



Building God's House

**Knowing Jesus
and making Him known**

**Transforming Lives and
Communities**



**Annual
Report
2017**

Pages 1-16

These pages represent our report to The Charities Commission in a format as required for charities with an income greater than £100,000

This report will be submitted for approval by Ecumenical Church Council on 23rd May 2018

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2017
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
Swindon,
SN3 5EP

Churchwarden

Mrs Diane Killick
15, Popplechurch Drive
Covingham
Swindon,
SN3 5EC

ECC Secretary

Mr Mo Davey
13 Mundy Avenue
Eldene
Swindon,
SN3 3SU

ECC Treasurer

Mr Anthony Prichard,
1, Poltondale
Covingham
Swindon,
SN3 5BN

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank,
PO Box 250,
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent Examiner

P J Crowley FCA
Derrick Newman Limited Chartered Accountants,
29 Bath Road,
Swindon
SN1 4AS

Church Address Details

St Pauls
St Paul's Drive
Covingham
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 2017 the following served as members (*appears in 2 roles)

Clergy

Revd Andrew Wigley

Revd Trudie Wigley

ECC Chair

Revd Stuart Fisher

Revd Rob Smith

(from 1st July 2017)

Churchwardens

Viv Craig*

also Senior Church Steward (St Tim's)

Diane Killick

also Senior Church Steward (St Paul's)

Elected Members

Nicki Clinch (2017-20)

Mo Davey (2015-18)

ECC Secretary

John Davidson (2016-19)

Nathalie Marshall (2017-20)

Peter Mulcock (2017-20)

Tony Prichard (2015-18)

Treasurer

Chris Rose (2017-20)

Alex Scott (2017-20)

Janice Shellard (2015-18)

Marian Wheatley (2015-18)

Co-opted Members ((co-opted for a 1-year term)

Neil Marshall until 2017

Paul Tayler until 2018

Deanery Synod Representatives (elected for a 3-year term)

Viv Craig* until 2020

Mavis Mason-Williams until 2017

Jenny Poole until 2020

CHANGES IN APPOINTMENTS OF AUTHORISED MINISTRIES

The Revd Rob Smith joined the Dorcan Church as Assistant Curate on 1st July 2017, following his ordination as Deacon at Bristol Cathedral.

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 2017 with an additional meeting in October as we started to prepare for year end matters. There was also a special meeting held in June to consider a proposal re Covingham Library. The trustees therefore met 8 times during 2017.

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 2017.

Ministry team: The ministry team meet every two months 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.

Centre Management Committee / Property Committee: The work of the Property Committee has largely been incorporated into the broader remit of the Centre Management Committee. The Property Committee met 'to co-ordinate Property-related matters across the Dorcan Church in support of the Church's Vision and Mission'. It provided a link between the 'do-ers' and the decision-making processes at Finance and ECC. The Centre Management Committee also sets out to balance the use of the centre both a) to help enable the mission of the church and b) to provide facilities for the benefit of the community.

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 committee has not met in recent times, but work has continued with the major overhaul of the Safeguarding policy during 2016 and then further revision, and work in progress on Health & Safety and Lettings policies.

Electoral Roll

2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
162	161	159	152	135	137	154	154	157	156

Currently there are 162 fully signed up Members of the Dorcan Church. I'm delighted to say that this includes 8 new members who have joined since our last A.P.C.M. so 'welcome' to them. Sadly we have had to say 'farewell' to 7 faithful Members who have passed on to glory, and 5 who have moved away from our area. However, I'm happy to report that the number of people who actually worship with us either on a regular basis, or rather more informally, is 212. If any of you who are not Members as yet, but are considering making the Dorcan Church your regular place of worship, please do think about Membership. Forms are available from the Churchwardens or myself.

Barbara Wilcox
Electoral Roll Secretary

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other non-trustee elected Positions

Church Stewards:

St Paul's

John Davidson

Josh Mulcock

Chris Rose

St Timothy's

Anne Davey

Diane Mills

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 78 adults 18 under 16s

St Timothy's 22 adults *8 under 16s

Messy Church (monthly) 56 adults 32 under 16s

Total 156 adults 58 under 16s

* skewed by Harvest Parade service

Typical week-day attendance:

Mid-week communion 7-11 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 54-69 adults 47-54 pre-schoolers

Occasional offices:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Baptisms	15	14	15	8	10	24	27	21
Funerals	9	13	16	13	22	32	30	28
Confirmations	0	1	4	0	0	5	5	2
Weddings	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	2

CHARITY TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Dorcan Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership between The Church of England and 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 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. One particularly successful community initiative which was started in late 2016 and which has further grown and developed during 2017 has been the provision of 'Tea, Toast, Talk, Today' at St Timothy's in Liden. The church opens every Wednesday morning and offers free cups of coffee and toast to all, and particularly to mums, dads and carers as they drop off their children at the local school. Visitors have appreciated the welcome, the refreshment, and the opportunity to mix and share in conversation.

