



All Saints Church, Clifton, Beds.

All Saints Church Clifton

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

13th March 2017

Rector: Reverend Caren Topley

Table of Contents

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners 13 th March 2017 at 7.45 pm	3
Election of Churchwardens	3
Annual Parochial Church Meeting 13 th March 2017 at 7:50 pm	3
Agenda	3
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 14 th March 2016.....	4
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 14 th March 2016.....	4
Reports for the Work of the Parish in 2016	10
Reader Report	10
Baptism Group	10
Bellringers	11
Bereavement Group.....	11
Choir and Church Music.....	12
Chronicles.....	13
Church Cleaning.....	13
Church Hall.....	14
Flowers.....	14
MAP	14
Messy Church	15
Missions Committee.....	16
Monday Craft and Chat	16
Mothers Union.....	16
Pastoral Support Team.....	17
Prayer Group.....	17
Refreshments Team	17
Safeguarding 2016-2017.....	17
Social Committee	18
Worship Committee.....	19
All Saints' Church Clifton Accounts 2016	20

All Saints Church Clifton

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners 13th March 2017 at 7.45 pm

Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 13th March 2017 at 7:50 pm

Agenda

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of 2016 APCM
4. Matters Arising
5. Election of 3 representatives to PCC
6. Election of 2 representatives to Deanery Synod
7. Consideration of the Electoral Roll
8. Election of Sides persons
9. Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC for 2016
10. Annual Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish
 - a. Accounts for 2016
 - b. Budget for 2017
11. Appointment of an Independent Examiner
12. Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
13. Deanery Synod Report
14. Adoption of MAP
15. Rector's Report
16. Any Other Business

If you have any questions arising from the Parish Reports, please raise them with the Secretary before the meeting.

There will be a short meeting of the new PCC, in the Sanctuary, after the main meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 14th March 2016

Two nominations for the office of Church Wardens had been received –Anne Sullivan and Margaret Cakebread. These persons were elected unanimously by the meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 14th March 2016

Anne Sullivan was in the Chair with 24 members present.

Prayers: Led by Anne Sullivan

Apologies: Kevin Gray, Eileen and Tony Tobitt, Keith and Mary Pledger, Sheila Collins, Roger and Jennifer Warburton

Minutes: The minutes of the 2015 APCM had been circulated in the Parish booklet produced prior to the meeting. These were agreed unanimously and duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: None

Election of 4 Members to PCC: There were three vacancies, each for a period of three years. Nominations were received for Jean Peacock, Dorothy Brown and Frank Rivett. Ruth Gray was elected for a period of 2 years.

Consideration of the Electoral Roll: There have been 4 additions to the roll since the last APCM, 2 of whom are a couple to be married here and are regular attendees at church and 2 who have moved into the village. 4 people have come off the list due to moving away or death. Therefore, the total remains at 99. Of these, 30 reside outside the village but qualify as regular church members. The chairman thanked Linda Dawes for her work with the Electoral Roll.

Election of Sides persons: A list of those acting as sides persons at the church services had been displayed on the notice board prior to the meeting. The names were read by the Chairman and all those listed elected unanimously by the meeting. A copy of the list is on file.

Secretary's Report: Philippa Whittington outlined the composition of the PCC and she thanked Jeanette Glennister, who has resigned from the PCC, for her continuing contribution to the young people within the church.

In the summer, Revd Anne took a 3 month period of study leave and we are very grateful for the support we received at this time from Robin, Paul and other members of the church enabling us to continue with our normal pattern of services. In October, Revd Anne announced that she was moving to the Peterborough Diocese and her last service was to be on Christmas Day. We wish her well in her new position and we are grateful that the wardens, Anne Sullivan and Marjorie Cakebread, have agreed to remain in position for the current year to oversee the vacancy.

The church continues its close links with Clifton All Saints Academy and this link continues to develop with children from the Academy singing at the Carol Service and Mothering Sunday. In July Simon Page-Browne and Charlotte Moncrieff both resigned their positions as PCC nominated governors due to pressure of work. We are pleased to welcome Katy Evans-Skinner to the Governors. There is still one PCC nominated vacancy on the governors and we would be pleased to talk to anyone who is interested.

In the last year PCC have held discussions on many topics and received periodic reports from some of our committees. This year, we held 2 extraordinary PCC meetings. In April, to discuss the funding available for a potential curate for 2016 and in February to discuss some issues raised

by Revd Anne's departure. Approved PCC minutes are available for viewing in the Resources area at the back of the church.

Our Fabric Committee, led by Anne Sullivan, do an excellent job in ensuring the fabric and ornaments of the Church are kept in good order. Some work and improvements require the Rector and Wardens to apply to the Diocese for a Faculty to allow the works to proceed and this has to be supported by a resolution from PCC. The internal decoration of the church has been on the agenda for a while. However, before this can be carried out, work is needed on both the roof and the drainage around the church. These are likely to be very expensive projects and the Treasurer has applied for grants towards the costs from the government and other sources.

Our committees and groups are working with quiet dedication to maintain and enhance the work of the church, both spiritually and socially. The committees are an extension of PCC and it is good to know that we can rely on their support. You do not need to be a member of PCC to join the committees so if you feel you could contribute to any of the committees please contact the persons listed in the booklet.

Messy Church continues to thrive and we are getting to know our regular families and we are also pleased to welcome new families. We are very grateful for the work that Ruth and Kevin Gray, Suzanne Stapleton and the other helpers contribute and we are also pleased that it is currently covering its costs.

I would like to express my personal thanks to all the members of PCC for their support during the year, to Anne Sullivan who answered the many questions I have asked during the year, for those who helped out taking minutes when necessary, and to Don Gray for printing the booklets for the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary for her work during the past year.

A full copy of the report is on file.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Frank Rivett, stated that the financial statements for 2015 had been displayed on the notice board prior to the meeting and a summary of these was included in the Parish booklet. There had been no questions arising from these.

I am pleased to report that over the last eighteen months we have moved financially from a situation I would describe as precarious to one of comparative strength.

The financial stewardship campaign held in the autumn of 2014 most certainly bore fruit, and together with good fundraising efforts over the year, we have seen a steady increase in our undesignated reserves from just £4,370 to £10,799.

