



Elmdon
Church

“The Church in the Park”

A growing Church

The PCC’s report for 2016 and 2017

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Produced by the Parochial Church Council for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting,
to be held on Wednesday 26th April 2017, 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 in 2016: **Robert Dean, Richard Huss, Karen Matthews, Nick Partridge**

Churchwardens: **Mrs Cheryl Doyle, Mrs Anne Milne**

The business of the Church is carried out through the Parochial Church Council (PCC). This met nine times during 2016, including two extraordinary meetings (one to approve accounts and one to discuss issues relating to a hall let) 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	<i>Chair</i>
Revd Dan Hughes	
Cheryl Doyle	Churchwarden, ex officio member, Deanery Synod
Anne Milne	Churchwarden, ex officio member
Christine Arnsby	Deanery Synod, ex officio member, <i>Minutes Secretary</i>
Patricia Coleman-Taylor	Co-opted to PCC, <i>Safeguarding Co-ordinator</i>
Rob Dean	Appointed to PCC by 2016 APCM, Deanery Synod, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Karen Matthews	Appointed to PCC by 2016 APCM, Deanery Synod

Elected Members to serve until APCM in:

<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
Joy Dean (<i>PCC Secretary</i>)	Moyra Bate	Alan Doyle (<i>PCC Treasurer</i>)
Vacancy	Alan Carter	Tina Keeling
Richard Salt	David Cole	Pat Young
Jean Wooding	Carol Janes	Vacancy

Other Officers appointed by the PCC

Electoral Roll Officer	Emma Crowe (not a PCC member)
Hall manager (Coppice Road)	Pat Lyons (not a PCC Member)
Hall manager (Gaydon Road)	Joyce Taylor (not a PCC Member)

Introduction by the Curate

“Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” (Acts 10:43b)

The apostle Peter knew that the good news of Jesus was for everyone. Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives forgiveness. He wasn't the only one; in fact, Peter insists that the message of the whole Bible agrees. Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives forgiveness. That is as true today for us as it was for Peter then and the prophets of God before him.

For us in Elmdon that means there is nobody in Elmdon who doesn't need to hear and believe the good news of Jesus. The good news of Jesus must be the consistent theme of everything that we do as a church and as Christians. This year the good news of Jesus should be clearly heard and seen in everything that we do and all that we say.

Over the course of a whole year we do and say a lot as a church. This report is a helpful summary. It's an opportunity to thank God for the many gifts and abilities he has given us to share the good news of Jesus. But it's also a chance to review how we can best use those gifts and abilities to share the good news of Jesus in 2017.

As you read this report let me encourage you to keep asking the question “How does everything we do as a church help us to share the good news of Jesus with everyone in Elmdon?” You could even ask that question at the APCM!

But as you read let me also encourage you to keep asking the question “How can everything I do as part of the church help us to share the good news of Jesus with everyone in Elmdon?” What ministries of discipleship and evangelism could you serve in so that in everyone in Elmdon can hear the good news of Jesus? Why not talk to the contact people about getting involved?

There is nobody in Elmdon who doesn't need the good news of Jesus. This year let us commit ourselves as a church and as Christians to doing everything we can to tell others the good news!

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?” (Romans 10:14)

With love in Christ,

Dan Hughes

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, and a Toddlers group (see below). We always have provision for younger children, with baby-changing & baby-feeding facilities and a play area available for younger children.

MEMBERSHIP

A year of consolidation

Attendance

The usual weekly attendance for the parish in 2016 was **124**, compared to 126 in 2015, comprising on average **107** adults and **17** children (in 2015, 109 adults and 17 children).

A typical Sunday in 2016 saw an average attendance across all services of 101 (84 adults, 17 children), a slight decrease on 2015 (105, comprising 88 adults and 17 children) which is attributable to a decline in attendance at the Sunday afternoon “Prayer Café” service, which closed at the end of September.

From 2015 onwards we have additionally been recording additional data on the numbers of “unique worshippers” each week, avoiding double-counting of those who attend more than one service. There are some challenges in collecting and analysing this data, but our data for 2016 indicates an average of 97 unique adults and 17 unique children (2015: 95 and 17), for a weekly average of 114 individuals (2015: 112). Attendance at the main Sunday service at Elmdon Church remained at an average of 94 (2015: 94) made up of 77 adults and 17 children (2015: 77 and 16).

