

St John's Community Church

Church Report 2014-2015

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The Churchwardens' Report

As I come to the end of my second year as your churchwarden, and Elaine to the end of her sixth, I would like to give a special message of thanks to her for guiding me through the duties and requirements of the job. Due to the retirement of Duncan, and the additional responsibilities of entering a time of vacancy with all of its requirements and commitments, we have both been kept busy. Elaine volunteered to add to her workload by taking up the position of chairperson for Oscar's (this was a post previously overseen by Duncan). She has carried out this responsibility admirably, and has the gratitude of myself and others.

There have been a few issues with the maintenance of the church building, but fortunately nothing critical or particularly expensive. A new boiler was required to be installed in the meeting room, the cost being shared with Oscar's, who contributed £500 towards the bill.

As a church, we have been blessed to see our longstanding and very frustrating carpet project begin to come live, due to some very generous donations from church members and Burntwood District Council. The decision was made to repaint the foyer, lounge, crèche, meeting room and kitchen, using contractors, prior to the fitting of the carpet. After agreement by the PCC on the type and colour of the carpet, a contract was agreed and the first stage of the project has now been completed. A famous saying comes to mind: 'This is not the end, nor the beginning of the end, but the end of the beginning' (Winston Churchill). We still require your donations if we are to complete the project by decorating and replacing the carpet in the main worship area.

We would like to offer our thanks to the members of the PCC, and to all who help in so many ways behind the scenes, quietly going about their business (well, not always quietly!) Special thanks to Mike Emery for his sterling work in maintaining the grounds, and all the other jobs he does, without being asked. Also to Dave Bradley, for looking after our plumbing requirements, and to all the staff for their contributions to the smooth running of the all the backroom stuff. A thank you to our cleaners for looking after the tidiness of the church, and always presenting it to us the way they do.

As the need for maintenance becomes more apparent, and because we are committed to looking after all of our buildings, including the church rooms (some may not be aware of their location - on Ironstone Road) which are in need of a lot of TLC, our next project may need to be to budget for the refurbishment of the church rooms and parish office.

To conclude this report, Elaine and I would like to express our thanks to all who have willingly contributed their time and talents towards ensuring that we have a safe, comfortable and inviting environment for all the activities that take place within our Community Church.

Les Careless

Deanery Synod

A great deal of time and energy has been targeted towards three main issues during 2014/15:

1. Diocesan Growth 2. Women Bishops 3. Pastoral Re-organisation

1. George Fisher gave inspiring talks on the aims and aspirations of the Diocese to encourage growth through mission, with plans to filter the information down to parishes.
2. The first women Bishops have now been appointed, but there are many other issues to be addressed in the coming months and years, some very challenging.
3. Pastoral re-organisation continues to be a major topic of discussion. The expansion of Team Ministry would appear to be the best solution to the shortage of trained ministers, and the best use of available resources.

Les Careless (Deanery Synod Rep)

The Drop Inn

In July this year the Drop Inn will have been running for 4 years. When we first started 4 tables were set up each week, now we have 6 and extra ones outside when the weather permits! Each week there are 25 to 35 people attending and recently we have seen an increase in the attendance of people from outside the church family. Over the last year we have received approximately £835 in donations (after the deduction of running costs). Of course none of this would happen without the fantastic team of helpers and cake makers who contribute their time and efforts on a regular basis. A big thank you to all of them and to other members of the church who come along and support us.

Rose Bradley and Lesley Stanton

The Food Bank

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Food Bank over the year. In this way we are able to share God's love with the families in crisis by providing much needed supplies of food. We take between 16kg and 100k of food to the distribution centre at Pye Green each month and also contributed our Harvest offerings. The food is distributed through Emanuel Church in Burntwood by a team from Burntwood Churches United. A more detailed report is available if required (please ask David). We hope to report monthly data and requests for specific foods in the church newsletter.

David and Lesley Stanton

Hospitality

The 'refreshment kitty' started the year with an opening balance of £134.59. Income was £370.55 which includes £43.10 from visitors to the Christmas Schools Week, the remaining income is from donations for drinks at our 10.30am Sunday Services. Outgoings totalled £309.06, this was for the purchase of Fairtrade, where possible, of coffee, tea, sugar, hot chocolate and squash plus extras of milk, biscuits, plastic cups etc. for schools week, Good Friday/ Christmas Workshops and some weekly events. This leaves a balance carried forward of £196.08. Thanks to all the Real Groups who continue to provide milk and biscuits for after our 10.30 services.

