the Youth Alpha course which we are all enjoying immensely and both leaders and youngsters are growing in their faith. Please continue to pray for this age group and we move forward and decide how best to work with them.

Deb Mulcock

Vybe

Vybe - has really now disbanded. Our young people are very much part of the regular congregation and some have stepped up into leadership roles. They are proving to be a great asset to our Church and I ask that you pray for them all and their journey of faith.

Deb Mulcock

Children outreach events:

Tiny Tots

St Pauls:

Another good year from the team and we are thrilled that Jean Smith joined the team. We have 73 children on the register and on average get 35-40 children and 34 adults each week. It pleases us that we get 2 or 3 men bringing their children and they feel at home with all the ladies. Although there are more children than ever each week a lot are babies or we wouldn't have enough space. It isn't easy building relationships with such large numbers, the team work hard to learn people's names. We are trying to think of ways we can improve on this in the future. We said farewell to several children, presenting them with Bibles as they moved on to Pre-school having received funding. Unfortunately, for the first time ever, due to illness and hospital appointments we had to cancel a session. We appreciate that church folk don't want a weekly commitment to Tiny Tots but we would like to have a list of people who could help on an ad hoc basis. As in other years we have contributed from our funds to the Church fabric.

Margaret Hylton

St Tim's:

Wednesday is a 'lively time' at St Tim's as many of the adults visit us at Tiny Tots as well as TTTT! (see below)

Tiny Tots continues to be a friendly group with up to 15 plus children enjoying craft, play, singing, a Bible story and refreshments.

We said goodbye to a very much missed Leila in 2016, however we were encouraged that Helen and Diane joined the team of Sarah, Viv, Tricia and Elizabeth with occasional help from Hazel and Jo.

If you are interested in helping come and taste and see if it is for you. We especially need help with clearing after the session between 2.45 - 3.15. The person ideally needs to be taller than me (!?) (not hard) to reach the shelves but we can get round it!

Again what an opportunity to reach out and share the love of JESUS to young children, our future.

Elizabeth Payne

Tea Toast Talk Today! (TTTT!)

This is a new venture for St Tim's church which started in November 2016. A 'simple' idea of buying a toaster and 'opening' the church doors (safe guarding is in place) on a Wednesday morning between 8.45am - 10.30am (term time)

We are buzzing most weeks with on average 10 adults and 6 children visiting and enjoying friendship, laughter, toast and hot drinks.

We are blessed with a strong team Hazel, Helen, Sam and Elizabeth and use this time to share all that is happening within the church such as Tiny Tots, Messy Church and seasonal activities.

On occasions we have been asked to pray for situations as they arise and have been told by the ladies 'we look forward to Wednesday' !

What an opportunity to reach out and share the love of JESUS in 2017.

Elizabeth Payne

In:School

St Paul's:

As in other years we have had brilliant contacts with Covingham, Nythe and Wanborough schools. We were unable to do Living Church this year as I couldn't raise a team and it was difficult fitting it in with other School Year work. Abi reconnected with us and led the Dorcan Church Christmas Unwrapped and Easter Cracked Open training. One of our 2017 Covingham Sessions of Easter Cracked Open will be filmed for the diocese. The new head at Nythe, Sally Clarke has been impressed with what the church does for the school and came to see for herself exactly what the children get up to. For the first time a few of the team went into Nylands School and did Christmas Unwrapped with a few of the children in a classroom. Quite challenging but a real pleasure.

Margaret Hylton

St Tim's:

In March 2016, the Y5 children from Liden and Eldene Primary Schools were invited to the Easter Cracked Open sessions at St Timothy's Church, led by Leila Thwaites. We had a team of eight volunteers and the Rev. Andrew Wigley came from the ministry team to support us. The logistics of bringing the children from the school's point of view, meant that there was no break for the team between the two sessions at 9:30am. and 11am. but the team managed and the feedback from the school was very positive. We repeated the session with the Y5 children from Eldene School. We held one session for 30 children accompanied by 5 staff. Nine volunteers presented the Easter story and we appreciated the in-put from Rev. Andrew Wigley once again. This was the last In-School activity led by Leila Thwaites as she moved to Kent to be near her family. I am sure everyone really appreciates all her hard work over the years and we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for everything she has done in organising the work for In-School activities at St. Timothy's Church. She is greatly missed but we wish her well in her new home.

