



Elmdon
Church

“The Church in the Park”

A growing Church

The PCC’s report for 2015 and 2016

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Produced by the Parochial Church Council for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting,
to be held on Wednesday 27th April 2016, 8.00pm at “the Church in the Park”

Church information

Address: **St Nicholas Church, Elmdon
(known as Elmdon Church, “the Church in the Park”)
Church Lane, Elmdon Park, Solihull B92 9EJ**

Rector: **Revd Toby Crowe
Elmdon Rectory, 86 Tanhouse Farm Road, Solihull B92 9EY**

Curate: **Revd Dan Hughes
26 Hillside Croft, Solihull B92 9DL**

Licensed Readers: **Robert Dean, Richard Huss, Karen Matthews, Nick Partridge**

Church Wardens: **Mrs Cheryl Doyle, Mrs Anne Milne**

The business of the Church is carried out through the Parochial Church Council (PCC). This met ten times during 2015, including three extraordinary meetings (to receive the accounts, to approve a faculty application for work on our trees and to approve a faculty application for the projection system) and one immediately after the last APCM to appoint PCC officers. The job of the PCC is to co-operate with the Rector in promoting the mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

PCC members, 2015-16

Revd Toby Crowe	Chair
Revd Dan Hughes (from July 2015)	
Cheryl Doyle	Church warden, ex officio member
Anne Milne	Church warden, ex officio member
Christine Arnsby	Deanery Synod, ex officio member, Minutes Secretary
Rob Dean	Appointed to PCC by APCM, Deanery Synod, Vice Chair
Richard Huss	Appointed to PCC by APCM, Deanery Synod (resigned November 2015)
Karen Matthews	Appointed to PCC by APCM, Deanery Synod
Nick Partridge	Appointed to PCC by APCM

Elected Members to serve until APCM in:

<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>
Alan Doyle (PCC Treasurer)	Joy Dean (PCC Secretary)	Moyra Bate
Tina Keeling	Elaine Malkin (resigned January 2016)	Alan Carter
Pat Young	Richard Salt	David Cole
Vacancy	Jean Wooding	Carol Janes

Other Officers appointed by the PCC

Electoral Roll Officer	Emma Crowe (not a PCC member)
Covenant and Gift Aid Secretary	Nick Partridge
Hall manager (Coppice Road)	Pat Lyons (not a PCC Member)
Hall manager (Gaydon Road)	Joyce Taylor (not a PCC Member)

Introduction by the Rector

“To God’s elect, strangers in the world” (1 Peter 1:1)

This is how the apostle Peter addresses his first letter, to the scattered Christian communities of Asia Minor (we looked at its first chapter over several Sundays in 2015). What could it all mean?

The long and the short of it is that we have more, much more, in common with believers than we do with non-believers; and that, after the identity we find in Jesus himself, our primary identity is found through our membership of the church. ‘Church’, then, is not just something we ‘do’ on a Sunday morning. On a very deep level, it’s who we are: the most important set of relationships that we have in our lives, outside of our relationship with the Lord.

Here in our own bit of the church, things are on the up. Increasingly, we provide a nourishing spiritual diet for all ages and all members of the wider Elmdon community. We continue to serve our senior members well, in ways too many to mention; but increasingly we are developing our work with families and younger people too – some details of both can be found in this report.

Things change; but the gospel itself doesn’t change. Whatever the activities we provide, whether it’s a fellowship group for older people or a toddler group for young families, what we try to express through it is love: the love which God first showed to us. We do this implicitly and, I pray, we will be doing it more and more explicitly too, through telling the good news of Jesus to the people who come.

Of course, this means that we need to have a handle on gospel truths ourselves. So it’s no coincidence that this report looks at all our activities through the lenses of discipleship and evangelism: knowing the good news & becoming the good news (discipleship) and then telling it to others (evangelism). That is our role in the strange and unbelieving world we’re in: a world which can never be home, but will always be a battlefield on which we contend for the Lord.

So keep growing in your trust and obedience. Know the gospel thoroughly. And don’t be afraid to tell it to people. If you – if *we* – do that in 2016, our church will continue to grow; and not just in number, but in spirit as well. Brothers and sisters: praise the Lord!

Love from Toby

A snapshot: services in Elmdon Church

The main service of our week is at 10.30am on a Sunday morning, held at “the Church in the Park”. This usually comprises Holy Communion (first, third and fifth Sundays in the month), a parade service (second Sunday) and the Baptism service (fourth Sunday). On the weeks when we share the bread and wine, we also have a Sunday school, called Kids in Christ (see below). We always have provision for younger children, with baby-changing & baby-feeding facilities and a play area available.

There is also currently a small informal service every Sunday afternoon, called the Prayer Café. Once a month we have an evening service, following the Book of Common Prayer. We hold midweek services in our two church halls on Mondays and Tuesdays (except for the first week in the month). Baptisms, weddings and funerals all take place in the parish church.

MEMBERSHIP

We are a growing church!

The usual weekly attendance for the parish in 2015 was **126**, compared to 118 in 2014, comprising on average 109 adults and 17 children (in 2014, 102 adults and 16 children).

A typical Sunday in 2015 saw an average attendance across all services of 105 (88 adults, 17 children), which is again an increase on 2014 (100, comprising 84 adults and 16 children).