For a parish like ours this is an ideal level; it provides for the ups and downs in giving caused by; changes in personal circumstance, people moving away to a new parish, or by loss through death.

It also allows for variations in fund-raising, which is never the same year on year. This year is a prime example, where much of our Social Committee effort is being directed towards celebrating the 90th birthday of our Queen. "Her Big Birthday" is a village wide event aimed at bringing the whole community together in celebration, and the church will play a central role. It quite rightly has taken precedence as "the summer event". The estimate for income from fundraising is therefore lower this year.

The reserves also provide the buffer for variations in cash flow. Regular giving may be weekly, monthly, or annual; amounts raised from Fund-Raising events are unpredictable; while bills for heat and light vary by season; parish share is paid on a regular monthly basis; Gift Aid tax is reclaimed quarterly, etc., etc.

As I hope you can see, maintaining the right level of reserves is a good thing, but at the same time we should not look to accumulate funds for no purpose; and as our reserves are now adequate we should be looking to use any further surplus for purposes appropriate to the mission of the church.

It should be noted that the PCC decided earlier this year to make the Chronicles Fund “Restricted” rather than simply “Designated”. It was recognised that whilst maintaining a strong church influence, the Chronicles is now more a community publication than a church magazine, and its funds should be protected as much as possible.

Its reserves may seem quite high, but the printer is around 8 years old and will need replacing in the not too distant future at a likely cost of around £10,000. The old one has done pretty well, a rough calculation sees it having printed roughly 2 million pages over those 8 years!

While the summary only reflects year end balances, it should be noted that the full accounts detail grants received from the Parish Council in support of the Churchyard, Chronicles, and the web site for which we are grateful.

The Repair and Restoration Charity Fund has a balance of £63,201. This fund is of course, the Friends of Clifton Parish Church. From this balance the trust has agreed an initial grant of £40,000 to the PCC towards the repair of the church roof & rainwater drainage. Once the repairs are complete there will be additional costs for plasterwork and redecoration, so it is wise not to commit all its funds initially. Leaving others to describe the actual work involved in the repairs, our estimate of the total cost stands at almost £127,000.

With the grant from Friends plus a grant from the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust of £6,000, plus the VAT that we can recover, we currently have approximately £67,000 in place. We have applied to the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund for a grant of £58,600, which would leave a shortfall of around £1,400 to be met from our Restricted Repairs Fund. We will not know the outcome of the grant application until 28th June, and it is quite difficult looking elsewhere for grants in the interim, as organisations are reluctant to commit while we have other irons in the fire.

The estimates on page 22 forecast a surplus of just over £3,000 for 2016. Estimates are often wrong, but hopefully we may achieve these figures.

My thanks to all who have helped over the year; Sue Welsford with grant applications, Barry Livesey with payment authorisations, and John and Ann Good for their sterling work in recording and banking the weekly collections and envelopes. After more years than most would care to reflect on they have decided hang up their boots, so I think a special thank you is due. Leslie Leete has kindly offered to take the job on. Frank Rivett proposed that the accounts be accepted; this was seconded by Ray Watson and agreed unanimously by the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report and his work over the past year.

A full copy of the report is on file.

Appointment of an Independent Examiner: Frank Rivett proposed that Nico Rodenberg be appointed. This was seconded by Don Killick and agreed by the meeting with 1 abstention.

Church Wardens Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church:

Anne Sullivan as the chair of the Fabric Committee reported that fortunately there is very little to report in terms of new issues arising during the last year. One of the gargoyles at the top of the tower is blocking regularly and during heavy rain cannot drain the roof effectively. The water level can rise above the flashing and leak into the church – at its worst the water has reached as far down as the Rood Screen. Our architect has suggested a relatively easy fix but, unfortunately, the Diocesan Advisory Committee don't like the idea so we need to look at other possible solutions.

The situation with the roof appears not to have changed much over the last year. Although we have had the odd incursion of water during heavy rain it has not been a regular occurrence so we are hopeful that the repairs will wait a while longer until more grants have been obtained to cover the expected cost. Our application to the Government funded 'Listed Places of Worship Scheme' was turned down last year because we were unable to prove the urgency of the work; a further application is being submitted this year and we are hopeful that we will be successful. With the support of the Friends of Clifton Church and the help of a few smaller grants we are optimistic that we will soon be able to start obtaining full quotations and applying for Faculties. The work to replace the drainage is also waiting for the availability of funding.

The annual Spring Churchyard working party was again well supported with lots of hard work leaving the area in good shape for the year; a later internal maintenance day in September was not as well supported but resulted in the floors, carpets and tiles getting a really good clean and the kneelers a freshen-up. It would be remiss of me if I did not thank Marjorie and Stephen for attempting to clear the soakaways – not a nice job and one which provides minimal improvement in their efficiency.

We are also seeking more helpers for the regular cleaning in the church (please see Jane Pavey) and the grass-cutting rota for the front churchyard (please see Peter Blackmore).

I would like to thank the Fabric Committee and the warden team for their support and everyone who assists in any way with the upkeep of the grounds, fabric and contents of the church.

Anne Sullivan
Church Warden

Deanery Synod Report:

Jane Pavey reported:

Keith Pledger and I were your PCC representatives on the Deanery of Ampthill and Shefford. The Deanery is now a fairly large Deanery consisting of 35 Parishes and covers the area from Arlesey/Astwick to Woburn/Woburn Sands. The Rural Dean is Canon Lynda Klimas who is also the Vicar of Maulden.

There are three meetings per year: March, June, and October at which representatives of the Parishes meet and discuss the issues that are raised, the agenda being formed from issues raised by the clergy and the lay members of the group.

There have been a number of changes to the clergy in the Deanery and there is a settling down period. In the current year we have welcomed the Rev Lucy Davies to Flitwick and Rev David Bull to Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton and there are the vacancies at Clifton and Southall and Henlow and Langford with the Rev Anne Hindle and Cannon Sue Groom moving on.

The guest speaker at the March meeting was Bishop Richard – Making new Disciples. He divided his talk into 5 headings: Divided, Invitation, Witness, Nurture and Prayer.

