



St John's Community Church

Annual Report 2016-17

Welcome to St John's Community Church Annual Report for 2016-17.
Hopefully you'll find it to be an interesting, encouraging & faith-inspiring read!

It's been a year of in which some sizeable changes have occurred to our **church building**, whether that's been the moving of the office up from Ironstone Road, the removal of the stage in the worship area, or the creation of a dedicated prayer room. We've made some big decisions along the way connected with our **community role** - including the decision to close Oscar's after 17 years in operation, & to wind down the church rooms as a hireable meeting space, moving many user groups to the main church building. And the way in which we function as a **church community** has continued to develop, ranging from our involvement as part of the Burntwood Chase Team or the opportunities we have to meet together socially alongside our worship services.

In all of these areas of change, we've been aware of God's provision & guiding voice, & our hope & prayer is that we have been (& will continue to be) faithful with all that he has entrusted us with. Above all, our aim remains the same: to live out & share God's love with Chase Terrace, Boney Hay & beyond.

We have so much to be thankful to God for - not least, for each other, & it's a huge privilege to be vicar of such a vibrant, growing, generous & faithful church. Thank you for all of your service, encouragement, prayer, giving, & love, & may God continue to bless us so that we can in turn be a blessing to others.

Yours in Jesus,



Revd Matt Wallace

Team Vicar - St John's Community Church, Chase Terrace and Boney Hay

St John's Community Church

Annual Report

2016-17

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Burntwood Churches United (BCU)

Your representatives have continued to meet regularly and pray with those from the other churches affiliated to BCU. We have organised ecumenical worship for Advent and Pentecost and a week of prayer for Christian Unity in May. We have partnered Burntwood Town Council in holding children's events as part of the Chase Wakes and the Christmas Celebrations to switch on the lights at Sankey's Corner. We oversee the management of the Food Bank distribution in Burntwood and partner the church responsible for the organisation in Cannock and District. We also continue to partner Burntwood Youth for Christ in their task of contacting young people in a relevant manner with the gospel.

We are currently reviewing our operations and possibly our constitution. But the Sunrise Service at 6am on Castle Ring on Easter Sunday will be hosted by us and you are also invited to attend the ecumenical Walks of Witness at St Anne's, Chasetown or at Christchurch, Burntwood at 10am on Good Friday. See you there!

David Stanton

Churchwardens' Report

The year 2016 has been a mixture of difficult decisions and the excitement of being part of a growing church where Jesus is at the centre of everything. We believe that the growth in numbers attending St John's is a real answer to prayer and we thank God that we have on average each Sunday an attendance of 128 adults and 23 children. We thank God for Matt and his family and for the way he is leading us into a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ and His ways. We thank God for Bill and Ian our Readers, the PCC and the Ministry Team, our Assistant Wardens Marg, Gill, Carolyne and Nigel, and the many people in the congregation who serve the Lord in many different ministries. We thank God for every member of our congregation, those who have been here a long time and those who have only recently joined us. What a joy it is to see people of all different age groups come together to worship and to further God's kingdom in the Burntwood area.

In July we saw the closure of Oscar's Out of School Club. This had been running for 17 years and it was a sad time for the staff, the children, their parents and those in the congregation who had been involved with Oscar's over the years. We still have a close relationship with Holly Grove School who since September have run their own out of school club called Holly Berries. In August the church office moved from the Church Rooms on Ironstone Road to the church building and it is now much easier to keep in touch with Marie, our Parish Administrator. With the move of the office, this has led to the setting up of the new prayer room and moving the lounge to what was the crèche room. This has meant some new furniture and lighting being acquired alongside decorating and general tidying up. We thank everyone who helped with the move and the changes to the rooms, and particularly to Steve Taylor who organised the new blinds that have been fitted throughout the church. We have had to do more repairs to the church roof and a full electrical and emergency lighting system test in the church, but fortunately we have had no health and safety issues.

In January 2018 this present building will be 20 years old and over the next couple of years we will have to carry out necessary expensive repairs and upgrades. Pray for wisdom for the PCC as they plan for this work to be carried out. Pray also that God will continue to bless us and new people will be drawn into the church and into a relationship with Jesus Christ, and that new leaders will come forward to serve God in this vibrant church.