There have been small increases in attendance at the Monday service at Gaydon Road and the Tuesday service at Coppice Road; attendance at the monthly BCP service has declined somewhat.

These figures are further analysed below, with figures for 2015 shown in parentheses:

	Adults	Children	Total
Elmdon Church: Sunday morning	77.1 (77.4)	17.1 (16.4)	94.2 (93.9)
<i>Parade Service</i>	<i>92.7 (98.6)</i>	<i>27.3 (29.7)</i>	<i>120.0 (129.3)</i>
<i>Other non-Eucharistic service</i>	<i>79.3 (62.6)</i>	<i>17.2 (8.4)</i>	<i>96.5 (71.0)</i>
<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>72.0 (71.7)</i>	<i>13.1 (13.1)</i>	<i>85.1 (84.8)</i>
<i>Baptism *</i>	<i>126.0 (133.2)</i>	<i>24.9 (25.4)</i>	<i>150.9 (158.5)</i>
Elmdon Church: Prayer Café (ceased end of September 2016)	5.5 (7.5)	0.1 (0.4)	5.6 (7.9)
Elmdon Church: Sunday eve BCP	12.6 (14.1)	0.3 (0.4)	12.9 (14.5)
Gaydon Road: Mondays	18.7 (17.8)	0.2 (0.1)	18.9 (17.8)
Coppice Road: Tuesdays	11.0 (10.2)	0.1 (0.2)	11.1 (10.3)

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

Electoral Roll

Our electoral roll now stands at **123**. Over the last year, the PCC has reviewed the names on the Electoral Roll and removed the names of people from outside our parish who do not attend the church (and, in some cases, never did). This accounts for thirteen of the removals since the last APCM, and is part of a wider desire for the roll to reflect the actual membership of the church in Elmdon. Two names have been removed because of death: we mourn the passing of our sisters Betty Temple and Edith Wright, and long for that day when 'there will be no more death or mourning, or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away' (Revelation 21:4). Thirteen new names have also been added. We continue to pray for new people to join the life of the Church over the coming months.

Contact: Emma Crowe, Electoral Roll Officer

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Our church in 2016: review

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

Our attendance figures held firm in 2016, and we are grateful to God for all our church members. By His grace we are eager to grow more in both strength and number. To achieve this, we remain committed to the two great tasks of God's mission for his church: discipleship and evangelism. Our first task, then, is that of **discipleship**: growing in our knowledge and love of God, growing more like his Son. Our second task, which must follow the first, is the Spirit-empowered task of proclaiming the good news of Jesus to those who do not know him – **evangelism**. How did we seek to do these things in 2016?

Discipleship

Preaching

On Sunday mornings in 2016 we completed the first half of our series "God's good news" reading Romans 1 - 8 together. In the summer we considered what it means to be "Called and Sent" as followers of Jesus with readings from Luke's gospel. In the autumn we considered "Two Ways to Live" and the choice we all face having heard the good news of Jesus. Finally we heard about our future hope from Haggai, "Rebuilding God's temple". In our midweek services we preached on "Psalms to make your heart sing", James and "Christian Basics". Over the year reading across the different genres of scripture we have seen the good news of Jesus as its consistent theme.

Contact: Dan Hughes

Kids in Christ

Our groups for school-age children run during most of our Holy Communion services. The sessions focus around Bible teaching and prayer, supported by age-appropriate activities including crafts, games, and discussion to help our children and young people understand the Bible's teaching. Two of our young people have decided to be baptised this year and another is seeking to be confirmed.

In the summer, our young people participated in a filming workshop along with some adults in the congregation, creating a DVD for all participants. The aim was to build stronger relationships across the ages of our church family as these have been shown to support young people to persevere in faith. In compassion the young people also decided to sell copies of the DVD to raise money for the Samaritan's Purse to support the work they are currently doing to help refugees.

Contact: Lesley Huss.

Toddlers in Christ

Our group began meeting this year in most of our Holy Communion services. Each week we read a Bible story together, pray in response to it, complete a craft activity and sometimes a game which relates to the story, and sing some songs of praise to God. We read from The Beginners Bible, reading from Creation to Joseph (Genesis) and stories about Jesus's birth and the beginning of his ministry.

We have had between two and four children each week, with around 15 different children attending over the past year. We hope that children will have an opportunity to learn about Jesus and will want to follow him, pray to him and praise him. Additionally, whilst many parents stay with their children, we hope that some will be able to remain in the main space for the sermon and hear more about Jesus for themselves.