At the June meeting the speaker was Rev Sarah Burrow who spoke on Spirituality and brought to the group aids and resources and reading matter.

At the October meeting the speakers were from the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charities and spoke on their broad range of activities and brought samples from the Warden Abbey Vineyard.

After the talk the business meeting takes place and the issues of the day are discussed and reports from the Deanery groups are given: Rural Dean, Treasurer, Pastoral Committee, and Diocesan Synod Report.

Reports from the Parishes are given at every meeting. Clifton gave their report at the October meeting and we showed the video on the Messy Church.

There have been a number of Deanery events this year: the Deanery walk and talk in April and another in the planning. Open Churches in September. Choral evensong at Ampthill in November and another planned for 15th May at Shillington. The Lent Courses to be led by Bishop Richard at, Flitwick, Silsoe, Barton, Shefford, and Flitton on Tuesday nights.

It is interesting to attend the meetings and to become aware of what happens in the other Parishes and the issues they also have to face.

The Chairman thanked Jane and Keith for their work on the Deanery Synod.

A copy of the full report is on file.

Adoption of the MAP

The Chairman reported that the latest version of the MAP had been available in the resources area for a period of 2 weeks prior to the meeting. There were no questions but the Secretary outlined the basic features of the MAP. Jean Peacock felt it was very comprehensive and will be useful when looking for a new incumbent. Anne Sullivan said that the MAP was a very important part of the selection process and thanked the MAP team for this work on this, which as it is a living document is ongoing. Sue Welsford proposed the adoption of the MAP which was seconded by Dorothy Brown, put to the meeting and carried.

Chairman's Report:

We were all shocked when Revd. Anne announced that she would be leaving the parish at the end of 2015. During her four and a bit years as our Rector she established the Bereavement Group, the Pastoral Support Group and the Monday Craft and Chat sessions. It was with her encouragement and the support of PCC that Ruth and Suzanne embarked on the journey to open Messy Church in the village and we know that she touched the lives of many in the parish at times of sorrow and joy.

Many of you will be aware that in early February the wardens of both Clifton and Southill were called to meet with the Archdeacon of Bedford. The outcome of this meeting, and the events leading to it, were shared at an open meeting of PCC on 29th February. A few members of the congregation attended and the discussions were minuted. PCC resolved to move forwards in faith to the appointment of a new Rector in due course.

The vacancy process begins on Thursday 14th April with a meeting between the wardens and PCCs of both parishes together with the Bishop of Bedford, the Archdeacon of Bedford, the Rural Dean and Mr. Charles Whitbread (Patron of Southill) to discuss the timetable for the appointment process, the job description for the incoming Rector and the needs and desires of the benefice.

During the vacancy the wardens will endeavour, as far as possible, to keep the regular pattern of worship with the support of Rev. Paul, Rev. Caren and Robin and other clergy and readers from the diocese.

Thank you to all who have taken on additional tasks during the vacancy and to those who continue to work in support of the parish – your assistance is much appreciated and helps to spread the additional burden of the wardens during a vacancy.

Anne Sullivan
Church Warden

Any Other Business:

- Jane Cooper asked about the information requested in the “Your view” initiative. Anne Sullivan told the meeting that this would be reviewed by the PCC in April as part of the person specification for the Rector. She thanked everyone who had taken part in this.
- Arthur Clarke wished to record the appreciation of the work that Joan Dann did for the Church Hall and the Community. She will be sadly missed.
- Val Brace thanked Anne Sullivan for the work that she has done during the recent difficult time within the parish.

The chairman thanked Chris and Don Killick for providing refreshments after the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm with the Grace.

Reports for the Work of the Parish in 2016

Reader Report

2016 was another very busy year. Not surprisingly, the vacancy generated demands that meant that for another period I had to exceed the level of commitment agreed between the Benefice and me in my Statement of Arrangements. However, the astonishingly generous and considerable input of Reverends Paul and Caren coupled with significant contributions of visiting Clergy along with some of my fellow Readers, most particularly Dr Robert Johns, meant burdens were shared and the vacancy was managed very successfully under the calm coordinating hands of our Wardens.

I was also able to do something new for me. A group from Southill Church who had been very recently Confirmed were keen to continue the pattern established in their Confirmation Classes and meet to further explore aspects of their faith. We used three modules of the excellent Pilgrim Course - The Lord's Prayer, The Beatitudes, and the Creeds. Each module comprised six sessions. I did my best to facilitate the sessions; but in all honesty this was a very simple task. The group were very keen to share their thoughts, many of which I found profoundly insightful. I don't know about the rest of the group - but I learned so much from them. I think the whole thing worked well, because everyone who started stayed with the programme.

I also had to do new things in my professional work, as my role subtly changed. Those changes have meant I have had to spend more time working in other offices and staying away from home slightly more frequently. A benefit of this has meant that I get to meet new people and develop relationships with them. It's interesting where conversations can lead.

A highlight of the year was joining with Readers from Norwich, Peterborough, Chelmsford and our Diocese at Ely for a day of celebration of 150 years of Reader Ministry. As well as sharing in the afternoon in a wonderful service in the Cathedral, in the morning we listened to some talks from some first class speakers. The ones I attended focused on working with elder people, particularly via chaplaincy, and on pioneering ministry. Throughout the day I was very much reminded that the role of a Reader is to help people engage with the Gospel. That is to be done via various mechanisms, including formal and informal chaplaincy, working with different ways of being and doing church, as well as preaching in more traditional worship settings.

It was particularly nice that this year I was not our Benefice's only representative at this Reader event. I was joined by Ruth Gray, our Reader in training. I cannot express how great it has been to see Ruth respond to God's call to train for this ministry and watch how energetically and enthusiastically she has embraced the programme. Listening to her preach the other week was a true and tremendous joy. I am sure we all hold Ruth in our prayers as she delicately juggles the demands of training with those of her family and professional life.