Elaine Betts and Les Careless

Community Care

Our community care lunches are continuing to be as popular as ever. This year we have had on average between 45 – 60 elderly people joining us at Easter, July and Harvest. Sadly we have lost some of our long-standing members due to ill health, but we have been really pleased to welcome many new faces. The “early birds” start arriving at just after 12 noon, and by 1pm when we start serving the meal everyone has arrived. Everyone sits happily chatting before and throughout the meal which is served by our loyal team of helpers. The meal is cleared away by 2pm when John and Marg Nicholls start the sing-a-long entertainment. It is lovely to hear all the old songs and everyone enjoys joining in.

My thanks go to the team who work so hard to deliver the invitations, get the hall ready, prepare the food, as well as those who serve the food and drinks and clear away and wash up afterwards. My special thanks go to John and Marg for their singing and piano playing, along with the amusing anecdotes which are enjoyed by all. It is such a privilege to be part of the Community Care Team and to share in the happiness that abounds in this important Ministry.

Elaine Betts

Deanery Synod

The Lichfield Deanery Synod held four meetings during the year and other than receiving summary reports from the Diocesan Synod and general business, each meeting discussed a main topic as follows:-

FEBRUARY – *“Delights in God”*. There was an opportunity to taste a selection of communion wines, including Fair Trade, non-alcoholic and fruit juice. Dr Jeremy Brown said that for many reasons churches should consider serving non-alcoholic communion wine. The meeting was set out in “Café Style” to enable members to share more easily their experiences of “Delighting in God”.

MAY – *“Climate Change”*. Following a presentation by Peter Phillips who took part in a pilgrimage from London to Paris to lobby the Climate Change Conference in November 2015, a discussion took place on how we can make a difference in our churches and churchyards in line with the Diocesan Environment Strategy.

SEPTEMBER – *“Open the Book”*. A dramatic illustration by the Brownhills “Open the Book” Team, was followed by a presentation by Lynn Satchell (Regional Training & Development Officer), who explained how “Open the Book” aims to bring the Bible to life for every child in primary school. As a result of this inspiring presentation a training course was held in the autumn for those wishing to implement the project in their parish.

NOVEMBER – *“Dementia Friendly Church”*. Revd. David Primrose, (Diocesan Officer for Transforming Communities), led the discussion on the challenge we face in supporting and caring for the increasing numbers of people within our communities who are living with Dementia. In response to this presentation there is a four week training course being held at St. Michael’s Lichfield beginning on 24th April.

Annette Haywood

The Drop Inn

The Drop Inn has continued to serve an increasing number of people throughout 2016-17. It is a great privilege to minister to our regular church members who support us week by week but also to a growing number of lonely and needy people who come to enjoy the warmth of the atmosphere, to meet new people and to chat. We offer prayer support if this is felt to be appropriate. The use of the second room has not only provided us with more space but also allows the children to have a secure area in which to play.

We have increased the number of fund raising coffee mornings. These have been a huge success. Many thanks to our cake bakers who pull out all the stops to provide extra cakes and to everyone who come to eat or buy cakes on the day! This year we raised £227.52 for the Pathway Project, £227.64 for Macmillan Cancer Trust and £336.74 for Light for Children. We have also been able to give £345.68 to the church funds in 2016 from the weekly donations.

Please pray for our helpers who provide such an important service each week that through them others will see the love of Jesus.

Lesley Stanton

Foodbank

We are delighted to report that giving to the Cannock and District Foodbank was at least 500kg of goods this year or half a metric tonne. More has been given than recorded in that total as I know other volunteers have taken large contributions at Christmas, Harvest and Easter that could not be recorded by me. It should also be noted that the Cannock and District Foodbank have received financial aid from the church on a regular basis using our Church Tithe. For all your generosity, St John's Community Church is much appreciated as an active partner in this vital local charity.

The use of a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' where people chose to give food during advent each day was a phenomenal success. Via social networks it almost went viral locally gathering an energy of its own bringing many families into giving a little each day of Advent. A wonderful testimony of God's love in action.

Sue Southgate and Margaret Bryans both give of their time generously on Tuesdays helping to distribute food and prepare a meal for those who accept the offer of donated food. There continues to be a need for more volunteers at lunchtime on Tuesday. We are richly blessed at St John's Community Church and it is so pleasing to report upon an area of our ministry that blesses so many local people who are in need.

David Stanton

Hospitality

At the end of this year all money given on a Sunday after our service etc was transferred into the church general fund under the heading of 'hospitality'. I still check on stock and do the purchasing but no longer keep a record of money in and out, claiming money spent back. At present, we are still a 'fair trade' church - I know several didn't enjoy the coffee I was purchasing, however, I have upgraded to a premium but dearer coffee hoping that will make a difference!