Attendance at the main Sunday service at Elmdon Church also increased, to an average of 94 (2014: 87) made up of 77 adults and 16 children (2014: 72 and 15), and has been continuing to grow. Since 2010, Sunday morning attendance has grown by 85%. Attendances have grown (at varying rates) across most types of Sunday morning services.

Attendance at the Sunday afternoon “Prayer Café” and monthly BCP services has declined somewhat; there has been a small increase in Tuesday afternoon attendance at Coppice Road; the Monday service at Gaydon Road has remained broadly static.

From 2015 onwards we have also been recording additional data on the number of “unique worshippers” each week, avoiding double-counting of those who attend more than one service. There remain some challenges in collecting and analysing this data, but our initial data for 2015 indicates an average of 95 different adults and 17 different children attending our services, making for a weekly average of 112 different individuals.

These figures are further analysed below, with figures for 2014 shown in parentheses:

	Adults	Children	Total
Elmdon Church: Sunday morning	77.4 (72)	16.4 (14.9)	93.9 (86.9)
<i>Parade Service</i>	98.6 (81.9)	29.7 (25.3)	129.3 (107.2)
<i>Other non-Eucharistic services</i>	62.6 (66.0)	8.4 (11.7)	71.0 (77.7)
<i>Holy Communion</i>	71.7 (67.5)	13.1 (10.5)	84.8 (78.0)
<i>Baptism *</i>	133.20 (128.1)	25.4 (27.1)	158.5 (155.2)
Elmdon Church: Prayer Café <i>(Easter onwards)</i>	7.5 (9.1)	0.4 (0.6)	7.9 (9.8)
Elmdon Church: Sunday evening BCP	14.1 (12.8)	0.4 (0.3)	14.5 (13.1)
Gaydon Road: Mondays	17.8 (17.9)	0.1 (0.3)	17.8 (18.3)
Coppice Road: Tuesdays	10.2 (9.3)	0.2 (0.2)	10.3 (9.5)

* *Baptism services, along with services at major festivals etc. are excluded from the overall attendance figures.*

Electoral Roll

Our electoral roll now stands at 135. Ten people have been added since the last APCM, and we pray that more will join them over the coming months. Sadly two church members have died and their names have been removed – we thank God for Allan Onions and June Shepherd, and for the examples they set us.

Contact: Emma Crowe, Electoral Roll Officer.

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Our church in 2015: review

*In all things we aim to be **Bible-focused, Christ-centred, Spirit-led.***

In 2015 our attendance figures continued to rise, for which we praise the Lord. But numerical growth isn't the only sort of growth a healthy church will see: if we're not people who expect and long for transformation in ourselves, being made more in the likeness of Christ, then we're only a shadow of church as we're supposed, and gathered, to be (II Corinthians 3:18).

So, under God, we are engaged in two great tasks. The first, and most basic, is the task of **discipleship**, the 'putting on' of the new self (Colossians 3:10) and 'clothing ourselves' with the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 13:14). This is the work of the Holy Spirit within us as we read God's word and pray together, and share in fellowship with one another, especially around the Lord's Table.

The second task, which flows so surely from the first, is the Spirit-empowered task of helping others to become Christ's followers too – **evangelism**: a growth in numbers, not for its own sake, but because it's what Jesus commissions us to do, if the new people are truly obedient to him (Matthew 28:19 - 20).

What did these things look like for us in 2015?

Discipleship

Bible study groups

We are a growing church and, as such, we now have two Bible study groups in place of the previous one. These meet at the homes of Mary Reynolds & Margaret Thomas, on the Damsonwood side of our parish, and at the home of the Carters on Old Lode Lane. One group has recently used the E100 notes to learn about Jesus in both Old and New Testaments, and has looked at the life and witness of Moses. The other has looked at God's covenants with his people throughout the Bible. The aim is to give participants more depth in their Bible study and confidence in their Bible knowledge. **Contact:** Rob Dean.

Kids in Christ

Groups for children are usually run during services of Holy Communion. The sessions focus on accessible Bible teaching, supported by crafts, games, discussion and prayer. In 2015 we started a separate group for the older children which gives them the opportunity to explore matters of faith in a safe and supportive environment. We have run a series of sessions for this group, drawing on the Y-Course, looking at Christian basics. This has received good feedback: two of the older children didn't come to Kids in Christ when it was just one group but are now regular attenders; and one child from this group is considering confirmation, feeling that the group has helped him become more confident about his faith. **Contact:** Lesley Huss.

Prayer ministry

This has been a regular part of our Sunday mornings since last autumn. After our main service, there are always two prayer ministers waiting downstairs to pray with anyone who wants it or needs it – whatever needs they bring. All our ministers are trained and work in accordance with a strict policy of confidentiality. **Contact:** Jean Eyles.

Prayer groups

A group meets fortnightly at Joyce Taylor's home and also, occasionally, at the home of Christine Arnsby. Group members pray for and about situations within the church and in the wider world. We know that prayer works; and we also hope that the group shows the concern that God's people have for the wider world, and shows non-believers that God is interested in it too! **Contact:** Rob Dean.