Of course, along with Ruth, its been terrific to see others in our Parish respond to God's nudges to explore developing their ministries. Kathy Blackmore is now a licensed Lay Leader of Worship (LLW), and Ryan Parker and Anne Sullivan are both progressing well with their LLW training. This will very shortly make us one of the very best ministerially endowed Benefices in the Deanery. I am pleased and priveleged to be part of our expanding and exceptionally well resourced ministry team as we serve our communities under Reverend Caren's leadership.

Robin

Baptism Group

This was a difficult year as for most of the year we had no priest due to the interregnum. Most of the Baptisms were scheduled for 2pm and we found it very difficult to find a priest willing to

officiate at this time. We breathed a sigh of relief when the Rev Caren was installed in September!

But there were twelve Baptisms in this period 11 children and 1 adult.

Most parents prefer an afternoon Baptism service – although we have not ruled out some ‘Communion with Baptism’ services at 10.30 am. However, we are putting the time of the afternoon service forward from 2 pm. to 12.15 pm. We hope this will have the double benefit of allowing early Baptism visitors to access the Church, meet people and have a coffee before the service and get some awareness – if they wish - of what ‘Messy Church’ does.

Our little group is stable – I coordinator and 4 Baptism visitors.

Colin Brown.

Bellringers

We rang for most Sunday services and festivals throughout the year, sometimes with only six bells but generally with eight.

Philippa, Frank, Jim and Sue are now teaching three girls after school on Wednesday afternoons. Josie, Cara and Izzy are all doing well. They started after trying ringing on the mobile ring of bells in Church Street organised for the Queen's Birthday celebrations.

On August Bank Holiday Monday we had our annual outing, this year again to Northamptonshire. 35 bell ringers, spouses and friends journeyed to Roade, a six bell tower, and then to another six, Gayton. After ringing there we went to Blisworth, another six and a short walk to The Royal Oak where lunch had been pre- booked in the Acorn Room. We then made our way South to the five bell towers of Ashton and Grafton Regis before finishing at Cosgrove, another six. In contrast to our two previous outings which were very wet, the weather was sunny and warm. The villages were quiet and scenic and the churches full of history. The day was rounded off with a BBQ in Peter and Kathy's garden with Jim and Peter cooking as usual.

There were eight quarter peals rung during the year. Two peals were rung. On August 5th, a peal was rung to celebrate the Golden Weddings of Barry and Pauline Livesey and Ken and Elyda Smith and a champagne party was held in the churchyard afterwards and on March 5th a peal was rung as a 65th birthday compliment to Sue Silver. We were also asked to ring for Golden Wedding Anniversaries, on August 13th at midday for John and Yvonne Fenwick and on October 16th for Brian and Jane Earing.

Visiting ringers came from Norton, the Golden Oldies and a team from Hertfordshire.

In January, Philippa organised a dinner in the Church Hall. This was the first for some years. 30 ringers and friends came and the catering was first class. Peter organised a quiz and Jim ran the bar. Congratulations and thanks to Philippa for a lovely evening.

Congratulations to Nick Brown who rang a peal at St Paul's Cathedral, City of London on September 3rd to mark 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London and the destruction of the old St. Paul's. Nick also rang the tenor, single-handed, at Liverpool Cathedral, the heaviest ringing bell in the country (84 cwt) to a peal. He is the youngest person (25) to ring the “big four” (Exeter, St. Paul's, York Minster and Liverpool).

Stan Ashton, Tower Captain

Bereavement Group

We are a small group with a specific responsibility for bereaved members of the congregation and the Parish. There are 5 of us in the group which is led by the Rev Caren. It has been a year when we have not had many funerals, but each has been a personal tragedy to the family concerned. We continued in the interregnum with the pattern of visiting bereaved families however with the Diocese insisting that all members must be DBS checked for security reasons we are unable to visit any bereaved families in an official capacity and can only do so as a friend.

We held the memory tree at Christmas and it was appreciated by many families who remembered a loved one and not just recently bereaved. We also had a very successful All Souls Service where many attended.

Should you wish to know more about our group or know of someone who would like a visit please talk to the Rev. Caren.

Jane Pavey
Member of Bereavement Group.

Choir and Church Music

This year has been an industrious one for the choir. It has maintained its musical leadership at the main services and has also presented music for special occasions. As well as singing at the morning service each week, it now sings at Evensong three times a month. Although this service is disappearing in many churches, it is good that Clifton is maintaining the tradition. It is a particularly beautiful service which provides a reflective start to the new week. Occasionally the choir provides a full Choral Evensong and often sings an anthem. If you don't come to Evensong, why not pop along; you will be most welcome.

For the last Palm Sunday evening service, we led the worship in a service of readings and music. For 2017 we are presenting 'The Way of the Cross', which is a devotion published by the Royal School of Church Music. For Christmas, we have two special services - one for Advent and the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which uses the same format as that at Kings College, Cambridge. We are grateful to extra singers who join us for these occasions.

The choir rehearses on most Thursdays during term time. It is continually tackling new music, not only to refresh the music, but also to keep us on our toes - we like a challenge! However, a more pressing challenge is that of recruitment. Our choir members are loyal and dedicated, but they are relatively few in numbers. In order to sustain our work, we desperately seek new members, especially sopranos and altos. If you might be interested in singing with us, or you know anyone who is a singer, do speak to one of our choir members who can tell you what it's all about. And new singers are always warmly welcomed.

Clifton is fortunate to have a choir and I know that the church really appreciates what they do. However, there are churches around where the choir has disappeared. Worryingly, if we cannot recruit more singers, we could be in that situation. So if you help us by finding more singers, please let us know.

We are sincerely thankful to all members of the team - our singers and our organists. We are particularly grateful to Peter Maundrell who has been a pillar of strength, both in administering the rota of organists and in playing and singing himself. We are also grateful to Peter Twitchin, Bill Fudge and Susan Sims who also help out. (In fact we are very fortunate to have so many organists who are able to play.)

Currently we have a vacancy for a substantive organist and choir director. Our current arrangements are not permanent and, as I write this report, future provision is being reviewed.

The only reason we have music in the church is to enhance our worship and help us to express our feelings about God. That is why it is important, not only to use the best music in a variety of styles, but also to maintain the highest standards that we can achieve. This is our mission for the future year.