Sue Southall

Jay Gascoigne - Youth Coordinator

Alongside my reports on Youth and YPC (see separate entries), my Urban Saints workload has been mainly supporting the team with Youth Ministry Network hubs in Shropshire and Birmingham. In Birmingham I have been supporting in worship music alongside a new team consisting of Sara Taylor (Urban Saints Midlands Director), Shane Roche (Message Trust Midlands Coordinator) and Andy Wilman (Urban Devotion) which includes connecting different Youth Ministry teams across the city. I was part of the worship team at Shine UK led mainly by St John's worship team, and a new residential holiday called 'Spree' started in Evesham last July, which I attended and helped set up on the first day. The South Staffs Hub for the Youth Ministry Network has partnered with Whitemoor Lakes but unfortunately they meet on Wednesdays once a quarter which clashes with our own Youth group so I've not been able to attend, although Kathy Louis has been on my behalf.

In terms of other areas of work, in late 2016 I stopped going to Chase Terrace High School 'Faith Matters' group and now concentrate my time wisely by coordinating and supporting the teams across YPC two groups and Youth. Community links have worked well with WS7 'It's Your Place' summer activities in the park, alongside Lottie Backhouse, whilst the Christmas Community Lunch was successful in its second year.

Jay Gascoigne

Light for Children

Thank you very much for your invaluable support over the last twelve months, which has enabled us to continue to help hundreds of children and young people in northeast Romania.

For the 130+ children living in state care in Dorohoi, we have been able to fund school books and extra educational support, including speech therapy. We have continued to work closely with a local GP, dentist and optician, enabling all of the children to have access to the medical care that they need. In December, we were privileged to be able to share the true meaning of Christmas with the children and give them all small gifts.

A number of young adults who have left the care system have continued to benefit from our support as they adapt to living independently in the community. Sadly, three of our young adults died during 2016 as a result of illnesses, so we able to support and care for them during their final months in hospital.

We have continued to support several young people from local families with their university expenses and two girls, aged four and twelve, as they continue to fight leukaemia.

I continue to rehearse with the children's orchestra at church each weekend and am delighted that significant progress and many happy memories have been made, particularly as we have travelled to play in other local churches and venues.

Thank you very much to St John's for supporting us in every possible way. We are very grateful for everything that you do for us.

Helen and Costel Cosman

Little Friends

Little Friends continues to offer a safe, fun place for children to play, make craft items, sing and generally learn new social skills, while Mums, Dads, Grandmas, Granddads and Carers also make friends with others in the community. The highlight of the morning is when we come together to sing Christian songs mixed in with nursery rhymes and say a prayer, introducing Jesus in a very relaxed, fun way.

Our numbers are constantly between 60 and 70 children on the books with between 45 to 50 attending on a weekly basis. We find that we have a steady stream of enquiries and while we endeavour never to turn anyone away occasionally we have a small waiting list if numbers exceed 50 regularly. This last term has seen our numbers swelled by 5 sets of twins!!! Apparently this is a national trend!

This last year has seen quite a few changes regarding our wonderful team of helpers. Mike and Yvonne have now retired after many years of working tirelessly with the craft work, setting up the toys and generally looking after all things 'Little Friends' and Janice and Peter Howard also finished in the summer of last year. Peter has helped with the music for as long as I can remember and Janice generally packing away. We are very grateful to them all for their love and commitment over the years.

Lottie has now taken over the responsibility of the craft work and hubby Phil now helps me sing on his guitar. Brian Buckley and Phil Evans help with setting up and putting away now so thank you very much and to all our fantastic team of helpers - you really are the best!! If you want to know who they are we have a great display of photos on the wall in the lounge. We so look forward to spending our Thursday mornings getting to know the families God sends through our doors and pray that whoever comes will know just how precious they are to Him.

Jane Tennant

Little Singers

Little Singers continues strongly with an average of 15 children each week. The dynamics of our team changed in October of last year and Gemma and Lottie welcomed Pat Hoare, Anji Haywood and Sammy Backhouse to the team, who have been an amazing addition. We are currently looking for another member of the team to cover any team absences. We continue to sing and dance to worship songs. We have introduced some new songs and performed them at the Christmas Fayre. We have changed our story time to be more focused on Christian living, for example looking at the Armour of God and how this can help the children with life's challenges. We have introduced a prayer board which allows the children to share any circumstances or people who they wish us to pray for over the week. We have continued the weekly challenge which parents and children continue to enjoy. Over the next 12 months we hope to see a gradual increase in the number of children attending Little Singers, to introduce some more songs for the children to enjoy and perform. We would like to thank all leaders and helpers for their support, commitment and hard work in these sessions. We hope that they will continue to be a joy to all involved.