Sue Southall

Light for Children

During the summer of 2014, the youngest of the original group of Dersca children finally left the state care system at the age of 23! Back in 2001, when the Dersca orphanage closed, I had promised to stay with the children until they were all grown up, so this has been quite a significant milestone.

Education: Two of our young men have now completed their Masters at university in Suceava. The CRES parishes continue to support two young ladies from a Christian family who are studying at university in Iasi. In September, we were able to provide school text books for the children living in the state run apartments in Dorohoi. We continue to pay a speech therapist to work with several young children, enabling them to stay at mainstream schools.

Medical Support: We have continued to pay for medication, medical tests, dental work, opticians' appointments and glasses. We have also helped six young adults to reapply for their disability living benefits. During 2014, our commitment to support young people in their times of difficulty moved to another level, when two of our HIV+ young ladies, aged 24 and 25, both tragically died. Twelve children and young people have now died since I've been in Romania. In July 2014, I was the 'next of kin' for one of our young ladies and therefore completely responsible for organising her funeral.

Summer activities: Last year, we were very fortunate to have two teams of visitors from England: Andrew, Sylvia, Brenda, Elaine and Maureen in May and Dave, Wendy, Maggie and Trish in August. On both occasions and at various other times throughout the summer, we organised activities for the children and young people of different ages.

Youth Alpha: In September we started to run a Youth Alpha course with a group of non-Christian teenagers in Dorohoi. We have had between 30 and 35 young people at each session and are due to complete the course in February. We plan to continue to meet regularly with the same group of young people.

Church music: We now have a little orchestra of 20 children and young people who are able to play recorders and other instruments. On Sunday 21st December, the orchestra played an important role in a special Christmas service for all 120 children from the state run apartments in Dorohoi.

Boxes from England: Thank you very much to everyone who has knitted or donated clothing, toiletries, toys, bedding and many other things to help the children and families here. A special thank you to those people who have packed the boxes and arranged for their transport to the south of England.

Our sincere thanks to everyone at St John's Community Church for continuing to support the work of Light for Children in north east Romania.

Helen and Costel Cosman

Little Friends

2014 was a significant year for us at Little Friends as we celebrated our 20th anniversary. On Sunday 22nd June Little Friends young and old came along to the church for a wonderful celebration and sang songs and nursery rhymes, laughed with Andy Markham and his puppets and ate lots of Birthday cake!! The church was full of happy, smiling faces and it was a delight to see so many people who had been associated with the group over the years come along and join in the fun. Even some of our original children came with their own families – such a joyful time!

At least 12 of our older children moved on to nursery in July and were presented with a Beginner's Bible. The gaps were soon filled in September and by Christmas we had to make the decision to once again close our waiting list for the time-being as we couldn't promise any places being available until next September! God is so good and sends us such wonderful families without having to advertise.

At Christmas-time we had our Christmas Journey once again when we have a workshop helping the children to understand the real meaning of Christmas. The numbers attending this event have been limited over the last two years so we're considering doing the same thing during one of our regular Thursday morning sessions instead of Sunday. It is such a worthwhile activity and we know how much the children and parents love getting involved with the craft activities and telling the Christmas story with music.

We never shy away from offering prayer for our children and their parents and we have seen some spectacular answers to prayer this year. We see this as a vital part of our ministry and Praise God for his goodness! Thank you to all those who are involved in prayer for us outside of Little Friends – we know how much it is appreciated by the families involved.

On a practical note Little Friends paid for carpet used in the community hall and we're looking forward to organizing a sponsored Toddle around the park to raise money for the new carpet in the Worship Area!

Thank you to Mike and Yvonne Emery for all you do before, during and after our sessions. To Brian Buckley helping us set up. Pam Mountford and Sheila Crisp who keep us all fed and watered! Sarah Clarkin and Lindsey Perkins who look after the administration. Jan Marriot and Val Renowden who chat and generally help where needed. Peter and Janice Howard who help with the music and Matt Wallace on the sound and visuals! You're all such a blessing!