Contact: Mandy Hughes.

Prayer ministry

We offer prayer for all people who identify a need for Jesus to work in their lives after every Sunday morning service. This time is fully confidential and time limited to then and there. Where necessary, those who come to us may be encouraged to seek counselling and/or further prayer support.

Prayer works because God's promises are real and he is faithful. We have had many reports of answered prayer, but are coming against a reluctance to share more widely; which leads to joining in the spiritual battle and telling the good news of Jesus Christ's victory.

Prayer ministry is not a stand-alone ministry but one part of enabling all to walk more closely with God. Over the last year despite spiritual attack and shortage of people we have remained able to keep offering prayer ministry. We hope to encourage God's people to pray for each other and to step out in faith.

Contact: John and Jean Eyles.

Bible study groups

Our Bible study groups meet fortnightly on Tuesdays and Thursdays for those who want to study the Bible more. We hope to build our knowledge and confidence in the Bible so that we can tell others the good news of Jesus and live for him.

We use published materials and have been able to study Jesus' parables, the life of Moses and an overview of the whole Bible amongst other topics. This gives church members an opportunity to ask questions and apply the Bible more directly to their own lives.

Contact: Rob Dean (Tuesday) and Gill Carter (Thursday).

Prayer group

Our Prayer Group meets fortnightly on a Monday night for all those who want a regular opportunity to pray with others. We meet to pray for the needs of the church, the world, and those things requested by church members and other people. We usually begin our time together with a short biblical exploration and invite people to pray as led by the Spirit, either openly or quietly. We have also been able to organise Prayer Walks in the parish throughout the year.

Contact: Rob Dean.

Prayer meeting

Our monthly prayer meeting began this year, meeting on the second Tuesday of the month as an opportunity for all church members to join together in prayer. We have been encouraged by the growth of the group, and look forward to the group growing further in the year ahead. We hope that, as we commit to praying regularly, we will learn to trust God more, know his faithfulness and increasingly see him at work.

Contact: Toby Crowe

We aim to be Bible-focused, Jesus-centred, Spirit-led.

Evangelism

Christian Basics courses

In 2016 we began to run two regular Christian Basics courses: 'Start!' and 'Christianity Explored'. These provide an opportunity for people to learn more about the good news of Jesus. We invited all people at our Harvest and Christmas services, and hope that attendance from these events will grow in the year ahead. We are aware, however, that people are far more likely to attend if invited by a person they already know; so we hope as well to build confidence as a whole church in sharing the good news of Jesus with our family, friends, neighbours, and colleagues. To this end, we have also started running regular 'Gospel refresher' courses, both on Sundays and during the week.

Contact: Toby Crowe

Lunch Club

This continues to meet most Mondays at 1pm in the church hall on Gaydon Road, and is followed by a small service. Lack of volunteers to cater for it means that its future is currently under review.

Contact: Toby Crowe

Girls' Brigade

Girls' Brigade seeks to encourage girls between four and 16 to grow spiritually through a range of physical, mental and craft activities. Our topics are based on a biblical character or subject, and the girls have grown in their biblical knowledge. Three of the girls regularly attend church and one has recently been baptised.

Contact: Pat Lyons

Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter is for anyone who likes knitting or would like to learn (although other crafters are also welcome). Knitting is good for physical, mental, and spiritual health and the group knits for charity with Matthew 25 in mind. Some members attend our church services and new members have joined the group.

Contact: Pat Lyons

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'. This year a lack of personnel saw 'Sunday Teas' coming to an end. We are grateful for all who have faithfully served God in this ministry, and look forward to seeing what God has in store as we plan for something different on a Sunday afternoon.

Fellowship meetings

Meetings are held in the halls on the first Monday and Tuesday of the month and are open to all adults in our community. We have speakers on a wide range of subjects, quizzes, craft, and fund-raising events and provide people with light refreshments and companionship. We encourage people into our buildings to share friendship and fellowship, and to offer information about church activities and services.

Contact: David Cole (Monday) and Marilyn Walton (Tuesday).

Children's craft events

As well as our regular events on Good Friday and in the week before Christmas, in 2016 for the first time we ran a 'harvest crafts' event in October. The format for this was slightly different, with children registered and tea provided. The plan was to 'road-test' the Sunday afternoon event we want to establish (probably monthly, at least to begin with) in autumn 2017.