Preaching

At "the Church in the Park" in 2015 we followed sermon series which looked at the co-workers of the apostle Paul, I Peter chapter one, people who meet Jesus in the gospels and Romans (this series continues now). At our midweek services we worked through Philippians and Nehemiah, and looked at the struggles that people face in their lives. In all our preaching, we pray that we might ask as the Greeks at the feast asked (John 12:21): 'Sir, we want to see Jesus'. **Contact:** Toby Crowe.

Evangelism

Children's craft events

In 2015 we again ran craft events on Good Friday and in the week of Christmas, both held at "the Church in the Park". These were aimed primarily at children & young people, but were also attended by older family members. All these activities were Bible-based, with opportunities to engage with the good news of Jesus, and to come to the Lord in prayer. **Contact:** Toby Crowe

Fellowship meetings

Meetings are held in the church halls on the first Monday and Tuesday of the month at 1.45pm. A varied programme includes speakers, quizzes and crafts. The Tuesday group has learned about the work of the British Legion and coin-collecting amongst other things, has enjoyed tea in a group member's garden and sung favourite hymns together. **Contact:** Mel Perkins (Monday) and Marilyn Walton (Tuesday).

Girls' Brigade

This is for girls aged 4 - 16 and meets weekly during term-time. Bible characters are used to introduce a theme: recent ones have included Pharaoh's daughter (caring), the Widow of Zarephath (sharing) and Ruth (love). It is a varied programme, designed to promote Bible knowledge, self-awareness and consideration for others. Two new girls have joined since September. **Contact:** Pat Lyons.

Knit and Natter

This group meets to knit and share other craft activities. Items are made for local hospitals (eg. teddy bears for premature babies), Malawi (knitted jumpers), asylum-seekers and others, or for sale in fund-raising events. Discussions are held with followers of other faiths, and anecdotal evidence suggests that people are very moved by the thought of strangers caring for them in this way. **Contact:** Pat Lyons.

Lunch Club

This meets every Monday lunchtime (except for the first Monday in the month and Bank Holidays) and is followed by our midweek service. Several new people have started to come to the service, having come to the lunch first. **Contact:** Toby Crowe.

Open Church

"The Church in the Park" has long been open on summer Sunday afternoons for 'Sunday Teas'. More recently, the rest of the year has been covered by 'Winter Warmers'. In recent times, however, the number of people involved in running 'Sunday Teas' has shrunk and, at the end of the 2015 season, it became clear that three of the remaining five teams would be unable to take part again. We are therefore in a time of transition. Please pray that we will have wisdom as we ponder what a 'new thing' might look like. **Contact:** Nick Partridge.

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Spiritual and numerical growth: the plan for 2016

*In all things we aim to be **Bible-focused, Christ-centred, Spirit-led.***

Under God, we are engaged in two great tasks: **discipleship** and **evangelism**. What will these look like for us in 2016?

Discipleship

1. Maintain and develop the good things that we are already doing, including new groups in Kids in Christ (a toddler group, meeting in the Wilberforce Hall, to start in Spring 2016; a group for the oldest children, venue to be confirmed, possibly starting this autumn) and a second prayer group.

2. A new rigour. Everything we do, say and are in 2016 should be assessed by the extent to which it helps us to understand the Bible more as God's sufficient and authoritative word; to have a biblical faith that's firmly anchored in the great truth of God's justification of sinners by grace through faith; and to see and expect the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in human lives, most of all (but not limited to) our own.

3. An invitation to all adult church members to complete and share a 'discipleship audit'. This will shape our provision in services but might also form the basis for a system of mentoring.

4. Introducing regular 'Discipleship bites' into the news slot. These short pieces will be designed to draw people in an accessible way into these great truths of the gospel: that Christ died and rose for our justification, that the Holy Spirit transforms us into Christ's likeness and that God has given us all we need to know about these things in the authoritative pages of the Scriptures.

5. Modelling a Bible-based faith and explaining that our faith is Bible-based. As well as teaching specifically on the subject of the Scriptures, we will model a faith that takes them seriously eg. by having a regular Psalm before the main readings, so encouraging people to keep the Bible open for the sermon; by regular plugs for Bible reading notes; by bringing the Scriptures more into pastoral work; by encouraging people to engage with sermon topics after services.

6. Putting Christ and his cross at the centre of our church life and also our own lives. We will continually draw one another back to this great truth and challenge one another when we seem to enthrone something or somebody else.

7. Teaching and expecting transformation. We will challenge ungodliness and sin at every level, most especially our own. We will encourage the sharing of personal stories and testimonies in the news slot.

8. Training and equipping our children. We will establish new Kids in Christ groups on a Sunday morning, first a group for toddlers and pre-schoolers (to meet in the Wilberforce Hall during the sermon) and, later, a group for students in Key Stage 3 (venue to be confirmed).

9. Teaching and expecting responsible stewardship, both of money and human resources.

Evangelism

1. Maintain and develop the good things that we are already doing.

2. A fresh understanding. Christ at the centre means Christ at the centre. If he is truly at the centre of our lives, with the good news of his death and rising for our justification, then we must and will be sharing this good news with unbelievers, both as a church and as individual followers of the Lord.