Jane Tennant

Little Singers

I have been involved with Little Singers now for the last 18 months and it has been both a pleasure and a blessing to be part of a team that delivers this group. It is aimed at children aged 4 to 8 and provides a place where they can come together to sing, dance and learn about our heavenly Father in a fun and relaxed way, appropriate to their age. We encourage them to pray if they want and we share a bible story at the end of each session which has proved to be very popular. Sue Southall still remains part of our original team but with the retirement of Duncan and Pam, we have gained George Clarkin who now operates the sound desk for us. Andre Spiring has moved into the position of singing and dancing with the children and Jay and Elisha Gascoigne also provide help and support when needed. I feel Little Singers is going from strength to strength; we have been very blessed with new children arriving and numbers doubling over the last few weeks. With the continued support from our church members I know we will continue to grow and Little Singers will run for years to come.

Marie Hiley

Marriage Preparation Course

The Marriage Preparation Course is offered to couples getting married within the next year. It runs over 3 weeks and deals with subjects such as communication, conflict, intimacy, money matters and basically encourages couples to keep their love alive by making time for each other, having fun together and being able to work through problems/difficulties in a non-confrontational manner.

We also use the 'Care for the Family' 'Marriage in the 21st Century' course. This is a four week course covering similar items as above, but is more specifically aimed at those who are already married, or have been living together for a time.

Our encouragement in holding these courses is the knowledge that, if the lessons learned are applied, then foundations are laid for each partner to achieve a lifelong fulfilling relationship. As couples learn how each other 'tick', what they can do to make their partner feel 'special', and how, with effective communication, they can have a marriage that can be 'rock solid'.

We ran two courses during 2014. If any couple would like to borrow the resource 'Marriage in the 21st Century' to watch without being part of a group, then we are quite happy to lend on a two week basis.

Paul and Mary Aplin

Oscar's

Oscar's is open from 7.30am every school day all day. We open on staff training days and during holiday time too. Healthy eating snacks are provided and a breakfast if needed. We look after children aged 3-11 and provide a huge variety of activities to suit all ages and needs. Our buildings are attractive and secure. There is plenty of room for vigorous physical games as well as comfortable space for quiet activities. All the time that they are there at Oscar's, children are able to choose what

they would like to do. A walking bus runs from the church every day in term time. Oscar's work in very close partnership with Holly Grove Primary School and children from other schools are welcome to attend the all-day openings.

Over the past 12 months it has been a very busy year at Oscars, Staff leaving for other work, new staff starting and leaving. We now have 3 volunteers who have all been DBS cleared, who we can call upon when we need extra help. We have had a lot of ups and downs, but we are still here for another year. Our numbers keep on growing and we have now got a waiting list for children, which is good for us as we continue to flourish. We have a high demand for Nursery/Reception children, but we only have a slight clause, in that we need extra hands for them. We are still waiting for a new member of staff to join our team (Miss Read), but we hope she will enjoy her time with us.

Oscars started the year with Mrs Cruxton - Manager, Mrs Ennis - Deputy Manager, Miss Ennis & Miss Green as Playworkers and soon Miss Read will join us as a Playworker. We have 3 volunteers who we couldn't work without and they are: Miss Rebecca, Mrs Southall & soon to start Mrs Weyham.

We have done a variety of different activities during the year, these are just a few:

- Super Heroes – this was really good; each superhero character that the children chose, we super imposed their faces onto the character.
- Diversity - Oscars looked at diversity and how all people are different. The children told us how they were different from each other.
- Chinese new year - children were shown how to use chopsticks, this proved difficult for children and adults to eat with them.
- Various baking, pizza making, fruit kebabs, cake decorating.
- Various crafts - pom-pom making, jewellery, making daffodils for Easter.
- We had a colouring competition.
- For all the activities that we have done over the year, why don't you take a look at our Activity Book in the Foyer.
- Remembrance Sunday - we decorated the smaller board, which was a lovely dedication to all who died in the various wars throughout the years.

Our Christmas display boards were amazing, thanks to Miss Ennis for inputting your expertise in creating a great board. We had a Father Christmas flying through the sky with houses below and the other board with the help from Miss Green we had a Nativity Scene, which was very nice. We feel that it is important to change the boards each term, so to change the wide range of activities we do.

In May, we said good-bye to Duncan Leake as he started his next step to retirement, we brought him a flower box filled with lots of lovely plants. In December, we held a Raffle, children decorated walnut whips into Christmas Characters and paid 50p and Mrs Ennis brought in some Christmas Cards and home-made crafts to raise money for new toys, we raised £82.00.