John Witchell
Acting Choir Director

Chronicles

It has been another successful year for the Clifton Chronicles produced and delivered each month by a team of 40+ people. Quick sums suggest that we have delivered about 16,000 copies of the Clifton Chronicles to door mats throughout the village in the last year.

This year has seen the continuation of steady growth in circulation which I reported on last year and we are just about to increase to 1475 copies per month. With the building of new houses unlikely to be halted in the next year or two I wonder just how many Chronicles we will be delivering at this time next year and beyond.

Our print machine had been playing up early in the year and we jumped at the chance to purchase a more up-to-date, reconditioned machine with the same functionality as our old printer. This was a good buy and gives us assured continuity should the old printer finally give up the ghost.

We anticipate that consumables will have significant price rises in the coming year and this coupled with increasing circulation will increase our outgoings, we will have to be vigilant during the year to assess the impact of these changes. We have however decided to maintain our advertising rates again which helps the small and micro businesses which find the Chronicles is the main driver in demand for their services. The Clifton Facebook page has grown in popularity and use over the last year and some businesses are advertising on there and, with the continued march of this and other electronic media, we are aware that we may have to work hard to keep hold of our advertisers in this more traditional communication medium.

There is again no change to the Chronicles team: Kathy Blackmore is our editor, link with all contributors and general coordinator for the team; Don Gray is our main link with advertisers and our printer in chief; John Good organises our happy band of collators and liaises with our distributors; Sue Welsford continues to be our Treasurer; Peter Blackmore manages advertising revenue and Don Killick continues to order and maintain supplies of consumables. Thanks to all of them for their continued support. We have been pleased to welcome new members on the collation and delivery teams and these teams work especially hard to keep pace with the increased circulation.

We hope that you will all continue to support us so that we can continue to benefit advertisers, organisations and readers throughout our community.

Kathy Blackmore
chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk

Church Cleaning

First of all, I would like to thank all those who have given their time this year to keeping our church so beautiful over the past year. There is a dedicated team of 16 who do a sterling job but your turn does come round every 8 weeks. It is a pleasure to see the church looking so neat and tidy. We will be doing a special clean on the 24/25 March the week after the APCM and you are all welcome to come and give a hand to make our church even better and to the glory of our worship. There are 100 members on our electoral roll and if each of you were to give an hour dedicated to the cleaning of our church that would only make your turn come round once per year.

We have been given a new "Henry" by the Community Care Team who now use our church on a Wednesday.

We will soldier on but we do need to think of new ways to continue to keep this wonderful building a place that we are pleased to worship God.

Jane Pavey
01462 813179

Church Hall

The Church Hall continues to provide an excellent facility for the community with it being hired on virtually every weekday evening as well as parts of the day. Our users cover a wide age range from Baptism parties and Messy Church through dancing, yoga and martial arts classes for old and young. In addition, the Hall is used by W.I, Mothers Union, Church events, private parties and the Village Street Party.

This level of use and savings in our running costs enabled us to make further improvements in facilities and still make a small financial surplus. The reduction in running costs came from changing our gas and electricity contracts to 3 year fixed price contracts and thus saving some £850.

Improvements included new tables and tablecloths as well as much more comfortable chairs. These have proved to be most popular with users. We also fitted a second-hand patio door in the store room. Many, many thanks to the Gray family for donating this door.

Our closing funds have improved by £400 to £7,307 which gives us scope for further enhancements to the Hall facilities in 2017.

We must pay tribute to Bob Anderson who continues to keep the whole premises immaculately clean and tidy.

In last year's report we thanked our long serving Treasurer, Joan Dann, who had decided to resign because of her continuing ill health. Sadly Joan died early in 2016 and the Committee decided to send a donation to Pancreatic Research in her memory. Joan looked after our finances for more years than most of us can remember and we are all most grateful for the wonderful service she gave. We will miss her.

Arthur Clarke

Flowers

Yet again our team of arrangers have done a wonderful job of decorating our church on a fortnightly rota. Our team continues to decrease, we now have 13 arrangers, only 4 of these are regularly able to help with extra flower decorations for weddings and special events.

It has been a busy year with about a dozen weddings on top of usual weekly services, with extra flowers for mothering Sunday, Easter, harvest, remembrance, and Christmas. When there are only a few arrangers available it can be hard work and we may have to limit the arrangements, we do in future. Anyone interested in joining the team would be most welcome. On a positive note the many weddings have given us some lovely displays to enjoy and a welcome boost to the flower fund so along with generous congregation donations our bank balance remains healthy.

We enjoyed taking part in the Queens 90th Birthday celebrations on 12th June with a Floral decoration competition with 5 adult entries, 2 child and 1 teen entry, showing imaginative interpretations of our queen's life, activities, and interests. This event was well received so we hope to run a similar competition on a different theme in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank all the arrangers for their hard work, generosity, support, and enthusiasm.

Suzanne Stapleton

MAP

During a Vacancy a Parish is required to focus entirely on maintaining the pattern of worship and work established by the previous incumbent. No new initiatives are to be explored or implemented, and no active initiatives are to be stopped or cancelled. Recognising that this

"steady as you go" pattern was to be the order of the day, at the start of 2016 the MAP team took advice from the Diocese as to what this might mean for us and our MAP. That advice was that we should not look to develop or simplify our MAP in any way, but should record on it those performance metrics we could that would show how we were progressing with its previously established initiatives and areas of focus. So we did. But doing so did not take that long, and meant that the MAP team met only once during the year.

I am grateful to my fellow MAPpers for the fine work they did over the preceding two years in getting the All Saints Clifton MAP to its current fine fettle. They were Reverend Anne, Jane Pavey, Ruth Gray, Kathy Blackmore and Anthony Grant.

I was able to briefly join a small working group set up by the Deanery Pastoral Committee to develop the next iteration of the Deanery MAP. I provided input to as best I could. If nothing else, it meant I was able to develop a relationship with Rev. Nigel Washington - an excellent chap.