3. As a church we will draw people in through events such as Easter Kidz, Christmas services and other regular special services and events. With the appointment of a Children's and Families' Missioner we will also start a midweek 'service' for toddlers and their carers, and a weekly event (possibly on Sunday afternoons, in place of Sunday Teas) aimed at primary-age children and their parents. There will be a clearer pathway established from these into the rest of the life of the church and into enquirers' courses (which we will review). We also want to start systematically prayer-walking and house-visiting in our parish.

4. As individual believers. We will train church members to share their faith confidently and explicitly, through our teaching, through the 'Jesus bites' stream of 'Discipleship bites' and through the provision of a course (perhaps 'The Way of the Master').

Supporting the mission: other areas for development

Our Sunday services

1. We will equip and train existing and new volunteers for various roles in our services.
2. We will re-establish a music group for 'special' services.

Publicity

1. We will develop our new website and our use of social media.
2. We will use advance publicity more systematically.
3. We will deploy new interior signage and external A-boards for Elmdon Church.
4. We will continue to rationalise the 'branding' of our two free-standing halls.

Money

1. We will continue to pay our Common Fund commitment in full and on time.
2. We will move towards giving a higher proportion of our total income in support of God's mission elsewhere.
3. We will root all our stewardship teaching in training for discipleship.

Staff

1. We will continue to train, equip and commission faithful Christians for service in the church and the world.
3. We will appoint a Children's and Families' Missioner.
4. We will investigate the possibility of appointing a Parish Assistant/Ministry Apprentice.

Buildings

1. We will continue to develop our facilities at 'the Church in the Park', decorating as appropriate.
2. We will redevelop the kitchen.
3. We will provide a CFM suite (possibly incorporating space for a future Parish Assistant) in the church hall.
4. We will continue to review the use, purpose and future of our freestanding church halls.

Supporting mission elsewhere

The PCC is committed to promoting the mission of the worldwide church and, every year, it appoints a Mission Support Group to help it in this work. The MSG's members are currently Rob Dean, Lesley & Richard Huss, Allan Jones and Eli Malkin. The group aims to:

- Encourage interest in mission elsewhere and share news of our mission partners.
- Work to build an understanding of the global church as interdependent and interconnected, with ourselves and those working overseas seen as partners together in the gospel.
- Encourage prayer for our mission partners and raise funds to support their work.
- Raise people's expectations so that support for mission elsewhere is seen not as an add-on "extra" to our main work in Elmton, but an integral part of what we do.

The target audience for the group's work is therefore existing church members. This is because the PCC wants to see spiritual growth in Elmton as people recognise, more and more, just how essential mission and evangelism is to the life of the church, and grasp the way in which (ever since the Acts of the Apostles) churches have resourced and supported each other.

They also hope and pray that, through the work of the mission partners we support, God's church will be built numerically in the places where they serve. They also trust that, as mission becomes more important in our thinking, it will rub off here in Elmton too.

The Mission Support Group is continuing to raise funds to support the Asiku family, working for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Uganda. However, in addition, the PCC has agreed to contribute from its general funds towards the study costs for a Crosslinks BEST study partner (Revd Amos Friday) from May 2016, and to move towards funding our mission partners increasingly from general funds rather than specific fundraising in future.

This will free the Mission Support Group to concentrate on sharing news and prayer requests, leading to a greater sense of gospel partnership, rather than one of charity work. We believe that this is a sign of increased faith in God's provision, and of a greater understanding of our interdependence and partnership with the wider church.

Contact: Richard Huss.

Hatchford Brook Churches Together

This is our local 'churches together' group. It arranges various activities throughout the year, such as the service at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (held in 2016 in Elmton), a worship and prayer time during the Sheldon Country Fair, Christmas carols at Sheldon Tesco and the Good Friday outdoor service near the Wheatsheaf.

We hope that believers are uplifted and encouraged as they share their faith and understand differences between the denominations, while unbelievers hear the Gospel and are 'warmed' towards the idea of attending church.

Contact: Christine Arnsby.

OTHER INFORMATION

Our buildings

We currently use three buildings. The church building itself is in the middle of Elmdon Park and is known as “the Church in the Park”. The main Sunday service is held here, as well as all baptisms, weddings and funerals. We also own two freestanding halls, one on Gaydon Road and one on Coppice Road. Midweek services are held in these on Monday and Tuesday afternoons (except for the first week in the month).

The freestanding halls are vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees who hold property on behalf of (and acting in the interests of) Parochial Church Councils in the diocese. The Elmdon Parochial Church Council owns the properties and are the Managing Trustees, though they delegate day-to-day management to appointed officers. In 2015, low-grade asbestos was identified in both of the freestanding halls; and, in any case, we are aware that both buildings are near the end of their lives and may soon become uneconomical to maintain. We are therefore starting to plan for a future beyond the ‘1 + 2’ model we have inherited.

PCC membership

It was agreed at the 2011 APCM that, from 2012, there should be twelve elected PCC members and that the term of office for elected members should thereafter be three years, the starting period for existing members to be staggered over the next three years to ensure an overlap of duty. The APCM also decided that Readers who wished it should be appointed as members of the PCC by virtue of their office.