Contact: Toby Crowe

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Spiritual and numerical growth: the plan for 2017

*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 2017?

Discipleship

- 1. An appropriate rigour.** Everything we do under this heading should be assessed by the extent to which it helps us to know and follow God more, in his Son Jesus Christ, by the power of his Holy Spirit; 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.
- 2. 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 as God's sufficient and authoritative word, e.g. by continuing to have a regular Psalm before the main readings; by regular plugs for Bible reading notes; by bringing the Scriptures more into pastoral work (our expectation should be that every planned pastoral encounter will point people to a specific Bible reading or text); and by encouraging people to engage with sermon topics after services (we will encourage them to remember earlier sermons and to ask questions of the current preacher, in person or by email).
- 3. 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.
- 4. Teaching and expecting transformation.** We will challenge ungodliness and sin at every level, most especially our own, through gentle challenge and questioning ('I noticed that...'); and we will provide training in how to do this. We will encourage the sharing of personal stories and testimonies in the news slot, possible through a video format.
- 5. Teaching and expecting responsible stewardship,** both of money and human resources. We are planning a series of talks on the theme of money for early 2017, and launching the new Parish Giving Scheme.
- 6. Continued attendance at the Men's & Women's Conventions** and other events, as appropriate.

Evangelism

- 1. A clear understanding.** If Jesus 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.
- 2. As a church** we will draw people in through events such as Easter Kidz, Christmas services and other regular special services and events. In 2017, we will start 'Acorns in the Park', a midweek 'service' for toddlers and their carers; and 'Elmdon Kidz' on a Sunday afternoon, aimed at older children and their parents. These may require the taking of hard decisions in order to create sufficient capacity. We will

continue to develop clearer pathways from events such as this into the rest of the life of the church and into our basics courses. We also want to start systematically prayer-walking and house-visiting in our parish.

3. As individual believers. We will train church members to share their faith confidently and explicitly through our teaching (a refresher session will be provided during a Sunday service) and through the provision of appropriate courses.

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 continue to develop the use of a music group for 'special' services.

Publicity

1. We will develop a new website, to be launched in March, with the necessary preparation time given beforehand.
2. We will develop our use of social media.
3. We will continue to use advance publicity more systematically.
4. We will continue to deploy new interior and exterior signage for Elmdon Church.

Money

1. We will continue to pay our Common Fund commitment in full and on time.
2. We will introduce the Parish Giving Scheme in early 2017.
3. We will move towards giving a higher proportion of our income in support of God's mission elsewhere.
4. We will root all our stewardship teaching in training for discipleship.

Staff

1. We will identify, plan and deliver more effective discipleship and care for the Rector, Curate, preaching team and officers of the church.
2. We will continue to train, equip and commission faithful Christians for service in the church and the world.
3. We will continue investigation of the possibility of appointing a Parish Assistant/Ministry Apprentice and a Children's and Families' Worker.

Buildings

1. We will continue to develop our facilities at 'the Church in the Park', especially the redevelopment of the kitchen.
2. We will seek a redecorating programme for the same, including work on the Oak Room (work to be done by children and adults together).
3. We will continue to review the use, purpose, and future of our freestanding church halls.

We aim to be Bible-focused, Jesus-centred, Spirit-led.

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 Elaine 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 Elmdon, but an integral part of what we do.

The Mission Support Group is continuing to raise funds to support the Asiku family, working for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Uganda. The Asikus facilitate the work of Bible translation in Uganda and this year saw the New Testament become available in Lubwisi, after 14 years of work. There has been a high demand for these New Testaments since the official launch in July. Additionally, the New Testament in the Lugwere and Lunyole languages were also printed last year, ready for launching in January 2017. Meanwhile translation of Genesis into both languages has begun, and translators have reported how much more interesting they are finding it themselves when they can understand it in their own mother tongue.

In addition to this, we are partnering with Revd Amos Friday, a Crosslinks BEST study partner in Uganda, with the PCC contributing from its general funds towards his study costs. Amos is studying for a Masters degree in theology at Uganda Christian University, which will equip him with further skills in biblical interpretation, teaching, preaching and leadership. This will enable him to train and teach biblical interpretation to other ministers in his diocese.

We look forward to continuing working with our partners in the year ahead so that more people can read the good news of Jesus themselves, hear the good news of Jesus taught faithfully and to enable more ministers to do the same.