Her role as liaison representative has been taken on by Joanna Bush.

In December we once again invited the Y4 children from Liden and Eldene to the In-School presentation of Christmas Unwrapped. Eldene brought a class of 28 children at 9:30am. and 25 children attended at 11am. We had a team of seven volunteers and were very grateful for the support of Rev. Stuart Fisher. The morning proved to be successful as the school sent a card of appreciation. The following day, children from Liden came to enjoy the Christmas story. In the morning we had 27 children that included a child with special needs. Fortunately, Rev. Andrew Wigley was with us and gave this child individual attention in the hall with the Christmas activities. As a follow-up, I have discussed with the schools about having prior knowledge of any helpful information, which they have agreed to, and in future, it will be included in the risk assessment. The afternoon was followed by the second group with 25 children from Liden with eight volunteers and we had an enjoyable time together. The Rev. Trudie Wigley came to join us at this session and we are extremely grateful to all the ministry team for all their involvement in these In-School activities and their help and support. The school showed their appreciation by sending a lovely thank you card which makes all the effort worthwhile knowing that up to 240 children have heard the true meaning of Christmas and Easter.

Jo Bush.

School Assemblies

Covingham & Nythe: We have continued to go into Covingham and Nythe schools each term. We do separate assemblies in Covingham for key stages 1 and 2 and in Nythe we do a whole school assembly. We enjoy going into both schools and continue to have a good relationship with the staff. In particular we have developed a close relationship with Sally Clark the Head of Nythe. She is very encouraging and always makes us most welcome. The children in both schools are happy to participate when asked and it has been a privilege to be able to share our faith with them.

Pam, Diane and Pauline

Eldene: The Dorcan Church In:School team were brilliant when they took "it's your move" into Eldene School last July and look forward to sharing this again with more young people this year. The head teacher and staff were very impressed and have invited us to participate in assemblies every term since. Abi and Stuart have been delighted to share the love of God through those assemblies and have been able to demonstrate this through interactive bible story-time and fun activities. We continue to take this opportunity to share with those living and working, staff and students, in our community. Please continue to pray for this work, the team and the staff and students; this is God's love in action.

Stuart Fisher

Dorcan Academy: Christmas 2016 saw Swindon Youth for Christ and Dorcan church jointly lead a week of Christmas assemblies on the theme "What Christmas means to me". All the young people

were welcoming, engaged and a joy to be with. SYFC are starting a Christian Union after Easter 2017 and we have asked to be a part of this which is exciting.

In addition, I meet every month to pray with the Head (who we spoke at our united service in December 2017). At the moment the only member in the secondary school team is me so if you feel a nudge or a sense to secondary school work then please have a word with me and we can learn together.

Trudie Wigley

Safeguarding

The emphasis in 2016 was to form a new safeguarding team that could build on the excellent role undertaken by Sandra Marshall until she stepped down at the end of 2015. Given the breadth of the role, a team approach was preferred, although it took a while to form a team and for a time we were unable to recruit new people to work with children and vulnerable adults. However, in October 2016 we introduced and prayed for the new team who are:

Parish Safeguarding Concerns Officers

Dianne Lane (responsibility for vulnerable adults)
Jo Kirkland (responsibility for children & young people)

Parish Safeguarding Recruitment Officer

Jenny Poole

Parish Safeguarding DBS Officer

Sue Morgans

Parish Safeguarding Training Officer

Dianne Lane

Parish Safeguarding Administrator

Jackie Hancock

Incumbent

Rev Trudie Wigley

At the same time as introducing the new team we shared with the church a "Code of Conduct" which gives guidance on expected behaviour and appropriate contact with children and vulnerable people. This is displayed in both centres and is an important way of stating our commitment to this important, legal area. There are copies available for people to take away.