My thanks must go to all my staff at Oscars for their hard work and continued support for me, especially Mrs Ennis as I wouldn't be able to cope with everyday tasks without her support.

Thanks also to the church family and also Elaine Betts our new Chairperson and also our Management Committee for their continued support for Oscars. Thanks also to Dawn O'Hare Head teacher from Holly Grove & Mrs Barnes, for all your continued support to me whenever I needed it, especially through difficult times. Welcome to Kay Gascoigne who has stepped on board to do Oscars Accounts, but thanks also to Ron Hart for everything he has done for Oscars Accounts over the years.

As we look out to the future years of Oscar's, we hope to continue our good work as proof of lots of new children starting, to see what it is like at Oscars.

Karen Cruxton

Parish Administrator

As Parish Administrator for St Johns my role is to process and deal with all paperwork and enquiries that come through the church. These duties can vary from being first contact for enquiries regarding Baptisms and Wedding etc, through to paying invoices and expenses and keeping accounting records up to date. I work closely with other members of St Johns such as Ron Hart the church Co-ordinator, both Elaine and Les the Church Wardens and the various ministers and leaders of St Johns, with the aim of ensuring that the church runs smoothly and efficiently throughout the year.

Marie Hiley

Pastoral Care

At the moment Gemma Wallace and I oversee the Pastoral Care at St. John's. Gemma does such a lot of networking with young mums and their families. I personally will miss her very much when Matt and Gemma finally find a new parish to move to!

Most of our pastoral work is undertaken within our REAL groups. I personally, am very grateful for all the work our Real Group Leaders do to lead the groups on a weekly basis as well as look after their members including people in the church who are unable to attend and who are 'attached' to a particular group.

For those unfamiliar with what REAL means:-

- Relationship: Members of this church grow in their relationship with God and with one another.
- Encouragement: We all need the help of other Christian friends.
- Adoration: We are stronger when we worship Jesus together
- Learning and laughter: We enjoy being on our journey with other members of God's family

Our Real Groups meet on different nights and in different homes. Lesley and David's Monday Real Group have written here about what they have been up to over the last 12 months to give you a flavour of what goes on:

'Our group continues to thrive and is regularly supported by all the members. We said goodbye to Kirsty Smith and Sue Fisher who have moved on to pastures new and welcomed Tony and Julie Troy. We now visit different homes each week and really appreciate the hospitality shown to us. We enjoyed the study Body Building series that generated much discussion and soul searching and have also done studies in Luke's Gospel. As always we enjoy our social events, these have included quiz evenings and various foodie events especially our Christmas dinner and a walk around Chasewater and a 'pint'. Our joint BBQ with Bill's group hosted by Phil and Jane was thoroughly enjoyed by all.'

Lesley and David Stanton

If you would like to know more or think it might be for you please let myself or Gemma know.

Outside of church we are very happy to arrange a visit to someone if they need home communion, are sick or just need a chat and a cuppa. If you know of someone who is recently bereaved, sick or lonely then please let me or Gemma know. Also, if anyone feels they would like to be part of our visiting team please let me know.

Thanks to all those who do visit members of our congregation on a regular basis.

Jane Tennant

Pathway Project

Statistics – 2013-14

- 117 women with 129 children were accommodated in our safe houses.
- 101 women had to be moved elsewhere or turned away as the refuges were full.
- 614 adults were supported in non-refuge services such as floating support or counselling - of these only 21 were male victims
- 375 children and young people had direct support from the project
- 812 children and young people were supported indirectly by supporting the adult responsible for them.

Last year I felt very despondent about all of the funding cuts and challenges faced by Pathway, and actually the whole voluntary sector. Whilst still feeling the pressure of those challenges and the constant threat of more cuts, I have also developed a line of thought that says – ‘we survived, we are surviving and we will continue to survive’. Mostly I am optimistic because I trust the great team here who do a fantastic job, I trust my instincts to carry on and overwhelmingly I trust God.

Dan Green said, ‘Regardless of what came before or of what has yet to come, what matters most is how I choose to respond to the challenge before me. Will I lie down or will I fight? The choice is mine and I choose to FINISH STRONG.’