Contact: Richard and Lesley 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, 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 currently 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. We are aware that both of these halls are at the end of their working lives, and are now planning for the future accordingly.

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 2017 three members end their terms but are eligible for re-election. There is also one continuing vacancy in this cohort, following a resignation in January last year, and a vacancy in the 2016 - 19 cohort. 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), Dan Hughes (Curate), Cheryl Doyle (Churchwarden), Ann Milne (Churchwarden), Rob Dean (Vice Chair), Carol Janes (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

We aim to be **Bible-focused, Jesus-centred, Spirit-led.**

Safeguarding

The objective of the PCC of Elmdon Church in respect of Safeguarding is:

To adopt policies and procedures to enable safeguarding of vulnerable individuals to be a natural part of how we collectively and singularly think and behave; that we are equipped to be ever more vigilant and able to protect not only the most vulnerable within our community but also one another.

To achieve this objective the PCC has:

1. Agreed a Working Group to review all current policies, procedures and practices to ensure that the PCC complies with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the requirements of the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
2. Provided a safeguarding policy for children and adults which is reviewed annually.
3. Co-opted to the PCC, a Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator.
4. Appointed a Parish Identity Verifier.
5. Ensured that insurance cover for all activities provided by the Church is adequate.
6. Provided role descriptions for all individuals working directly with children.
7. Provided DBS checks for all individuals working directly with children.
8. Provided Safeguarding training module C1 for all volunteers working with children.
9. Provided Safeguarding training modules S1 and C3 for the Co-ordinator.

Safeguarding Incidents

There have been no safeguarding incidents requiring referral to the Solihull Safeguarding Boards and no referrals to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser.

Proposed Plan for Year 2017/18:

1. Review all policies and procedures in line with the House of Bishops guidance.
2. Update and/or provide role descriptions for all volunteer roles within the Church.
3. Risk assess all activities for which the PCC have responsibility.
4. Ensure all volunteer roles are assessed for DBS requirements.
5. In conjunction with Churchwardens, ensure that all Health and Safety policies are compatible with the requirements of the House of Bishops guidance.
6. Provide the PCC with a progress report at each meeting.

Contact: Patricia Coleman-Taylor, Safeguarding Co-ordinator

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Deanery Synod 2016

A report from your representatives

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

17th February 2016 – The role of a deanery

Deanery Synod heard from two members with experience in other Dioceses. Duncan Ballard spoke about deaneries in the Diocese of Worcester, and Jane Kenchington about the Diocese of Gloucester. Duncan said he felt decision-making at diocesan and parish levels was strong in Birmingham, but that deaneries might also have a voice.

The meeting broke into groups to discuss four issues:

1. Allocation of the Common Share;
2. Allocation of Clergy and Readers;
3. Location of Diocesan training - Birmingham or locally;
4. Ways churches can share, e.g. buildings, knowledge, money, events.

Members reconvened for a short act of worship and Duncan said the notes from discussions would be drawn together to inform future strategy for the Deanery.

7th July 2016 – Skittles and Shared Supper, at St. Peter's Church, Bickenhill.

Members enjoyed an evening of socialising and skittles, led by Duncan.

20th September 2016 – Emergency Response Team.

Revd. Dominic Wright, St. Margaret's, was welcomed to the Deanery.

After announcing his move from the Diocese, Duncan reported that the present focus of the Diocese of Birmingham was:

- 1) Growing Younger which would receive the biggest focus and funding;
- 2) Fresh expressions of church; appealing and being applicable to younger generations;
- 3) Increasing the number of vocations, especially of black and ethnic minorities across the Diocese to reflect the changing demographics of its inhabitants.

Linda Walker, Senior Resilience Officer for Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire, then spoke about the work of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and specifically her role as Senior Planning Officer. She said that the ERT could be called upon to inform emergency response plans, contact and inform structures between organisations and support their work where short-term gaps were identified. They could be called upon by the public, police, councils, etc. for a variety of scenarios including major road accidents, large floods and bomb threats.

The ERT also encouraged community groups to create their own emergency response plans and to that end they offered advice to Scouts, mental health groups, churches, etc. and provided a Resilience booklet with advice and plans.

As it was his last meeting with Deanery Synod before Duncan left, Deirdre Moll (Lay Chair) presented him with a gift from the Deanery before the meeting ended.

The Fabric Report

From your Churchwardens: Cheryl Doyle and Anne Milne

Ongoing from last year

The replacement of two window sills, small repairs to the bases of the apse columns and the removal, repair and refixing of a brass strut on the Communion rail were completed.