At the APCM 2016 three members end their terms but are eligible for re-election. There are also two vacancies following an unfilled position at the APCM in 2015 and a resignation in January 2016. Nominations are therefore requested for four PCC members to serve for a term of three years, and one to serve for two years. Elections will take place if there are more than five nominations.

Every year the PCC appoints a Standing Committee, which meets as necessary and reports to the next meeting of the PCC. Its members are Toby Crowe (Rector), Cheryl Doyle (Churchwarden), Ann Milne (Churchwarden), Rob Dean (Vice Chairman), Joy Dean (Secretary) and Alan Doyle (Treasurer). The members of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefits in 'the Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit' and have had regard to it in their administration of the PCC. The PCC believes that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the parish of Elmdon it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing a facility for public worship and pastoral care both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church can offer; and
- promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole

Child Protection Policy

In accordance with Diocesan requirements the parish operates a Child Protection Policy which is reviewed annually at the first PCC Meeting after the APCM. In 2015 Joy Hoban stepped down as Parish Child Protection Co-ordinator and this task is now undertaken by the Rector, pending a replacement.

Deanery Synod 2015

A report from your representatives

Christine Arnsby, Rob Dean, Cheryl Doyle and Karen Matthews.

26th March 2015

Andy Dipper of Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) gave an overview of his life and work for Christ in helping persecuted Christians. He challenged synod members to consider their attitudes to what constitutes persecution, how we would react to abuse, whether there was evidence of persecution in our area and how we could help those who were persecuted. He asked us to think about how we could have respect for each other and make better progress working together, how we might react to similarly challenging situations, and how the evening might inform us further. Using a quiz he challenged our thinking and spoke about four people he described as 'regular Joes' who were standing up for Jesus despite strong opposition, personal loss and perhaps even death threats. Andy said that CSW focused on those who could bring about a change of mindset rather than just on an individual's needs, as other organisations were already doing that. He said that the Church was not connected enough to be effective in the world, and one of the best ways of overcoming enmities was showing respect for all religions. Just as Jesus spent time with dirty and awkward people so the Church should reach out to those different from ourselves.

16th May 2015

Nick Partridge and Rob Dean organised and led a pilgrimage walk to Birmingham Cathedral for Solihull Deanery members, as part of the celebrations for the cathedral's tercentenary. About fifteen walkers, some of whom joined at rest and reflection stops along the way, linked in with other pilgrims who arrived by transport, to be welcomed by the Dean at the door. Ascensiontide Holy Communion was led by Bishop David, who also gave the talk. Afterwards a group photograph was taken of everyone with Bishop David in the centre, followed by a bring-and-share lunch. Pilgrims then enjoyed a talk on the cathedral's Ascension window before moving on to an hour-long tour of the Birmingham skyline from the roof of the new Birmingham Library.

7th July 2015

A deanery picnic in Elmdon Park allowed new members to get to know each other better, share ideas and encourage each other. Toby led a short service in church and spoke about the big changes that had taken place over the three years of his ministry in the parish and the further changes anticipated in the foreseeable future, which included welcoming the new Curate and preparing for the new Children's and Family Worker. After a bring-and-share buffet, members played Beetle Drive which helped everyone to mingle. The only thing that spoiled such an enjoyable evening was the low turnout as only about one third of members attended, probably due to the necessarily early start and work commitments.

29th September 2015

Revd Simon Heathfield, Archdeacon of Aston, led discussions at St Peter's Balsall Common on "What use is the Deanery?". Based on I Corinthians 16:1-3 he gave an overview of deanery system, its history, some of the biggest changes and the shift in perception over the centuries. In groups we then discussed questions, and feedback was summarised as "a deanery was a connected group of churches trying to relate to each other". It was felt that a deanery could give structure to those relationships in various ways, such as money, policy, refreshing and encouraging each other. Members were exhorted to come to the next meeting with one question: 'With which one thing can we personally commit to move forward one step every meeting?'

The Fabric Report

From your Churchwardens, Cheryl Doyle and Anne Milne

Small Works

The year began with some minor repairs to the base of the tower where it joins the sloping roof, following a leak. A new strip light was also installed in the kitchen to replace an existing one which had become obsolete.

During April we had the lower registers of the church's outer walls steam-cleaned, using the 'Doff' cleaning method, and repointed. In May the west louvres of the bell tower were replaced and a small crack repaired in the arch over the doorway from the porch into the lower (1780) area.

In June the 'Marley' chequered tiles were removed from the porch floor. This revealed that they were covering a concrete base. A core sample was taken showing that the concrete was laid on top of the original limecrete which would have supported limestone slabs matching those used in the apse and visible at the door end of the aisle.

Major works

The main focus of improvement to our building in 2015, particularly affecting our services, was the installation of a projection system. This included a projector, camera, two drop-down screens and a computer system. The money for this was obtained by fundraising and masterminded by Richard Huss, who put a considerable amount of time and research into the project. We would like to offer him our sincere thanks.

Routine servicing and testing

Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) was carried out in May. The Boiler was serviced in July. The Fire extinguishers were checked in the early part of the year. The Roof Alarm system was also serviced around Easter.

Insurance

A Health and Safety risk assessment was carried out for the church and the two church halls at the end of April, according to our insurer's recommendations. The findings are recorded and will be reviewed yearly.