In October we faced a funding cut of 20% and the loss of 5 members of staff. It was tough, especially for the people we lost, but also for those remaining who somehow had to absorb the additional work. The referrals keep coming and they rise – there was no 20% cut in people needing help. The staff have been amazing and have done a lot extra without moaning or complaining. For the first time ever we have had to introduce a waiting list for floating support services. It goes against everything that we believe in but our choices are limited and are a luxury that we no longer have. However, we work hard to do our utmost to protect and safeguard our service users.

We have had a change of Chairperson and some new trustees. While always sad to lose good people there has been a time of looking at new ideas and direction that has been useful in defining our way forward. We have some new staff posts that are very different – a worker that is based in the Community Safety Hub in Tamworth and does early intervention work and a second who has a split role. She works with the Building Resilient Families team as a Family Support Worker and is also a Victims Champion working to direct people to the right services for their diverse needs.

We have increased our profile on Facebook/Twitter, and are currently looking at ways that we can use social media sites more effectively. There is a lot more interaction now and our followers are growing.

Most importantly we continue to hear from women that we have helped in finding a voice, and having the courage to use it. Their ability to bounce back always motivates us to work harder. Seeing what they achieve is a great incentive.

Our 4Men service continues but only a slow trickle of referrals come from male victims. There is a lot of stigma still attached and we are working to help to change attitudes. Legal clinics continue to be busy and well utilised and our relationship with Derby University School of Law helps enormously with the legal work we undertake, as they act as McKenzie Friends.

Our IT is being revised and as a long overdue process we now have an amazing new database. Our IT systems have all been updated and we feel that we have moved forwards a huge amount when it comes to technology. We have certainly not spent the year mourning lost funding, but working out how we can still do our best for our service users. I think that I can truly say that we will finish strong but I don’t think that we can finish until domestic abuse is no longer an issue. I think that might be some time.

At our AGM this year we had the first presentation of the Maggie Stewart Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award. Well done to Jayne Wilkinson who was presented with the award and has gone on to get a new job. We will miss you but hope that the opportunity to work with us helped a little in that achievement.

One day we hope that we will succeed to the extent that our services will no longer be required. Until that day, at the end of every day, we will choose to FINISH STRONG, and ready to face whatever tomorrow brings. Thank you St John's for your support, prayers and financial help. We value all that you do for us.

Kathy Coe

PCC Secretary's Report

The PCC has had an eventful year, with a whole variety of topics & matters to discuss & make decisions on. There have been 7 PCC meetings over the past 12 months, & in the absence of an incumbent, Ian McKeown has very capably taken the reigns as lay chair. Throughout the year, two main areas - the Vacancy & the diocesan plans for Team Ministry - have continued to shape a number of meetings. Here are some of the 'highlights'!

May 2014: Soon after Duncan's retirement, the Archdeacon of Lichfield, Simon Baker, came & shared with the PCC information about the Vacancy & a rough idea about the process that would need to be followed in order for an eventual successor to Duncan to be appointed. The PCC also decided to fund a new church website, to be constructed by Matt Wallace & Jay Gascoigne over future weeks.

June 2014: The PCC elected Jane Tennant & Ian McKeown as 'parish representatives' - the two people who will sit on an interview panel for the next vicar & 'represent' the views of the church in discerning who should be appointed. There was a joint day with the Ministry Team where significant time was given to thinking through the kind of person who it was felt would be best suited for taking the church forward as the next vicar.

July 2014: Simon Baker joined the PCC once again to discuss more details of the appointment process, in particular the need for the PCC to put together a comprehensive parish profile. He also highlighted that there were ongoing discussions between the diocese & local clergy/wardens concerning possible changes to the future shape of ministry with the six local churches. The other main decision taken was to appoint Elaine Betts as chair of the Oscar's Management Committee.

September 2014: Les Careless, Elaine Betts & Ian McKeown were chosen to be the team who would work on putting the parish profile together. There was also a detailed discussion on the perceived pros & cons of the Team Ministry Proposal which had been communicated to the wardens since the last PCC meeting. Angie Thomas presented on the need for the church to update the contracts of employment for paid staff, & made some very useful recommendations. It was also decided to experiment with closing the partition between the hall & worship area on Sundays in order to assess the viability of using the hall space for Sunday morning young people's groups.