Sundry works to the lower registers of the church walls revealed by the “Doff” cleaning the previous summer were carried out following inspection by the architect. These were crack repairs around a drain, plugging of small holes and a few repairs to the stonework.

The restoration of the porch floor, which was found to be 'Marley' type tiles on top of concrete, was begun in November. The concrete was replaced by limecrete and finished with limestone slabs. This took some time to organise as we had to accommodate two visits from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, who wished to assess how well the proposed stone was in keeping with the original Georgian building. The concrete proved to be more difficult to dig out than anticipated due to a metal reinforcement grid embedded into it. On completion an extra job to put in some beading to the bottom of the skirting board to cover a gap was identified, as the removed floor was not level! This was postponed to early 2017. Hopefully the new floor will 'breathe' better and ease the damp situation in the wall compounded by the soil slope outside.

We took advantage of the DAC visit, especially as the architect was present, to talk through the kitchen plans. The only concern of DAC members was the effect the extended servery might have on the community use of the hall. They were satisfied with our answers when the current use of a table in front of the hatch was explained. We also asked for their advice on the use of the Tower room.

In December a faculty application for works to the kitchen and Wilberforce hall was applied for.

Audio visual upgrades

An additional speaker has been put into the music corner so that musicians can hear what they are playing.

Also a back-up power unit has been obtained for the computer to enable it to continue working in the event of a power cut.

Maintenance

The hot water heater under the wash basins in the ladies' toilet was replaced as it was leaking and could not be repaired.

We had some roof leaks at the beginning of the year and some tiles were found to be damaged in the musicians' corner. Clearance of the flat roof and gutters seems to have stopped other small leaks. This was done in June and December.

The organ was serviced in March

PAT (small appliance) electrical testing was done in May.

The roof alarm and fire extinguishers were reviewed and serviced.

The boiler was serviced in September and damage was found to the foil coating around the flue at the back of the boiler. This was replaced. In future storage at the back of the boiler is to be avoided because poisonous fumes would be emitted if the flue were punctured.

Some slabs were re-bedded around the bottom gate (by the bins) as, due to tree roots, they had become a safety risk.

Wardens' inspections

The graveyard was found to have irregularities in the paths particularly along the path behind the old graves which need monitoring due to natural movement of the land. The paving slabs of the main paths were generally in good repair.

The boundary fence is in need of attention but will require a specialist firm to carry out the work as it is more than the odd spot-repair and will involve replacing whole areas of fencing and putting in godfathers. This is likely to cost several thousand pounds. A quote for information is being obtained.

The increasing number of graves with renewed or new gravel and kerbs of varying types was noted, along with a proliferation of silk flowers, trinkets and cards. These are all disallowed in the diocesan regulations. An email to the Archdeacon has confirmed the PCC's power to remove anything not in the regulations.

The outside of the church building is in good repair although there is need for some stonework around the tower door to be repaired. Some of the String courses are quite damaged, but this is not structural.

There is a repair outstanding to the window containing the roundels, for which lozenges from a window removed from the south wall are needed. Leaded glazing from the south wall is currently poorly stored in the tower including some small pieces of stained glass. These need cleaning and storing more securely as they are slowly deteriorating due to their weight. Advice has been sought about this.

The kitchen continues to be a hazard, particularly around the back exit where congestion prevents the full opening of the door and hinders the passageway in the event of an emergency exit.

All the moveable and small goods in the church such as the silverware, furniture and vases are in good order.

Our thanks go to those volunteers who regularly look after the graveyard, clean and generally help look after the building.

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 (e.g. 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 2017, our costs will continue to rise. 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 2016, the church paid an organist's fee for weddings and funerals at which the organ was played. A vergers 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

Annual Report of the Eldon Parochial Church Council for 2016

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

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016, set out on pages 18 - 23.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. 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 section 145 of 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 2016