It has been excellent to see Reverend Caren as our new Rector continue the pattern set by Reverend Anne and embrace the concept of MAP so wholeheartedly. Together with Ruth Gray, Reverend Caren has attended a Diocesan MAP training event, and has subsequently organised a half day meeting on the afternoon of 1st April about MAP for the Churchwardens of both Clifton and Southill. I have been invited to attend and look forward to seeing the way the MAPs of the two Parishes will now evolve to focus on their differing and common needs.

Robin Welsford

Messy Church

We continue to thank God for our Messy Church and all that He does to work through our team in reaching out to our families every month. We have 34 helpers on our Messy Church team and this year we have welcomed new members from the Clifton congregation (Linda Patch, Rose Bidnell, Lesley Burton and Dana Tipper), from the Southill Congregation (Liz and Colin McCartney) and from Campton we had Linda Garton helping. We were sad to lose the loving help of Jeanette Glenister who has been with us on the Messy Church journey from the start and who has now left our Church. Celia Froy and Anthony Grant also left our rota this year. We thank them all for their contribution.

We are full of gratitude for our team who month after month come into Messy Church, making and sharing activities, serving refreshments and lunches, organising the worship, welcoming families as they come to Messy Church and being a caring listening ear for all that is happening in their lives. We continue to pray for our team that their faith may grow through Messy Church and that they may reach out and disciple others as Jesus sends us out to grow the Kingdom of God.

Our congregation is growing. We regularly have attendance of between 40-50 people and in our busiest months (Good Friday, September, December, and January) we have attendance of 60-70+. We are planning effectively for our busy months; having more helpers, more lunch and more activities on offer. Somehow by miraculous planning and prayer our activities and lunches never run out. Our team are meticulous in their planning and always remain calm! They are amazing. We have welcomed 37 new families this year and interestingly we are getting more families with young children, some from the new estate in New Road. We have been able to introduce them to each other too.

We have grown to know our families more over the last year. We are beginning to walk with them on their life journey, celebrating with them when new babies are born or when they have birthdays and anniversaries, supporting them when they have lost loved ones, and caring for them when their life's direction isn't as they expected. We pray that we are making a difference to them in their lives and that we are offering them the chance to know our love and the love of God. We have one or two families who have expressed an interest in baptism as a result of coming to Messy Church. This is a wonderful step forward.

We held a workshop for our helpers in October and welcomed Revd Caren to our planning team. The workshop was attended by 24 helpers and kindly hosted by Felicity Kendall in her barn.

There had been some concern about whether Messy Church is “proper Church” and whether it is supported by the Church of England. We spent the morning working on the Living God’s Love prayer and seeing how Messy Church is fulfilling the Diocesan mission. We concluded that it was at the heart of mission and that we were doing a good job after all!

We would like to thank Revd Caren and Robin for all their ministerial support in Messy Church and we look forward to celebrating our third birthday in March.

To those who help at, and/or pray for our Messy Church, thank you so much. We truly appreciate all your love, care and support.

Ruth Gray

Missions Committee

The PCC allocated £1,100 and in addition we had £60 carried over from 2015 plus our historic reserve of £122. As usual we opted to make local, national and international donations.

International.

We were minded to support Christchurch Diocese New Zealand , it still suffering from the effects of the 2010 earthquake but as it was mired in controversy as to whether to rebuild the cathedral to the original specification or a new design we opted instead to send £400 to the Ecuador Earthquake appeal.

National.

We ran a cake stall on Easter Sunday and sent the proceeds of £124 plus £276 to Macmillan Cancer Support. A second, not so successful cake stall in October raised £74.60 and this money was sent with a top up of £175.40 to MIND it being Mental Health Day.

Local.

If Camphill Village Trust Aldenham was a little closer we would have been interested in going to the Open Day in June but made a donation of £250.

The speaker arranged from Jackie’s Drop in Centre Letchworth unfortunately had to cancel but is willing to come in 2017.

All the thank you letters were displayed in the porch. We carry over to 2017 £80.60p.

We visited Emmaus and the Panacea Museum in Bedford and also in Bedford continued to support the Prebend Street Day Centre with underwear and the harvest gifts.

My thanks to all our committee members and supporters.

Marjorie Cakebread

Monday Craft and Chat

Attendance remains good with mostly original members. We have various talents ranging from knitting, embroidery, and patchwork to lace making. It is good to see the various skills but, the main benefit is bringing another Social time to members and non members of our congregation. Friendships have developed bringing confidence and pleasure.

Chris Killick

Mothers Union

This has been the second year we have been Diocesan Members instead of a Branch of Clifton Church. We still meet in the Church Hall on the third Tuesday of the month. Throughout the year we have had some very interesting speakers.

The subjects for the speakers were, “In the footsteps of Livingstone”, “The Elegant Art of Table Napkin Folding”, “Jane’s Travels”, “Signing with Children”, and “Music and Readings”.

We held a coffee morning in aid of the Church funds and Mothers’ Union Charity. We continue to provide Birthday Cards to all the people at Wren Park, Mother’s Day Cards to the Congregation and ‘little teddies’ for Baptism children. This year at our Christmas Celebration we collected items for the women at Yarl’s Wood, they requested exercise books/notebooks, pens, pencils art

materials and any off-cuts of various fabrics. We continue to provide the tea and coffee after the Wednesday morning service in Church.

The programme is full for 2017. Our thanks to Clifton Church for all their continued support.

Betsy Gray, Group Contact

Pastoral Support Team

The team last met with Rev'd Anne in November 2015 and has not met during the interregnum. However, individual members have stayed in touch with those for whom they have particular care and Rev Caren is now making all the pastoral visits.

Sheila and Kathy continued to visit Wren Park on the last Thursday of each month to take communion, usually with 10 - 12 communicants. Rev Caren has also celebrated communion with the residents and it is likely that either Sheila or Kathy will be at Wren Park each month alongside Rev Caren.

Jane and Sheila have continued to provide specific home communions on an individual basis and there have been no further home communion requests since Rev Caren was installed.

The popular lunches have continued; organised for members of the Friendship Circle and also for those attending Monday's Craft and Chat.

At a recent Safeguarding training session, Rev Caren was told that everyone involved in pastoral visits and giving communion, either at home or at Wren Park, needs to be DBS checked. Once all the DBS checks have been carried out and the new MAP is in place, Rev Caren will decide upon the future role of this group.