November 2014: The issue of Safeguarding was discussed, with the decision taken to explore how we might follow best practice more closely as a church. The matter of the church tithe was discussed, in light of the realisation that substantial amounts of the pledged tithe for 2012 & 2013 had remained unpaid. With heavy hearts, but due to the need to be financially prudent with the limited funds available to the church, the PCC decided to write off the unallocated tithe money, with a firm commitment not to allow a similar situation to arise in the future. Also, Marie Hiley, the parish

administrator, was given a pay rise to £10/hour, in recognition of her substantial contribution to the smooth running of the church. David Sims announced that, in light of his forthcoming BAP for selection to Ordained Ministry, he was resigning as PCC Secretary from January 2015.

January 2015: News was shared of two very welcome grants the church had received: £2072 from Burntwood Town Council for the carpet fund, & £9000 for the Bishop's Growth Fund towards the costs of Jay Gascoigne's role as 'Reaching New Generations Project Leader'. After lengthy discussion, the PCC agreed to make Safeguarding training a requirement for all those working with children & young people in church. Also, & again after lengthy discussion, the PCC voted in favour of the draft proposals for Team Ministry, by a margin of 12 for, with 1 abstention, & 0 against. A figure for the church tithe of 10% of both freewill & planned giving was agreed on, whilst it was decided to support Pathway Project with a regular gift of £1200 p.a. A wage rise was agreed for the cleaners to £7.00/hour, & will be kept at 50p above the minimum wage in the future. Ron Hart was given a pay rise to £8.50/hour, & his weekly hours extended from 4 to 5. Based on quotes & samples received, the colour & quality of the new church carpet was chosen, whilst the contract for the decoration of the foyer & side rooms was agreed. Finally, Marg Nicholls was appointed as new PCC Secretary.

March 2015: News of the timescale for the appointment of a new vicar was communicated, whilst a formal vote was taken to indicate the PCC's support of the draft Team Ministry documents (11 for, 1 against, 0 abstentions). Plans were agreed for St John's to host a Christmas Dinner on Dec 25th & a News Year's Eve party on December 31st 2015. The PCC agreed to commit to spending £8,500 on completing the decorating & carpeting of the worship area & hall in summer 2015, with the proviso that such funds were required to be raised in full by the time of the 2016 APCM.

And so ends another year for the PCC - which, as you can see, has been a busy one! Many thanks to David Sims for his work as PCC Secretary until January 2015, & we're delighted to have appointed Marg Nicholls as his replacement. Above all, there is a genuine sense of gratitude to God for his continued patience, guidance & wisdom as the PCC attempt to discern the best way forward for the church under his oversight. The year ahead promises to be just as eventful, so do please keep praying that the right decisions will be made for the sake of God's kingdom & glory.

Matt Wallace (on behalf of David Sims & Marg Nicholls)

Planned Giving

Last year my report expressed concern about the drop in regular giving. This year I'm happy to report an increase in planned giving to the General Fund. The number of regular givers has remained the same at 48 (not all the same folk as some have left and others joined). Two folk continue to support Young People's Ministry.

- Planned Giving Gift Aid: 22 people give by Standing Order and 12 by Envelope
- Planned Giving non Gift Aid: 8 people give by Standing Order, 6 by Envelope
- Our Gift Aid = £38,100 up by £4,420 on last year
- Our total tax reclaimed was £11,589.46. This includes:
 - YPM = £152.50
 - Carpet = £250 (a further £400 will be claimed in April)
 - Iraq (Open Doors) = £67.50
- Planned Giving non Gift Aid totalled £4,740 up by £1,500

Freewill (collection bags) that is slightly down but still totalled £10,635. We are able to claim tax on the first £5000 which means just over £5000 we can't claim. It is therefore important if you are a tax

payer to consider using the envelope scheme or setting up a standing order. If you would like to know more please speak or phone me, Sue Southall (01543 677806). If you are unable to give regularly but are a tax payer, please use one of the one-off (yellow) envelopes, they are just inside the Worship door by the offering plate.

Once again my thanks to Elaine (church warden) who each month helps me open and count the envelopes ready for me to bank. Also thanks to those on duty at our services who record details of attendance and the freewill giving enabling me to submit our claim under the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS). Thank you all for your faithful giving and support.