An asbestos survey was done in September by a certified assessor, according to our insurer's recommendations. This survey was only carried out in our two halls as there is no asbestos in the church building other than possibly in the organ bellows (which are inaccessible for assessment purposes). As in the case of the halls, where direct assessment is not possible without intrusion, asbestos is presumed to be present; and should any works be required to the bellows, any contractors should be informed and proper precautions taken.

A fire policy has been agreed by the PCC in line with our insurer's advice and high visibility jackets purchased. These are hanging on the coat hooks in the Wilberforce hall and behind the sound system.

Ongoing

In January 2016 two of the window sills in the apse, which had suffered major damage due to damp, were replaced. There are some smaller repairs still to be done to the base of the apse and a broken brass strut on the Communion rail needs repairing.

These works have been referred to the stonemason. The money for all this has been obtained via a donation for which we are very grateful.

Preparation for the installation of a new kitchen has begun. The basic plans have been agreed by the PCC and fundraising is under way.

A faculty is being applied for to resurface the porch floor with Portuguese limestone slabs, as advised by our architect. Following the 'Doff' cleaning and repointing, minor works have been identified by our architect. These are to be carried out in 2016.

Our Architect has been consulted, as is our practice, whenever any works are being considered and follow-up inspections carried out on completion.

Some clearing of leaves has been done at various times on an ad hoc basis but we have not been able to get a team together to fully clear the gutters and drains, or to clean the Trocal roof and skylights. This needs to be properly addressed in 2016.

The wardens have been monitoring the movement and disposal of various items and noting them in the logbook. Certain items, such as one of the lecterns and one of the prayer stalls, have been moved to Gaydon Road (where the lectern is used every Monday). Three choir frontals have been given away for wood (one of them is part of the Solihull Symphony Orchestra conductor's podium).

The Graveyard

The north and east boundary fences have continued to be kept clear to maximise visibility of the building. There are some areas of fencing needing attention. The graveyard has been regularly maintained by a group of volunteers. However there are regulation irregularities such as the use of marble, curbs and chippings; also the use of artificial flowers, small statues, night lights and cards. It should be noted that any planting in the graveyard requires permission from the rector and may require a faculty.



OUR FINANCES

The PCC is responsible for the church's finances, though it delegates management of these to the PCC Treasurer, Alan Doyle.

There are also separate accounts for the two freestanding halls, one managed by the PCC Treasurer and the other by Tony Shaw on the PCC's behalf. Expenditure from these accounts is approved by the PCC before work is commissioned, although the PCC does allow small amounts of routine expenditure (eg for utility bills) to be paid by certain officers and appointees without further reference to it. A fabric account for the parish is overseen by Alan Doyle.

Income

Most of our income comes through stewardship, which includes envelope-giving, cheques, standing orders, covenants, Gift Aid, plate collections and donations. Other sources of income are wedding and funeral fees, legacies, the fun day and Christmas bazaars and social events.

In 2015 the PCC was able to pay the Common Fund request of £40,273.68 in full, together with the Rector's assigned fees amounting to £4662. £937.50 was paid to Crosslinks, in support of our BEST Mission Partner David Isabiye in Uganda and a further £900 was donated to support Gift and Kathryn Asiku, working for Wycliffe Bible translators, also in Uganda. This money was raised through gifts and special events.

In 2016 our costs will continue to rise, including an increase of £692.04 in the amount we are asked to pay in Common Fund. As ever, then, we need a continued increase in giving in the years ahead to ensure the financial viability of our church.

Fees paid for church work

In 2015 the church paid an organist's fee for weddings and funerals at which the organ was played. A vergier received a fee for duties carried out at these services, and a sexton was paid a fee for digging plots for the interment of cremated remains. Members of the choir received a fee for singing at weddings.

Financial Reserves Policy

The Charity endeavours to maintain finances at an appropriate level to facilitate day-to-day activities and also to finance upkeep of our buildings

Report of the Elmdon Parochial Church Council for 2015

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (THE PCC)

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015, which are set out on pages 16 to 24 below.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under the 2011 Act),
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Morgan Davies ACA
Prime
Chartered Accountants
Corner Oak
1 Homer Road
Solihull
B91 3QG

Date:

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

		2015		2014	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving	5	36,405		32,939	
Collections and Donations		<u>14,695</u>		<u>16,368</u>	
			51,100		49,307
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
B'ham International Airport Grant		-			2,200
Teas		4,648		5,346	
Sundry Income		<u>18,447</u>		<u>6,514</u>	
			23,095		14,060
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		<u>12,907</u>		<u>13,442</u>	
			12,907		13,442
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>					
Investment Income	6		<u>1,111</u>		<u>909</u>
Total receipts			88,213		77,718
Payments					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Apportionment	7	40,274		37,477	
Decorations Scheme		500		250	
Church Projection System		16,416			
Charities	8	6,070		7,131	
Church running expenses		6,934		5,899	
Church and Churchyard	9	18,820		11,069	
Printing, postage and stationery		2,856		2,539	
Sundry Expenses	10	<u>2,507</u>		<u>3,423</u>	
			94,377		67,788
<i>Governance costs</i>					
Accountancy			<u>1,410</u>		<u>1,320</u>
Total payments			95,787		69,108
(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts over Payments					
			<u>(7,574)</u>		<u>8,610</u>
Bank Balances 1 January			<u>23,876</u>		<u>15,266</u>
Bank Balances 31 December			<u>16,302</u>		<u>23,876</u>