The church centre 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 over the years, and hosting regular Blood Donor sessions. The church facilities have been significantly enhanced during 2017 with

the replacement of the flooring in the main church and hall areas, and the installation of a new flexible partition wall between these areas. In addition to a grant from the Landfill Communities Fund, the majority of the of money for the partition came from the church yet providing benefit for church members and community groups alike.

The church has also committed to support the ongoing provision of community library facilities within the premises, despite the withdrawal of funding by the Borough Council from 2017. We have worked with our local councillors and the Friends of the Library so that the library can remain open despite some loss of income to the church.

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 2017

Overall financial report

Our income from all sources in 2017 was £137.5k against a total expenditure of £138.5k, giving an overall £1k deficit over the year. Our income was noticeably higher than 2016 for three main reasons: firstly our giving increased following our Giving in Grace discipleship series in May 2017, secondly our Gift Aid tax increased accordingly, and thirdly the receipt of a legacy of £10k for which we are very grateful. Our major outlay was to replace the screen at St Paul's which cost a total of c. £20k and was funded by a Landfill grant of £5k, designated and restricted screen reserves and from the St Paul's fabric fund.

Whilst our reserves remained broadly static, ending the year at £54.1k of which £40k are unrestricted general funds, the make-up of the reserves changed significantly following the expenditure from both designated and restricted reserves for the folding screen.

We continue to be able to move forward in our mission and ministry due largely to generous donations and gifts from the church family for which we are all very grateful. My thanks are due to the people who count and bank our weekly offerings which makes the job of treasurer so much easier.

Tony Prichard

Description	2014 actuals	2015 actuals	2016 actuals	2017 actuals	2017 budget	2018 budget
Pledged giving	54,741	55,176	56,025	61,586	55,820	65,700
Lettings (St Pauls and St Tims)	40,012	36,607	33,192	38,080	36,900	39,300
Tax Recoverable on Gift Aid	31,660	10,991	8,506	12,818	8,520	12,500
Other Income	5,212	10,844	10,844	3,292	2,900	3,640
Occasional offices fee income	2,253	3,280	2,412	2,575	2,550	2,550
Total	133,878	114,599	110,979	118,352	106,690	123,690
Expenditure						
Description						
Mission & Evangelism and charitable giving	3,064	8,458	4,986	4,372	2,525	4,525
Ministry parish share etc (cost FT priest - no central costs)	40,008	42,000	44,100	47,100	47,100	48,500
Methodist Circuit Quota	17,271	17,271	17,453	18,450	18,848	20,295
Children & Young people	434	897	231	32	800	1,000
Fees due to Diocesan Board of Finance *	29,216	1,651	1,138	1,117	1,200	1,200
Other church costs	3,902	2,742	5,562	3,519	3,160	3,400
Working expenses & training	3,395	1,366	1,888	2,276	2,550	4,500
Church running - electric, gas, water, council tax	1,360	3,336	3,099	3,212	3,808	3,432
Church running - insurance	1,894	1,620	1,691	1,699	1,663	1,794
Church maintenance - St. Paul's	458	16	403	835	600	1,000
Church maintenance - St. Tim's	392	679	736	54	1,000	1,000
Hall running - electric, gas St. Pauls	9,668	5,071	4,697	4,445	5,640	4,880
Hall running - maintenance - St. Pauls	5,886	7,616	8,878	8,645	8,000	8,000
Hall running - Maintenance - St. Tims	127	247	228	928	600	600
Staff wages	11,084	13,975	17,420	17,592	18,000	18,745
Church office - phone, internet, admin etc.	1,348	3,267	2,233	3,043	2,140	3,240
Total	129,507	110,212	114,743	117,319	117,634	126,111
SURPLUS / DEFICIT	4,371	4,387	-3,764	1,033	-10,944	-2,421

* Includes catch up payment of parish share from 2013

Background: 2017 was a pivotal year in our finances and as we look back we have much to give thanks for God for, and much to thank you for in your generosity of financial giving which empowers, enables and releases God's mission in this community. In May 2017 the Giving in Grace discipleship series looked at what it might mean to "take responsibility, give generously and have faith" when it comes to our finances and our response as a church was overwhelming, with an additional £9.5k pledged, including tax back on Gift Aid. This has enabled us to not only continue what we have been doing as we were facing a large deficit, but to invest in the future and to be more generous.