Pat Wisby

Prayer Group

We continue to meet on the third Monday of each month our meetings usually start with a reading followed by a time of silence when we can be open to hear God. This is followed by prayer and the evening ends with tea/coffee. It is always a quiet, restful evening but it does exercise your thoughts about what we have heard.

The group pray daily for a number of people, who have asked for prayer support when sickness or problems arise, whether it is needed for a week or for years. Anyone who is interested in joining, or wanting prayer should speak to Caren.

Sheila Collins.

Refreshments Team

I am pleased to say that all is well with the Sunday morning refreshments. There are no marked changes – we continue to enjoy a social time with 'celebration cakes' on occasions and find it a good opportunity to make new and visiting members of the congregation welcome.

Chris Killick.

Safeguarding 2016-2017

Issues around safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults continue to develop in the Church of England and important changes and new requirements are being implemented in by Clifton PCC in response to directives from St Albans Diocese.

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Jane Cooper was re-elected as Clifton's Parish Safeguarding Officer following the APCM in 2016 and is working with PCC to implement the new requirements.

Clifton Safeguarding Policy: Our Clifton policies on Child Protection and Protecting Vulnerable Adults have been amalgamated into a single new Safeguarding Policy which incorporates the new requirements. A copy of the policy is displayed on the noticeboard in church.

Training: A focus for the Church of England is raising awareness of its policies and practice guidance in the church community with an emphasis on those holding positions of responsibility and those working directly with children and vulnerable adults. The Rector and Parish Safeguarding Officer have attended deanery safeguarding training to raise their awareness of safeguarding matters. The Rector is scheduled to attend a more detailed event for ordained people. On-line training is being developed by St Albans diocese for PCC members.

Criminal Record Checks (DBS or disclosure and barring service checks): PCC has reviewed the DBS checks currently in place in Clifton and done a gap analysis vs the new requirements to identify additional DBS checks that need to be carried out. Checks are in place or in progress for all clergy and lay people regularly officiating at services in Clifton and we are checking that visiting clergy "are in good standing" before they minister on an occasional basis. All volunteers involved with childrens' activities requiring a DBS check are in place (3 new checks have been carried out this year). All volunteers involved with work which involved adults who may be vulnerable have been DBS checked or a check is in progress (3 new checks being carried out this year).

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Jane Cooper

Social Committee

Our year began with the Pre Lent supper on a Burns night theme. This was well supported although we were unable to find a speaker or entertainment. In May, the Christian Aid quiz was held at the school. Stephen and Marjorie produced another interesting and challenging quiz and we are grateful to the school for accommodating us when we discovered someone else had beaten us to the church hall booking.

The big event this year in the village was the Queen's 90th birthday celebration held on 12th June. Members of social committee played significant roles on the cross village organising committee. In addition, we organised the flower displays in church, teas in the churchyard, the service of celebration in collaboration with the school and bell-ringers provided the Charnborough Ring. We were joined in this venture by groups throughout the village and due to the generosity of the Parish Council, the schools, young peoples' groups, church, Lions, Golden Lion, CIPS and Residents Association, we were able to offer all the entertainment free. There was concern at the beginning of the day when the heavens opened just as the service was starting but we moved into the church and by the time the service had finished, the sun had come out. We would like to thank everyone who helped with this event which was a real village celebration.

In September, we celebrated Education Sunday with the Craft and Produce show, a treasure hunt and teas held in the church hall courtyard. We were also pleased to organise refreshments for the Installation service for Revd Caren later that month.

Harvest lunch was held at the beginning of October and this year we held a bring and share lunch which raised money for the Bishop's Harvest appeal. The following week, Peter Topley gave a very interesting talk about his trip to the Galapagos Islands. To accompany this we served paella and other tapas.

We concluded the year with the joint Christmas Fair with the school. During the year we helped raised nearly £3000 towards church funds as well as money for Christian Aid and the Bishops Harvest Appeal.

The Social Committee would not be able to hold these events without the help of a large number of "people behind the scenes". We would like to thank all those who support the committee in running these events including Jim Peacock who always runs a good bar and the family members of the committee who quietly work alongside us.

Philippa Whittington

On behalf of the social committee members : Kathy Blackmore , Julie-Anne Clark, Kevin Gray, Suzanne Stapleton, Rachel Stevenson, Sue Welsford and Jean Wyer

Worship Committee

The role of the Worship Committee is to act as a link between the congregation and the Rector and Ministry Team, offering feedback on past services and support for future services.

The committee has reviewed services held on special occasions e.g. Harvest, Mothering Sunday, Remembrance and other major festivals and has received information about future services. A list of services when a collection is appropriate has been drawn up to increase our much needed income.

The committee continued to meet during the interregnum when a Church Warden was present in place of the Rector. The new pattern of worship has been considered including the joint services with Southill. For many years Arthur Clarke has produced the Pew Sheet and has written and updated the Service booklets. Thank you to Arthur for all his hard work and particularly for maintaining the continuity during the interregnum. The committee has discussed issues relating to music in the Church and the choosing of hymns which is currently carried out by members of the congregation in conjunction with the Rector and Reader. This has been organised by Linda Dawes, thank you very much to Linda.

The responsibility for the format and content of services in our Church lies with the Rector and the Ministry Team but feedback from the congregation is welcomed. Please talk to members of the Ministry Team and the Worship Committee listed below.

The Rector, Robin Welsford, Roger Warburton, Kathy Blackmore, Linda Dawes, Jane Pavey, Jean Peacock.

All Saints' Church Clifton Accounts 2016

The following pages contain an abridged version of the PCC accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016, together with a projection of income and expenditure for 2017. A full copy of the accounts as approved by the independent examiner has been on display at the church for three weeks prior to the annual meeting, and individual copies are available on application to the PCC Treasurer.