	Notes	2016		2015	
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving	5	40,089		36,405	
Collections and Donations		<u>8,172</u>		<u>14,695</u>	
			48,261		51,100
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
B'ham International Airport Grant		-		-	
Teas		4,082		4,648	
Sundry Income		<u>11,484</u>		<u>18,447</u>	
			15,566		23,095
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		<u>6,026</u>		<u>12,907</u>	
			6,026		12,907
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>					
Investment Income	6		<u>790</u>		<u>1,111</u>
Total receipts			70,643		88,213
Payments					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Apportionment	7	40,966		40,274	
Decorations Scheme		-		500	
Church Projection System		-		16,416	
Charities	8	3,960		6,070	
Church running expenses		4,045		6,934	
Church and Churchyard	9	23,040		18,820	
Printing, postage and stationery		1,985		2,856	
Sundry Expenses	10	<u>1,702</u>		<u>2,507</u>	
			75,698		94,377
<i>Governance costs</i>					
Accountancy			<u>1,500</u>		<u>1,410</u>
Total payments			77,198		95,787
(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments			<u>(6,555)</u>		<u>(7,574)</u>
Bank Balances 1 January			<u>16,302</u>		<u>23,876</u>
Bank Balances 31 December			<u>9,747</u>		<u>16,302</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT
- FABRIC FUND**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Transfer from Funds	-		-	
	----		----	
		-		-
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>				
Weddings & Funeral Fees		590		1,716
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>				
Interest on CBF Appeals Fund		<u>21</u>		<u>34</u>
Total receipts		611		1,750
Payments				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Churchyard Work	-		3,108	
Roof Repairs	-		440	
Electrical Work for Sound System	-		900	
Transfer between funds	920		-	
Repairs to Building	450		3,582	
Music Fund	325		-	
	-----		-----	
Total payments		<u>1,695</u>		<u>8,030</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts/overpayments			<u>(1,084)</u>	<u>(6,280)</u>
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>5,536</u>		<u>11,816</u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>4,452</u>		<u>5,536</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT
- VALLEY CHURCH CENTRE**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Donations		-		-
 <i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>				
Income from organisations	8,126		8,650	
Outside Bookings	2,605		2,430	
Miscellaneous	20		93	
Solihull MBC	-		400	
Bazaar	1,217		-	
	-----		-----	
		11,968		11,573
 <i>Receipts from Investments</i>				
Bank Interest		5		5
		-----		-----
Total receipts		11,973		11,578
 Payments				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Hall cleaning	1,860		1,844	
Maintenance and repair	2,606		782	
Light and Heat	2,825		2,395	
Water	93		93	
Insurance	903		865	
Sundries	180		89	
	-----		-----	
Total payments		<u>8,467</u>		<u>6,068</u>
 Surplus of receipts over payments		 <u>3,506</u>		 <u>5,510</u>
 Bank Balances 1 January		 <u>22,665</u>		 <u>17,155</u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>26,171</u>		<u>22,665</u>

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

		2016		2015	
	£	£		£	£
Receipts					
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Rents	9,376			15,628	
Functions	450			378	
Bazaar	890			1,084	
Transfer between Funds	-			1,885	
Holiday Camp Fund	-			305	
Grants and Donations	90			3,213	
	10,806			22,493	
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>					
Interest Received		2		1	
Total receipts		10,808		22,494	
Payments					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Insurance	2,719			2,678	
Water Rates	479			334	
Telephone	187			61	
Electricity	3,662			2,979	
Cleaning	1,352			1,352	
Fire Security	303			298	
Holiday Camp Fund	16			305	
Maintenance	4,600			7,577	
Bazaar	341			465	
Sundry	90			79	
Transfer between Funds	-			1,902	
Total payments		13,749		18,030	
(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts/overpayments				(2,941)	4,464
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>15,077</u>		<u>10,613</u>	
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>12,136</u>		<u>15,077</u>	