The safeguarding policy was also updated and amended to reflect recent legislation and present and approved by ECC in September 2016. Our policy is now the standard example shared with other churches given its succinctness, clarity and breadth.

Working as a team enables this role to be eminently manageable and importantly provides support to each other, this was particularly so as the previous Diocesan Safeguarding officer left the Diocese and there was a 4 months until a new person was appointed. We now have a system for recruiting and who does what, and we are now efficiently recruitment new people, managing DBS, ensuring job descriptions are written, monitoring training etc.

Safeguarding remains the joint responsibility of the ECC and incumbent although this is delegated to this Safeguarding team. I would like to thank Dianne, Jo, Jenny, Sue and Jackie for being such a great team, and for their commitment and support.

for all you do and for your "can do" positive approach.

As a church we are grateful

Trudie Wigley

Church Life

Prayer Ministry

Dear Heavenly Father, you call us to share the love and healing power of your Son. Give us those gifts and graces of the Spirit, and the medicine of your Holy Gospel, that will enable us to meet people at their point of need, and bring them to wholeness of life in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Based on the collect of St. Luke the Evangelist.)

There are currently 6 members of the Prayer Ministry Team, who make themselves available for prayer at the monthly united services at St. Paul's. We arrive early, before each service begins, so that we can spend some time in prayer, listening for God's voice, and praying for those who may require prayer during the service. Also during this quiet time, we pray for whichever Minister will be taking the service.

During 2016, we have attended Prayer Ministry training courses, two provided by the Diocese and one held at Harnhill Centre for Christian Healing. If you have a prayer request, for yourself or others please don't be afraid to ask. You may be new to the idea of Prayer Ministry and feel a bit nervous about approaching us, but please be assured that everything said to us will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

We are very aware that we are small cogs in God's huge wheel, and also very aware of the privilege it is to serve Him and you in this manner.

Barbara Wilcox

Link/Pastoral Ministry

A 'Church Link' can be an important point of contact, especially for those new to our church family. We undertake to pray regularly for those on our lists, notice if anyone has been away from church for a while, and follow them up with a friendly phone call.

There are currently 25 Link persons who keep contact with most members of our worshipping congregation. I say 'most' because at the moment there are not enough Link persons at St. Tim's since Leila's departure last year. Also, there are a few people on the St. Paul's list who are not catered for at this time. Just a couple of more people to volunteer are all it needs to ensure everyone is covered... SO if you feel this is something you could do, I would be delighted to speak with you.

I would like to take the opportunity here to record a big THANK-YOU to all who have faithfully cared and prayed, and served in this way, and who continue to do so.

Barbara Wilcox

Small/Cell Groups

We currently have seven active groups meeting for fellowship, prayer and bible study. There will be a couple of additional ones for lent only. In order to support all the good work already being done I have taken on the role of group coordination. We have had our first meeting and we agreed that all our groups would use the recommended diocesan material for lent.

The theme of the Lent course this year is based on our diocesan vision, 'Creating connections', and leads participants to consider what it means to be a disciple connected to God, each other and our communities. We communicated through the notices and sign up list the opportunity for anyone who would like to join a group for the lent course. But joining a group is not limited to lent, the opportunity is there for anyone who would like to consider it. If you are thinking about joining a group please contact me.

Alex Scott

Fairtrade

We continue to support Fairtrade as a church, ensuring that our tea, coffee and hot chocolate served after services are Fairtrade Certified. The Sale of Advent calendars was a success, and we look to grow the interest in trade justice in our congregations. Thank you.

Nathalie Marshall

Policy Review

The main focus this year has been upon developing the Mission of the Church through the Building God's House programme. Nevertheless, the Safeguarding Policy has had a major update thanks to Trudie and Jackie. The Health and Safety Policy is also being re-written, with thanks to Jackie and Paul Tayler.

Andrew Wigley

Property / Church Centre Management Committee

The role of the Property Committee has been broadened with the formation of the new Church Centre Management Committee. This new meeting provides a forum for overseeing and balancing the use of the two centres for both church and community purposes. So as well as looking after maintenance and repairs, we are also developing a new Lettings Policy to help us make best use of the premises both in support of the mission of the church and as a resource for the community. We give attention to matters of Health and Safety, Security, Fire Risk as well as to taps, toilets and drains.