UNRESTRICTED UNDESIGNATED FUNDS AT 31st DECEMBER 2016

INCOMING RESOURCES	2016 £	Previous Year £
Planned giving	29,624	30,344
Collections at all services	4,671	3,742
Donations	622	1,608
Income Tax recoverable	8,227	8,428
Fund Raising (net of costs)	2,913	5,853
Income from investments	14	17
Fees Income	7,701	4,379
Grants from other bodies	244	100
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	54,016	54,471

RESOURCES EXPENDED	2016 £	Previous Year £
Mission Giving	1,694	1,100
Church School	605	400
Parish Share - to Diocese	34,857	35,813
Clergy Costs & Rector's Expenses	1,343	844
Church running expenses	6,365	5,540
Cost of generating voluntary income	38	37
Bank Charges	10	nil
Church Music	3,316	3,958
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	48,228	47,692

BALANCES	2016 £
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	5,788
BALANCE B/FWD 1st JANUARY 2016	10,799
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	
FROM Bell Fund for clock service	100
TO Chronicles Magazine	(250)
TO East Window Fund	(4,382)
BALANCE 31st DECEMBER	£12,055

TRADING ACTIVITIES, CHARITABLE GIVING, AND FUND RAISING

TRADING ACTIVITIES	HALL Designated	CHRONICLES Restricted	FAIR TRADE Designated
ORDINARY INCOME	11,449	4,920	275
INTEREST	nil	nil	nil
ORDINARY COSTS	(8,692)	(3,795)	(199)
SURPLUS IN YEAR	2,757	1,125	76
BALANCE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	6,907	9,323	171
FUND RAISING	336		
IMPROVEMENTS TO HALL	(2,693)		
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	7,307	10,448	247
INCLUDED VALUE OF DUPLICATOR AS ASSET		(2,200)	
NET FUNDS IN HAND AT YEAR END	7,307	8,248	247

MISSION & CHARITABLE GIVING	Undesignated	Designated	Total
Macmillan Cancer Support	200	300	500
Camphill Village Trust	250		250
Unicef for the Ecuador Appeal	400		400
MIND	250		250
Salvation Army	37		37
Bishops Harvest Appeal	261	266	527
British Legion	296		296
Christian Aid		312	312
Clifton All Saints Academy Governors	400		400
Bibles for School Children	205		205
TOTAL CHARITABLE GIVING	2,299	878	3,177
Acting as agents for:			
Christian Aid House Collection			386
Children's Society			619
TOTAL GIVING DURING THE YEAR			4,182

ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS	Gross	Costs	Net
UNRESTRICTED UNDESIGNATED			
Lent Supper	801	-308	493
Christmas Fayre	1,478	-169	1,309
Street Party	465		465
Craft & Produce Show	254	-132	122
Galapagos Talk	783	-259	524
UNRESTRICTED UNDESIGNATED TOTAL	3,781	-868	£2,913
DESIGNATED			
Christian Aid	408	-96	312
Mission Giving - Sale of Cakes	199		199
Harvest Lunch	337	-71	266
Church Hall MU Coffee Mornings	336		336
DESIGNATED TOTAL	1,280	-167	£1,113
TOTAL ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS	5,061	-1,035	£4,026

FUND BALANCES AT 31st DECEMBER 2016

RESTRICTED FUNDS	Balances at 31st December	
	2016 £	Prev Year £
Church Repairs & Improvements	4,316	3,357
Flower Fund	490	288
Fabric & Kneeler Fund	300	229
Messy Church	1,045	913
Bells & Belfry Fund	1,444	1,914
Churchyard	22	1,988
Chronicles Magazine	10,448	9,323
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	18,065	18,012

DESIGNATED FUNDS	Balances at 31st December	
	2016 £	Prev Year £
Church Hall	7,307	6,907
Fair Trade	247	171
Mission Giving	81	182
East Window	4,382	0
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	12,017	7,260

SUMMARY OF ALL FUNDS AT 31st DECEMBER 2016

	Undesignated £	Designated £	Restricted £
INCOMING	54,884	13,003	12,616
OUTGOING	(49,096)	(12,628)	(12,713)
NET CHANGE	5,788	375	(97)
B/FWD	10,799	16,583	8,689
RE-ALLOCATE	(4,532)	(4,941)	9,473
IN HAND	12,055	12,017	18,065

ASSOCIATED FUND BALANCES	£
Friends of Clifton Parish Church Repair & Restoration Fund	67,030
Van Dieman's Land	1,556
Miss Dockerell Grave Trust	284
David Street Grave Trust	2,991
J A Jackson Trust	8,359

Friends have pledged a grant of £40,000 to the PCC, restricted to the roof and rainwater drainage repairs.

PROJECTED INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR 2017 - UNRESTRICTED UNDESIGNATED FUNDS

	Last Year Actual 2016	Projection for 2017	NOTES
INCOMING			
Giving	34,917	34,917	[1]
Tax refunds	8,227	8,227	[1]
Grants	244	244	[1]
Fees	7,701	6,944	[2]
Fundraising (net)	2,913	4,450	[3]
Bank interest	14	14	[1]
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	54,016	54,796	
OUTGOING			
Cost Generating Voluntary Income	38	50	[4]
Bank Charges	10	60	[10]
Parish share	34,857	39,227	[5]
Clergy / office expenses	1,343	1,800	[6]
Grants & Mission	2,299	2,400	[7]
Church Music	3,317	3,720	[8]
Church Maintenance	820	820	[9]
Church Running	5,544	5,887	[4]
TOTAL OUTGOING RESOURCES	48,228	53,964	
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) AT YEAR END	£5,788	£832	

The projections indicate a probable surplus over the year amounting to £819.
 Our unrestricted undesignated reserves stand at £12,055 as at 31st December 2016.
 This represents approximately three month's average expenditure.

NOTES:

- [1] Unchanged from last year as no assumptions can be made.
- [2] Fees income calculated using the number of known weddings and an estimated number of funerals.
- [3] Calculated using the scheduled fundraising events to be held during the year, and approximating proceeds based on previous results without being over optimistic.
- [4] Based on previous year with provision for cost increase.
- [5] Parish share based on Rector in post for full year.
- [6] Estimate based on history of previous costs
- [7] Grants as agreed by PCC.
- [8] Based on predicted pattern of services, known fees, and previous expenses.
- [9] Minor items of church maintenance - impossible to predict what will be needed.
- [10] Bank charges introduced on current account from November 2016.