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016	2016	2015		
	General £	Designated £	Total £	Total £
Receipts				
Planned Giving	40,089	-	40,089	36,405
Collections & Donations	8,172	-	8,172	14,695
B'ham International Airport Grant	-	-	-	-
Teas	4,082	-	4,082	4,648
Sundry Income	11,484	-	11,484	18,447
Wedding & Funeral Fees	6,026	590	6,616	14,623
Investment Income	790	27	817	1,151
Income from Organisations	-	8,126	8,126	8,650
Outside Bookings	-	2,605	2,605	2,430
Miscellaneous	-	20	20	93
Solihull MBC	-	-	-	400
Lighting fund	-	-	-	-
Rents	-	9,377	9,377	15,628
Functions	-	450	450	378
Bazaar	-	2,107	2,107	1,084
Transfer Between Funds	-	-	-	1,885
Holiday Camp Fund	-	-	-	305
Other	-	-	-	-
Harvest Supper	-	-	-	-
Grants & Donations	-	90	90	3,213
Total Receipts	<u>70,643</u>	<u>23,392</u>	<u>94,035</u>	<u>124,035</u>
Payments				
Apportionment	40,966	-	40,966	40,274
Decorations Scheme	-	-	-	500
Church Projection System	-	-	-	16,416
Charities	3,960	-	3,960	6,070
Church Running Expenses	4,045	-	4,045	6,934
Church & Churchyard	23,040	-	23,040	21,928
Printing, Postage & Stationary	1,985	-	1,985	2,856
Sundry Expenses	1,702	270	1,972	2,675
Accountancy	1,500	-	1,500	1,410
Electrical Work	-	-	-	900
Building Maintenance & Repairs	-	7,656	7,655	12,381
Cleaning	-	3,212	3,212	3,196
Reimbursement of plot fees	-	-	-	-
Light & Heat	-	6,487	6,487	5,374
Water	-	572	572	427
Insurance	-	3,622	3,622	3,543
Telephone	-	187	187	61
Fire Security	-	303	303	298
Holiday Camp Bazaar	-	16	16	305
Bazaar	-	341	341	465
Music Fund	-	325	325	-
Transfer Between Funds	-	920	920	1,902
Total Payments	<u>77,198</u>	<u>23,911</u>	<u>101,109</u>	<u>127,915</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	Total £	General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Designated Funds £
Monetary Assets				
CBF deposit fund	12,812	7,976	-	4,836
Bank current accounts	30,642	846	-	29,796
Bank deposit accounts	<u>9,052</u>	<u>925</u>	-	<u>8,127</u>
	52,506	9,747	-	42,759
Investments (at valuation at year end)				
CBF Share Portfolio	25,971	25,971	-	-
CBF Fixed Interest	200	200	-	-
3.5% Conversion Stock	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>78,677</u>	<u>35,918</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,759</u>

Other Assets

**Properties vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees on behalf of the PCC:
St Stephens Church Centre and Valley Church Centre**

ANALYSIS OF DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Total £	Fabric Fund £	Valley Church Centre £	St Stephens Hall Users £
CBF deposit fund	4,836	3,876	960	-
Bank current account	29,796	576	25,097	4,123
Bank deposit account	<u>8,127</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>8,013</u>
	<u>42,759</u>	<u>4,452</u>	<u>26,171</u>	<u>12,136</u>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on

..... and signed on behalf of the Council by:-

-----Chair

-----Churchwarden

-----Churchwarden

ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

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 2016

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

	2016	2015
	£	£
Gift aid receipts	20,246	19,209
Income tax recovered	6,528	8,932
Other giving	<u>13,315</u>	<u>8,264</u>
	<u>40,089</u>	<u>36,405</u>

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2016	2015
	£	£
CBF Deposit account interest	9	8
CBF Dividends	727	859
Interest on Reserve fund	54	69
Redemption of 3½% Conversion Stock	-	173
Interest on Government Stocks	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>790</u>	<u>1,111</u>

7. APPORTIONMENT

	2016	2015
	£	£
Paid Direct	<u>40,966</u>	<u>40,274</u>

8. CHARITIES

	2016	2015
	£	£
Christian Relief, Development and Agencies	386	503
Churches overseas	3,033	3,077
EPCC Fabric fund	-	1,716
Home Missions	<u>541</u>	<u>774</u>
	<u>3,960</u>	<u>6,070</u>

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

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

9. CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD EXPENSES

	2016	2015
	£	£
Maintenance and repairs	7,819	799
Water rates	807	781
Telephone	221	245
Light and heat	2,334	2,470
Insurance	2,740	2,625
Sundries	1,055	6,265
Wine, candles etc	165	195
Curate's House Rent	7,500	3,750
Curate's House Maintenance	-	1,500
Christian Literature	248	54
Readers' Board	100	100
Visit ministers	<u>51</u>	<u>36</u>
	<u>23,040</u>	<u>18,820</u>

10. SUNDRY EXPENSES

	2016	2015
	£	£
Hatchford Brook Council of Churches		-
Fete floats	250	250
Other Sundry Expenses	<u>1,452</u>	<u>2,257</u>
	<u>1,702</u>	<u>2,507</u>

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

Wednesday 26th April 2017, 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, Wednesday 27th April 2016
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, Wednesday 27th April 2016
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: Tuesday 16th May 2017