Lottie Backhouse

Lottie Backhouse - Children's Coordinator

After just over a year in this role, I have been coordinating, supporting and resourcing the under 5's activities but now also support and resource up to the age of 11 years. This includes helping with YPC#2 every Friday and leading a Super Stars session every 3 weeks. I have also attended some toolbox training with Youth Net, which has enabled me to implement some new storytelling ideas with the groups which have been very well received by all the children. I have continued to be involved in Little Friends and since Yvonne retired have been providing our much loved craft table for children and carers to enjoy. I have continued to help and lead Little Singers, our Sunday Stars groups and our Friday YPC which

have all seen an increase in attendance. Many of the groups I'm involved with have separate reports included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

We worked well in partnership with Burntwood Town Council and WS7 Events this summer and provided some fantastic Play in the Parks session in Chase Terrace Park for families in our community over the summer holidays – the main aim was to help us establish better links and relationships with our local community. We hope to continue this for 2017 as it was very successful. I have some further training lined up with the Lichfield Diocese later this year which I hope will be an inspiration and an asset to the children's ministry. Thank you to all the teams involved in the many children's activities for their support, hard work and commitment over the past 12 months and into the future. Please pray that God will continue to guide and grow his Children's and Youth Ministry and its teams here at St Johns.
Lottie Backhouse

Men's Breakfast

The numbers for Men's Breakfast are much the same as last year - sometimes 6, sometimes 14. There were no trips out this year but we hope to do some in the coming year. We meet about every other month - sometimes just for breakfast, and sometimes for jobs around the church - but the men are made aware that they don't have to work and are most welcome to come just for breakfast! There is no charge but donations always cover the cost and leave some over, and this year £50 went into church funds. We do have some men who come that don't come to church on Sundays, and we also have some men coming from St Anne's, which is great. We do not get many younger men, most of them may be at work, but we'll keep inviting them anyway! Many thanks to you all.

Mike Emery

Midweek Service

Everyone is welcome to join the midweek service on a Wednesday from 10am to 10.50am. We meet in church in an informal setting led by Bill, Tony or Keith who guide us through a prepared service sheet (when Keith takes the service it is Holy Communion). Each of the leaders takes us through a Bible reading, giving us the opportunity for reflection and often leading to discussion and further insight into our walk with the Lord. We are also blessed to be able to pray together for the needs of each other and of the church.

On the last Wednesday of the month we attend St John the Baptist in Hammerwich for the Communion Service led by Linda Hood. Again, everyone is welcome, and where necessary, transport is arranged.

At St John's we are truly blessed with the opportunities available to meet, pray and worship together. As we grow in numbers it is also an ideal way of getting to know each other personally too. There is not an obligation to attend every week, some members attend when they are available. We would love to meet with you.

Angie Thomas

Novi Most International

This has been an exciting year for Novi Most and St Johns as we received in October some of the young people we work with in Bosnia Herzegovina at a special presentation evening. We really appreciate the church's willingness to help with our youth work in one of the most economically and spiritually neglected countries of Europe. It was great to hear their own stories of how Novi Most helps them and what it is like to live in a place where so few

believe and hardly anyone under 35 have jobs. The turnout at St Johns in October was fantastic and stood out for the young people as one of the highlights of their trip to the UK. The charity employs 7 local Bosnian youth workers and 12 international volunteers in 5 locations throughout Bosnia one of whom was Budo, a converted Moslem, who shared with our church how God has been working through the tiny evangelical church there and our teams, sharing faith in a very divided and difficult country.

This year for the first time we will have the opportunity for a team of 7 from St Johns Community Church to go and help lead on a summer camp, doing everything from cooking to sport, praying and sharing. It will be a fantastic opportunity to be in a different culture and to share what we can of Gods heart for some of the young people there. In order to do this we will need to raise some support for those who want to go, but I would particularly ask for your prayers and encouragement as we develop from being a church who can give financial support to being also a physical and spiritual support to the teams in BiH. The camp will be in July, and will be just the first group of hopefully many who can go from our church and share in this exciting ministry. So if it is in your heart that you might want to be involved in future, however old you are, please talk to myself or Carol, Russ and Anna, Jay Gascoigne or Jon Biddle for more information.