2016 has seen the church benefit from the major improvements made during 2015, mainly the new, comfortable chairs in both churches, the new heating at St Paul's, and the fixing of the leaking roof at St Tim's, at last! The hall at St Tim's received a makeover and new coat of paint, making it more attractive and welcoming once again. Unfortunately there were delays to our plans to replace the flooring in the church and hall at St Paul's, firstly through delays in obtaining the necessary permissions from the Diocese, and then, strangely enough, as a result of the BREXIT vote. As a result, we were unable to install the new flooring during the summer holidays as we had hoped. The current plan is to install the new flooring in the period June to August 2017. We also hope around Easter-time to replace the partition screen with a new 'operable wall' consisting of 10 folding panels. These changes will have a significant impact on the appearance and usability of our premises. In the latter part of the year we have also had to look at the potential impact of the withdrawal of council funding for the library that rents part of our premises.

I am very thankful to Diane and Viv as Churchwardens, and to Tony Prichard who have shouldered most of the burden on all this, as well as to Tania, Dennis, Jackie, John and Paul who have played their part too.

Andrew Wigley

Ministry team

Every one of us is a part of the ministry team in the church of God, as is so wonderfully demonstrated in the various reports in this annual account. Therefore, this short report, whilst entitled "Ministry Team", focuses on what the group of Licensed Lay Ministers, Local Preachers and Clergy has been sharing as we have met over the year. We meet each month and our focus is on the spiritual life of God's church in Dorcan. Our focus in 2016 was on preparation for our 50th celebration service and progressing and reflecting on how we move forward with some of the actions from the church-wide away day at the end of 2015. As part of that we have considered Lent courses, started *Sunday school for All*, planned Christmas and Easter services and outreach, considered how we provide support and oversight for our various church activities, as well as some of the more practical issues such as recommending the new song/hymn book. We also actively support the wider Deanery and Circuit by preaching and leading worship at other churches, as well as officiating at weddings and funerals outside the parish.

Part of our time together we also spend in worship and reflection. This is a treasured time as we are often leading and preaching so it is good to be led in worship by one of the team on a rota basis. Going forward we have started thinking about how to make space for more worship and Bible study, to better balance with the "business" of our gatherings. 2017 will see Rob Smith join the clergy team as a training curate for 3-4 years and we look forward to working with a new colleague.

Trudie Wigley

Church Centre Reports

St Timothy's:

St. Timothy's lost 2 long standing members in 2016. Jimmy Collins died in August, and Leila Thwaites moved to Kent nearer her family. Both will be missed in so many ways, Leila was always around fulfilling many different roles. We continue with a small, faithful number.

Tiny Tots is continuing to flourish, and also the new Tea Toast Talk Today! gathering. The In: School activities were held for Eldene and Liden schools prior to the Easter and Christmas festivals.

The parade services were again well supported. In the spring, we held our usual plant and cake sale. We are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Church in Liden in March 2017. My grateful thanks to all who have helped and supported in so many ways, with special thanks to Sarah and Leila.

Vivien Craig, Churchwarden

St Paul's:

What a roller coaster year, lots of high's with just a few lows. The highlight had to be the 50th Anniversary weekend! So many enjoyed the fun and games of the Saturday, and we raised £500 for the GWH radiotherapy appeal. Welcoming old friends and new to the celebration service on the Sunday, with the most stunning banner to admire, we are truly blessed.

The centre continues to host a number of groups, and grateful thanks are extended to Tania centre manager, and Jackie church administrator for their support. My sincere thanks go to all who help and willingly give their time in so many ways, to enable our church to flourish. Also, for the generosity of giving to Foodbank, and the other charities we support at Christmas and Harvest.

Diane Killick, Churchwarden

Church Administration

It has been a busy and enjoyable year in the Church office.