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT –
FABRIC FUND
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Transfer from Funds	<u>—</u>		<u>4,230</u>	
		-		4,230
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>				
Weddings & Funeral Fees		1,716		-
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>				
Interest on CBF Appeals Fund		<u>.34</u>		<u>.37</u>
Total receipts		1,750		4,267
Payments				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Churchyard Work	3,108		-	
Roof Repairs	440		-	
Kingfisher Building	-		240	
Electrical Work for Sound System	900		-	
Transfer between funds	-		2,358	
Reimbursement of plot fees	-		450	
Repairs to Building	<u>3,582</u>		<u>—</u>	
Total payments		<u>8,030</u>		<u>3,048</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts over payments		<u>(6,280)</u>		<u>1,219</u>
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>11,816</u>		<u>10,597</u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>5,536</u>		<u>11,816</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT –
VALLEY CHURCH CENTRE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Donations		-	60	
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>				
Income from organisations	8,650	9,040		
Outside Bookings	2,430	2,981		
Miscellaneous	93	20		
Solihull MBC	400	740		
Lighting Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>135</u>		
		11,573	12,916	
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>				
Bank Interest		<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	
Total receipts		11,578	12,981	
Payments				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Hall cleaning	1,844		1,729	
Maintenance and repair	782		729	
Light and Heat	2,395		3,035	
Water	93		92	
Insurance	865		824	
Sundries	<u>89</u>		<u>99</u>	
Total payments		<u>6,068</u>	<u>6,508</u>	
Surplus of receipts over payments		<u>5,510</u>	<u>6,473</u>	
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>17,155</u>	<u>10,682</u>	
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>22,665</u>	<u>17,155</u>	

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT –
ST STEPHENS HALL USERS**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>				
Rents	15,628		11,333	
Functions	378		479	
Bazaar	1,084		1,200	
Transfer between Funds	1,885		907	
Holiday Camp Fund	305		334	
Other	-		37	
Grants and Donations	3,213		-	
Harvest Supper	<u>-</u>		<u>66</u>	
		22,493		14,356
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>				
Interest Received		<u>1</u>		<u>-</u>
Total receipts		22,494		14,356
Payments				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Insurance	2,678		2,810	
Water Rates	334		418	
Telephone	61		62	
Electricity	2,979		2,824	
Cleaning	1,352		1,352	
Fire Security	298		292	
Holiday Camp Fund	305		460	
Maintenance	7,577		1,596	
Bazaar	465		508	
Church Liaison Fund	-		105	
Sundry	79		963	
Transfer between Funds	<u>1,902</u>		<u>-</u>	
Total payments		<u>18,030</u>		<u>11,390</u>
Surplus of receipts over payments		<u>.464</u>		<u>2,966</u>
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>10,613</u>		<u>7,647</u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>15,077</u>		<u>10,613</u>

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	General	Designated	2015	2014
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Receipts				
Planned Giving	36,405	-	36,405	32,939
Collections & Donations	14,695	-	14,695	16,428
B'ham International Airport Grant	-	-	-	2,200
Teas	4,648	-	4,648	5,346
Sundry Income	18,447	-	18,447	6,514
Wedding & Funeral Fees	12,907	1,716	14,623	13,442
Investment Income	1,111	40	1,151	951
Income from Organisations	-	8,650	8,650	9,040
Outside Bookings	-	2,430	2,430	2,981
Miscellaneous	-	93	93	20
Solihull MBC	-	400	400	740
Lighting fund	-	-	-	135
Rents	-	15,628	15,628	11,333
Functions	-	378	378	479
Bazaar	-	1,084	1,084	1,200
Transfer Between Funds	-	1,885	1,885	5,137
Holiday Camp Fund	-	305	305	334
Other	-	-	-	37
Harvest Supper	-	-	-	66
Grants & Donations	-	3,213	3,213	-
Total Receipts	<u>88,213</u>	<u>35,822</u>	<u>124,035</u>	<u>109,322</u>
Payments				
Apportionment	40,274	-	40,274	37,477
Decorations Scheme	500	-	500	250
Church Projection System	16,416	-	16,416	-
Charities	6,070	-	6,070	7,131
Church Running Expenses	6,934	-	6,934	5,899
Church & Churchyard	18,820	3,180	21,928	11,069
Printing, Postage & Stationary	2,856	-	2,856	2,539
Sundry Expenses	2,507	168	2,675	4,485
Accountancy	1,410	-	1,410	1,320
Electrical Work	-	900	900	-
Building Maintenance & Repairs	-	12,381	12,381	2,565
Cleaning	-	3,196	3,196	3,081
Reimbursement of plot fees	-	-	-	450
Light & Heat	-	5,374	5,374	5,859
Water	-	427	427	510
Insurance	-	3,543	3,543	3,634
Telephone	-	61	61	62
Fire Security	-	298	298	292
Holiday Camp Bazaar	-	305	305	460
Bazaar	-	465	465	508
Church Liaison Fund	-	-	-	105
Transfer Between Funds	-	1,902	1,902	2,358
Total Payments	<u>95,787</u>	<u>32,128</u>	<u>127,915</u>	<u>90,054</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Total	General	Restricted	Designated
	£	Fund	Fund	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Monetary Assets				
CBF deposit fund	18,313	12,502	-5,811	
Bank current accounts	39,220	2,876	-36,344	
Bank deposit accounts	<u>2,049</u>	<u>925</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,124</u>
	59,582	16,303	-	43,279
Investments (at valuation at year end)				
CBF Share Portfolio	23,338	23,338	-	-
CBF Fixed Interest	200	200	-	-
3.5% Conversion Stock	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>83,120</u>	<u>39,841</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,279</u>