Much of our work is based around teaching English and offering skills for work and life in a non-judgemental place, where most are divided by their religious background. We do this in a fun way, running Klubs, Camps, workshops and youth trips connecting with the local churches. But as there are less than 500 evangelical Christians in the country it is easy to feel the odd one out there. We believe that God has his hand on that country which was torn apart by war not that long again, and we are beginning to see young Christian people get involved also with the politics and social needs there which is the best hope for their future. By supporting Novi Most and visiting them, we at St John's are demonstrating Gods love in a very real way and I and the team in Bosnia are eternally grateful for that. God bless you.

Matty Sutton (Liaison and Development Officer - Novi Most International)

Parish Administrator

We have seen considerable alterations in the office over the last year, with the move from Ironstone Road, to the church and an increase in opening hours. It has proved to be a very positive change, by providing greater accessibility for all church users to the office facilities. The new modern environment is both warm and welcoming for users, and the new sofa provides a relaxed atmosphere for parishioners and visitors needing help, information, or pastoral support.

We have completed 12 months on the newly implemented finance system, which has also been a very positive step forward. As hoped, it has significantly improved the quality and promptness of our financial reporting which has proved to speed up financial decision making by PCC etc.

Marie Hiley

Pastoral Care

A great deal of the pastoral work within the church is achieved through our mid-week groups known as Real Groups. We have 8 Real Groups and 1 Nurture Group for adults. The object of these groups is to help people to grow in their faith through Bible Study and prayer, to be supported by other Christians within the group and to enjoy social activities while getting to know one another better.

Our Group Leaders do a wonderful job taking on the responsibility of organizing the studies and oversight of people week by week. As numbers grow within our church community – as exciting as it is - it is sometimes difficult to feel connected within a larger group of people. Being part of a smaller group gives members chance to feel supported and included on a weekly basis. If you have yet to join a group and would like to know more, do please let me know.

Our times of prayer on Sundays very often lead to some sort of pastoral support through illness or difficulties so our Prayer Teams are a vital link to pastoral issues.

Gone are the days when the vicar is the only pastor. We are all pastors to one another and I do believe St. John's people do this so very naturally one with another.

As a church we will continue to love and support all those God has entrusted us with.

If there are any issues or difficulties concerning Pastoral Care that need addressing please speak to either Matt or myself.

Jane Tennant

Pathway Project

Pathway work with victims of domestic and sexual abuse, in a sense to make their dreams come true. Mostly the dreams will seem alien to many people. The dream of being safe in your own home, of having some control of your life, of being able to buy a magazine or go on a bus, or being able to enjoy being a parent to your child. The loftier dreams can come later. Right now the aim is to stay safe, to keep your family safe, to stay alive.

We work with both male and female victims, from children to older people and every age in between. There are growing trends that we see. The numbers of young people in our service suffering abuse, rape, sexual exploitation, grooming and sexting have been increasing for some time. At the same time the number of older people, some suffering at the hands of children or family members has also risen. We constantly look for opportunities to develop services that meet these growing trends.

We had amazing news last year when we were granted a Big Lottery Empowering Women and Girls Initiative grant of £550,000 over 5 years, which has enabled us to do so much. Since July 2016 the money has allowed us to do the following:

- We have a Coordinator for the helpline so that more consistency is possible and there is less chance of us missing calls. People get a good response every time they call.
- We have an Early Intervention Worker who is co-located with Lichfield Police. She goes through every police call out each morning and makes contact with every victim of family violence / abuse, offering rapid access to our services, help and support.
- A Young Women and Girls Worker who is able to support any young woman aged 13-25 with any of the issues I mentioned earlier. We are also aiming to develop groups which will build confidence, self-esteem and help young women to know their true value.
- A Volunteer / Training Co-coordinator who supports and trains volunteers and peer mentors and runs our group programme for survivors.