2017 was the third year we have produced a budget and each year has enabled us to build on the accuracy of our budgeting so that we have a much clearer picture of our finances. A summary of our actual income versus the budget is reproduced below, but it should be noted that this focuses purely on the day-to-day income and expenditure to "keep things going" and therefore major project-focused capital expenditure such as the new screen, the related grants, and the receipt of a generous legacy 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 which include all items such as the one-offs highlighted above.

2017 actuals versus budget: You will see that overall the budgeted deficit of £10,944 did not materialise and we ended the year with a slight surplus. This was unexpected and extremely encouraging, especially as it does not include a generous £10k legacy received. This position was due almost entirely to the income being more than budgeted. Pertinent highlights are as follows:

Income: Overall income was c. £11k greater than budgeted due to the following:

- Overall giving was up around £5.5k as the pledged gifts from Giving in Grace began to be offered towards the second half of the year, and also plate giving increased, including from Messy Church;
- Lettings were up £2.5k as we had budgeted conservatively given the uncertainty with the future of the library as we were concerned that we may lose this rental income if the library were to close;

- Gift Aid tax relief was £4k more than budgeted due to being able to claim more from general plate giving, and also timing of receipt of tax relief from the gift day in November 2016;

Expenditure: overall expenditure was on budget. Pertinent highlights are as follows:

- Spending on mission and evangelism was above budget as we increased our charitable giving;
- Spending on gas and electricity was £1k less than budget due to the mild winter which reduced gas heating costs, particularly at St Pauls.

Overall, our projected deficit did not materialise due to an increase in generous giving from Giving in Grace for which we give thanks. Our expenditure was on budget and demonstrates that we are getting increasingly more accurate in our financial planning reflecting good stewardship of our financial resources.

Budget for 2018

In February 2018, ECC set and agreed the budget for 2018 and a deficit of £2.5k was agreed. ECC stepped out in faith, looked to be generous in its giving, and took responsibility for contributing towards the cost of the ministry that is invested in Dorcan by being generous with our giving to the circuit assessment and Diocesan parish pledge. Pertinent numbers to highlight on the budget are as follows:

Income: Overall income projected to be above 2017 actuals by £5.5k, as follows:

- A full year's contribution from the pledges offered in the May 2017 Giving in Grace discipleship series, and related Gift Aid tax receipts;
- A modest increase in lettings as our lettings policy and charges are reviewed, and as bookings pick up post refurbishment.

Expenditure: Overall expenditure to increase by £8.5k. Many costs have been maintained broadly the same, with those increasing primarily as follows:

- Projected £3k increase across parish pledge and circuit assessment;

- Increase of £2k in working expenses and training, reflecting increase in expenses from additional full-time clergy member, recommended contribution to bi-/annual retreat for Ministry team, and increase in training opportunities across church family;
- Staff wages increase of £1k to fund more hours for administrators as our activities increase

Overall, we are therefore budgeting a deficit of £2.5k.

Financial Planning going forward

Giving in Grace was a helpful focus for us in our financial stewardship and has helped us move towards a firmer footing, whilst continuing to have faith, give generously and take responsibility. Going forward we need to build on that foundation, particularly as we still have a deficit budgeted for 2018 and also given our maintenance reserves have reduced considerably over the last couple of years following our planned and agreed expenditure on the heating and screen (see table below). Finance Committee and ECC are therefore highlighting the following areas going forward:

A yearly focus on financial giving: Each year in Spring/early summer we will be having a focused Gift Day to build on our major discipleship series of Giving in Grace. This is to invite us all to make an annual review our level of giving, and to offer any one-off gifts of thanks. Our Gift Day in 2018 is on April 22nd and we are all invited to consider a one-off gift, and also to review our giving, whether that be downwards, remain the same or to increase depending on our situation. Inflation has an annoying character of eroding the value of gifts over time and with a consumer price index rise of 2.74% over the last year (Feb17-Feb18), a weekly gift of £10 last year would effectively be worth the same spending power as £9.26 in real terms now. When that is reflected across all of our individual giving it means that a static income cannot keep up with our expenditure increases.

Letting income: We are reviewing and finalising our letting policy and charges, especially given the refurbishment at St Pauls' which offers a light, well decorated space. We are also currently negotiating a possible new substantial letting opportunity which will increase income, albeit that we may need to update our conferencing capacity with new equipment, technology and setting-up support.

Wish list: In 2013 we drew up an expenditure “wish list” as a church and we completed many of the projects on that list. We are looking at doing this again and as well as buildings and fixtures and fittings, this may also include considering spending on salaries to support us in our mission and outreach. This wish list will enable us to focus our spending and fund-raising, and also guide us to where we may wish to spend our generous £10k legacy.

God is generous and faithful to us and we have seen his financial provision to us over the years. We move forward in this assurance and as we challenge ourselves and continue in our financial stewardship of all that he has given us.

Tony Prichard and Revd Trudie Wigley