Sue Southall

Sunday Stars - Shooting Stars and Little Stars

Crèche has been running now for almost four and a half years since November 2010. We offer a safe, loving and caring environment for children aged 3-7. We have now renamed this group as Shooting Stars and the under 3's group as Little Stars to give the children a feeling of belonging to a group. The children come to the Shooting stars session to learn about the bible, Jesus, be creative and play. All children who take part in the sessions are children who attend the Sunday 10:30am church service with their parents/grandparents. Previously the age range was 0-7 and in the last 12 months we have created two groups. We now offer a baby room for mums/carers and their children under 3 years (Little Stars). Unfortunately we are currently unable to supervise these sessions so mums or dads are required to stay with the children. However we hope to be able to have enough leaders to allow parents of under 3's to stay in the service while we care for the children in the near future.

The Shooting Stars sessions are still run by three different leaders per month and have followed the Energize syllabus created by Urban Saints for the last 12 months. The sessions are much more structured and often follow a theme over the term. We have seen the children grow in their confidence, understanding and love for Jesus and hope this continues long into the future. Our plan for the next 12 months is to encourage more families to come to church and join in with the Sunday stars sessions, to recruit new leaders which will enable us to have a supervised baby room and to continue to provide a good grounding and teaching for our young followers of Jesus.

Lottie Backhouse

Youth

It has been another great year for the youth group. We spent up until the summer looking at the life of Jesus, before doing a '12 days of Christmas' series, which we are still working through now, exploring various characteristics of God. It has been great to get stuck into the bible with the group, and really pleasing to see the great friendships that have been built. Last summer we went to Soul Survivor for the third year running, which was another fantastic opportunity to spend time with each other and learn more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Numbers have also grown since last year, with 12 members now regularly coming, and a few more people due to join. We are also excited by Jay's appointment, as he has become a valuable part of the leadership team and has helped lead since September. Whilst the youth group is in a good place at the moment, your prayers would be appreciated over the next year, as lots of changes are due to take place with Leanne and me leaving after Soul Survivor this year, and the structural changes that will be happening throughout the church. Thank you!

Josh Sutton

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	For year ended 31st December 2014		For year ended 31st December 2013	
Income				
Planned Giving (Gift Aid)		38,700		33,680
Tax Reclaimed on general giving & donations		11,459		9,934
Planned Giving (non-Gift Aid)		4,740		3,240
Freewill Giving		10,635		10,810
Donations – General		2,813		5,205
Donations – Carpet Fund		3,541		1,000
Grants		0		450
Fees for Weddings, Funerals, Burials and Memorial stones. Less	10,025		8,151	
Assigned fees (wedding, funeral etc)	(3,626)		(4,702)	
Verger (Wedding or funeral)	(215)		(250)	
Organist (Wedding or funeral)	(330)		(400)	
Net Fees		5,854		2,799
Young peoples ministry – Grant		0		0
Young peoples ministry - Other income		1,146		4,470
Church – Hire		3,861		3,890
The Rooms - Hire		6,421		7,700
Oscar Income		42,601		38,188
Little Singers income		158		171
Fund Raising – Fayres		1,719		2,912
Little Friends	Income	2,950	4,225	
	Less running costs	(2,302)	(2,118)	
	Net	648	2,107	
Young Peoples Church	Income	3,128	2,004	
	Less running costs	(1,669)	(1,712)	
	Net	1,459	292	
Drop Inn	Income	1,327	827	
	Less running costs	(265)	(138)	
	Net	1,062	690	
Interest on Deposit Accounts		48		133
Total Income		136,865		127,671
Expenditure				
Charitable Giving		2,312		4,214
Parish Share		46,931		45,550
Vicar's expenses		229		459
Other Ministers expenses		494		678
Church Co-ordinator		1,226		1,300
Parish Administrator		6,064		5,632
Salary cost of Youthworker/Children's worker		2,482		11,983
Young People's Ministry Leader –Travel costs		141		0
Young People's Ministry Leader's Training		0		0
Youth Work	income	162	295	
	Expenditure	(132)	(180)	
	Net	(30)	(115)	
Soul Survivor		163		393
Gifts		64		256
Oscar Expenses		39,765		35,395
Church - Cleaners & Caretakers		3,857		4,156
The Rooms - Cleaners & Caretakers		1,081		666