Other Assets

Properties vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees on behalf of the PCC:

St Stephens Church Centre

Valley Church Centre

ANALYSIS OF DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Total	Fabric	Valley	St Stephens
	£	Fund	Church	Centre Hall Users
	£	£	£	£
CBF deposit fund	5,811	4,856	955	-
Bank current account	36,344	681	21,596	14,067
Bank deposit account	<u>1,124</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>1,011</u>
	<u>43,279</u>	<u>5,537</u>	<u>22,664</u>	<u>15,078</u>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on and signed on behalf of the Council by:-

_____ Chairman

_____ Church Warden

_____ Church Warden

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations issued in 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid. Income Tax recoverable in respect of the period to 5 October is included in the receipts and payments accounts.

Non-monetary donations to the PCC are not included in the receipts and payments accounts, because they are incapable of being recorded at definite amounts. Where material, such items are referred to in the Annual Report.

All assets and liabilities are in respect of unrestricted funds.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised as being under the ownership of the PCC but are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.
- Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31 December by the PCC.
- Income Tax recoverable from HM Revenue & Customs in respect of Gift Aid donations received after 5 October in the year.

Opening and Closing bank balances are shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

2. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Fabric Fund is designated (i.e. to be used solely) for the purpose of maintaining and improving the Parish Church.

The Valley Church Centre Funds are designated for the purpose of maintaining and running the Valley Church Centre situated at Gaydon Road, Solihull.

St Stephens Hall Users Fund is designated for the purpose of maintaining and running the St Stephens Church Centre situated at Coppice Road, Solihull.

3. REMUNERATION

No person connected with the Parochial Church Council has been paid or is due to be paid any remuneration or other benefits from the Funds of the PCC.

4. TRANSACTIONS WITH CONNECTED PERSONS

There have been no material transactions undertaken in the name of or on behalf of the Council in which any person connected with the Council has a material interest.

5. PLANNED GIVING

	2015	2014	£	£
Gift aid receipts	19,209	19,538		
Income tax recovered	8,932	6,644		
Other giving	<u>8,264</u>	<u>6,757</u>		
	<u>36,405</u>	<u>32,939</u>		

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2015		2014	
	£		£	
CBF Deposit account interest			8	-
CBF Dividends	859	851		
Interest on Reserve fund	69	53		
Redemption of 3 1/2% Conversion Stock			173	-
Interest on Government Stocks	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>		
	<u>1,111</u>	<u>909</u>		

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

7. APPORTIONMENT

	2015	2014
	£	£
Paid Direct	<u>40,274</u>	<u>37,477</u>

8. CHARITIES

	2015	2014
	£	£
Christian Relief, Development & Agencies 503		648
Churches overseas	3,077	1,928
EPCC Fabric fund	1,716	4,230
Home Missions	<u>774</u>	<u>325</u>
	<u>6,070</u>	<u>7,131</u>

9. CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD EXPENSES

	2015	2014
	£	£
Maintenance and repairs	799	1,601
Water rates	781	597
Telephone	245	151
Light and heat	2,470	3,465
Insurance	2,625	2,707
Sundries	6,265	1,870
Wine, candles etc	195	341
Curate's House Rent	3,750	-
Curate's House Maintenance	1,500	-
Christian Literature	54	151
Readers' Board	100	100
Visit ministers	<u>36</u>	<u>86</u>
	<u>18,820</u>	<u>11,069</u>

10. SUNDRY EXPENSES

	2015	2014
	£	£
Hatchford Brook Council of Churches	-	-
Fete floats	250	250
Other Sundry Expenses	<u>2,257</u>	<u>3,173</u>
	<u>2,507</u>	<u>3,423</u>

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Agenda for the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Wednesday 27th April 2016, 8.00pm at Elmdon Church, *“the Church in the Park”*

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous Meeting of Parishioners, Tuesday 28th April 2015
3. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Bible study and opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Tuesday 28th April 2015
4. Accounts and financial statements
5. Report on the revised Electoral Roll
6. PCC report: The Mission of the Church
7. Fabric reports
8. Deanery Synod report
9. Hatchford Brook Churches Together report
10. Appointment of Readers as members of the PCC
11. Election of up to five lay representatives to the PCC
(four to serve 3 years, one to serve 2 years)
12. Appointment of independent examiner
13. Rector's report
14. Questions and discussion of any church matter
15. Closing prayer

First meeting of the new Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Election of:

1. Lay Vice Chair
2. Secretary
3. Minutes Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Electoral Roll Officer

Date of next PCC meeting: Monday 9th May 2016