As well as supporting the Ministry team, I provide administrative support to a range of people across both churches, including; the Wardens, the Safeguarding Team, the Messy Church Team, the Church Centre Management Committee, Tiny Tots, TTTT and the Health & Safety Officer.

My role involves regular weekly/monthly tasks such as sending the returns to the Diocese, preparing the ads for the Handy Mag, ensuring that all the posters and notice boards are up to date, preparing PowerPoint presentations for services, to supporting one off events or projects such as the Christmas Fayre and the Prayer board. The photocopier has been busy this year, particularly with the 3000 Christmas cards that were hand delivered by Church members.

The highlight for me in 2016 was being involved in the special celebrations to mark 50 years of the Dorcan Church and to reflect on the wonderful work carried out by so many people. It was a pleasure to be involved in the preparation of the Service of Thanksgiving and Fun Day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the kindness, friendship and support that I receive.

Jackie Hancock

Centre Administration

The role of Centre Administrator is varied and never mundane. Much time is spent listening to the people who come into the office whether it be for hiring the centres facilities, information on classes we hold, general enquiries, or just to say 'hello'.

There are many aspects to the job, invoicing, banking, communication with users, both regular and single users, keeping the maintenance and cleanliness of the Centre up to date, liaising with the Church Wardens and Church Administrator when necessary.

I thoroughly enjoy my position within St Pauls and feel blessed to be part of a fantastic team.

Tania Kirton

Wider Relations

Anglican Swindon Deanery:

Creating Connections, Connecting with God, Connecting with each other, connecting with our communities.

February 25th St John's Haydon Wick

Keynote speaker was Revd Chris Priddy - Diocesan head of Parish and External Relations. Priorities - Make Disciples, Grow leaders, and engage younger generations.

June 22nd Wroughton Parish Church

Keynote speaker was Mr. Dan Jones- Diocesan Children's and Youth officer. Engaging with younger generations.

November 22nd St. John's Parks and Walcot

Creating Connections- members divided into discussion groups.

Informal sharing of highlights followed. The Deanery Leadership team will work on the suggestions.

Vivien Craig Deanery Synod Representative

North Wiltshire Circuit of the Methodist Church

The Dorcan Church continues to be part of the North Wiltshire Circuit as well as part of the Swindon Deanery. The circuit continues to play an important part in supporting the life and mission of the churches across Swindon, Marlborough, Chippenham and surrounding areas. Our Local Preachers, Alex, Neil and Colin preach and lead worship across the circuit, as well as within the Dorcan Church. Andrew continues to serve as a Circuit Minister, at Queens Drive until its closure in July 2016, and now at Wroughton from Advent Sunday 2016. The main theme for 2016 has been about developing the mission of the churches, and forming a circuit strategy to best focus resources in support of that mission. This work was initiated in 2016, and continues into 2017. In the autumn of 2017, the circuit is looking to support the development of discipleship within the churches. Concern remains for Revd David Gray who took seriously ill in September and for whom recovery is a slow process. We remember David, his wife Anne and son Tom in our prayers. *Andrew Wigley*

Bristol District of the Methodist Church

The Chair of District, Revd Dr Jonathan Pye came to Dorcan and took part in our 50th Anniversary celebrations. The District continues to come under pressure to manage the finances, which is sourced from the Circuits and churches that it represents. There is a significant redevelopment taking place at the New Room in Bristol, which is the oldest Methodist Chapel in the world. The new Education and Visitor Centre is due to open in late spring 2017

Andrew Wigley, Assistant Synod Secretary

Bristol Anglican Diocesan Synod

The Diocesan Synod considers matters relating to the work and mission of the Church of England and formulates diocesan policy on a wide range of issues, advises the Bishop and is consulted by him. The synod has met in Stoke Gifford, Bradley Stoke, and Freshbrook during the last year.

There is always the Bishops address and report, and various presentations. The main focus has been on Creating Connections; Engaging young people; Parish Share; and Growing Leaders.

It is very interesting meeting, sharing and learning with so many different individuals, but all with the common goal, connecting with God, connecting with our communities, and connecting with each other.

Diane Killick, Lay representative