Church - Cleaning & Consumables	564	894
The Rooms - Cleaning & Consumables	22	0
Church - Heat / Light / Water / Refuse	7,211	9,004
The Rooms - Heat / Light / Water / Refuse	2,487	2,197
Churchyard - Water / Refuse	264	243
The Rooms - Maintenance, Parts & Repairs	464	298
Churchyard - Maintenance, Parts & Repairs	720	0
Church - Maintenance, Parts & Repairs	1,657	1,752
Church - Insurance	914	764
The Rooms - Insurance	653	647
Children's Insurance	272	298
Worship Consumables	1,010	709
Community Care	Income	392
	Less running costs	<u>(362)</u>
	Net	(41)
Burntwood Churches United subscription	75	75
Parish weekend away	0	689
Conferences and Retreats	0	143
Function in park	0	0
Hospitality	198	286
Training Courses and Activities	125	710
Church Telephone	488	456
Internet & Vicarage Telephone	327	642
Parish Office Telephone	528	472
Curate's Telephone	0	280
Postage	112	90
Church Stationery	0	0
Office Consumables & Sundries	287	230
Paper & Ink Supplies	322	111
Photocopier charges & supplies	1,859	1,821
Computer software	0	89
APCM costs	0	0
Deanery Synod	0	(62)
New website	347	0
Christian Copyright Licence	330	590
Interest on Diocesan Loans	0	49
Audit Fee	500	500
Miscellaneous	(5)	210
Depreciation for the year	<u>773</u>	<u>1,293</u>
Total Expenses	127,242	136,017
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	<u>9,623</u>	<u>(8,346)</u>

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHASE TERRACE
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2014**

	2014 £	2013 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Fixed Assets	116,296	115,989
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	980	1,267
Cash at bank and in hand	36,629	25,802
	<u>37,609</u>	<u>27,063</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNT FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	4,161	2,931*
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>33,448</u>	<u>24,132</u>
LIABILITIES: AMOUNT FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR	0	0
NET ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)	<u>149,744</u>	<u>140,121</u>
FUNDS		
Restricted		
Carpet	4,541	1,000
Building Fund	0	0
Young People's Ministry	0	0
Total Restricted Funds	<u>4,541</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Unrestricted	60,203	54,121*
Revaluation Reserve	85,000	85,000
	<u>149,744</u>	<u>140,121</u>

* Restated last year's figures to show write-off of £5,091 creditor from previous year.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHASE TERRACE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Detailed)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds Carpet £	Restricted Funds Building £	Restricted Funds YPM £	Total Funds	
					2014 £	2013 £
MONIES IN						
Planned giving						
Gift-aided	38,700				38,700	33,680
Income tax recovered	11,459			63	11,522	9,934
Non Gift-aided	4,740				4,740	3,240
Collections - open plate	10,635				10,635	10,810
Sundry donations	2,813	3,541			6,354	6,205
Young peoples ministry income	0			1,083	1,083	4,470
Grant - Computer	0				0	450
Fayres and other events	1,719				1,719	2,912
Church Rooms hire	6,421				6,421	7,700
Church lettings	3,861				3,861	3,890
Fees Received	5,854				5,854	2,799
Income from Non-Charitable trading						
- Oscars	42,600				42,600	38,188
- Others	1,869				1,869	2,967
Interest Received	48	0	0	0	48	133
	<u>130,719</u>	<u>3,541</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,146</u>	<u>135,406</u>	<u>127,378</u>
MONIES OUT						
Missionary and Charitable Giving	2,312				2,312	4,214
Outreach Ministry -Oscar's, Little Friends, YPC	38,745	0		2,623	41,368	47,705
Parish Share	46,931				46,931	45,550
Clergy Expenses	723				723	1,280
Pastoral expenses	263				263	1,232
Church Running Expenses	12,194				12,194	14,400
Church Maintenance	1,657				1,657	1,752
Upkeep of Services	1,010				1,010	709
Education and Training	125				125	710
Upkeep of Church Yard	984				984	243
Church Room Running Costs	4,707				4,707	3,809
Administration	12,236				12,236	12,278
Depreciation	773				773	1,293
Audit Fee	500				500	500
Interest on Building Loan	0				0	49
	<u>123,160</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,623</u>	<u>125,783</u>	<u>135,724</u>
NET INCOMING (OUTGOING)						
RESOURCES FOR YEAR	7,559	3,541	0	(1,477)	9,623	(8,346)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2014 *RESTATED	54,121	1,000	0	0	55,121	
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	(1,477)	0	0	1,477	0	
BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2014	<u>60,203</u>	<u>4,541</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>64,744</u>	