In the first five months of 2016 we had a 500% increase in the number of referrals from the police, compared to the same period in 2015, for very high risk cases. These referrals go to our Independent Domestic Violence Advisors. Having this huge rise meant our two workers who each worked a 4 day week found it impossible to offer a safe level of service. This was

the same right across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. Fortunately the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner recognised the risks and provided funding for additional staff. Of course all of our core services have continued to run and we have been doing some exciting work. Funding is always a challenge and we are currently in a tender process for these core services, and would welcome your prayers as we, as part of a group of 3 providers, set up a consortium to work together to provide a consistent service across the whole of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. We cannot allow ourselves to consider the prospect of losing – our aim is to win this tender and go on developing our much needed services. The workload is immense and all-consuming so if you speak to me and I don't respond I may be sleeping with my eyes wide open!

To put numbers to the report – in the past year we have worked with:

- 83 families staying in our refuges - we received 299 referrals but sadly couldn't accommodate 216 families, although we did our best to find alternative accommodation for them
- 1536 people in our outreach services for people in the community
- 1790 people on our helpline, with 1192 children in the families involved
- 180 children in our listening ear and support service
- 404 children involved in activities with our Action Kids self-confidence boosting programme, which included crafts, cinema, ice skating, sports coaching, meal out, trampolines and pizza making.
- An average of 10 young people attend our youth club each week for the 11-16 year olds
- An average of 20 children attend our youth club for 5-11 year olds

We also run a counselling service, legal clinics and support, children's services in refuges, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, Independent Sexual Violence Advisors, and a group programme. We have a Volunteer and Peer Mentor programme which gives people an opportunity to gain new skills and to make a difference to others.

2016 was also the year when we achieved the Women's Aid National Quality Standard Mark. This was no mean feat with three lever arch files crammed with the evidence required. We are very proud of this and every achievement.



The Trustee Board celebrating the Women's at Aid Standards achievement at the Away Day



Celebrating our 25th Anniversary at our AGM in November

We long for the day when the dreams are able to become bigger and more exciting for our service users but we are not naïve. Domestic abuse is still increasing in volume and intensity and the challenges of supporting people with increasingly complex needs is also a daily battle now that many other services have ceased operating or scaled down dramatically.

The things that keep us battling on are the wonderful success stories and knowing that we have made a difference. I received this message a while back which really illustrates the difference we make. This was from a young man who was in one of our refuges as a child: *'In 2000 myself, my mom, brother and two little sisters came into the Pathway Project and you helped me and my siblings through a dark time in our lives. I've only recently been able to find your email, as my life has been very busy, especially recently, with the birth of my son. I just wanted to thank you for what you did for us. I'm glad that Pathway is still helping families. I'm 29 now and I just wanted to let you know that thanks to the care that Pathway provided, it made me a stronger more confident person, with the aim to always be better than my father, now with my son I can make sure the mistakes of the past never repeat themselves, thanks again and I wish you and the Pathway Project all the best, xx'*

Pathway Project – turning victims into survivors.

Kathy Coe, CEO

PCC Secretary's Report

Since taking on the role of PCC Secretary in March 2015 I can honestly say it continues to be an amazing experience - challenges yes, but marvellous. I feel extremely blessed to be part of our PCC in what has been a really productive and prayerful year. Here are a few snippets from our meetings beginning with April 2016:

APRIL 2016: Our APCM saw the election of Elaine and Les Careless as Church Wardens; David and Annette as Deanery Synod Representatives and Jay, Kathy, Lin, Steve and Matty as new PCC members.

MAY 2016: Discussions took place regarding the move of our Parish Office from the Church Rooms in Ironstone Road to our Church building, whilst

Elections took place for the following:-

Vice Chair	Mr Ian McKeown
Secretary	Mrs Margaret Nicholls
Treasurer	Mr Jay Haywood
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Betty Golding

Standing Committee:-

Team Vicar	Rev Matt Wallace
Vice Chair	Mr Ian McKeown
Secretary	Mrs Margaret Nicholls
Church Warden	Mrs Elaine Betts
Church Warden	Mr Les Careless
Treasurer	Mr Jay Haywood
Advisory/Church Council	Mr Steve Taylor

JULY 2016: Chris and Paul Hill were appointed to oversee our Projects and Events Ministry, whilst we heard feedback from the Archdeacon's visit giving advice on possible changes to our AV system and lighting. Approval was also given for Tony Troy to begin his training for Lay Ministry.

SEPTEMBER 2016: Various reports were shared on, for example, future possibilities for training for service leaders and preachers, and the best way forward regarding our AV system. Practical matters such as a new boiler for the kitchen, a first aid course and the implications of the move of the parish office to the church building were also discussed.

NOVEMBER 2016: Details of the Archdeacon's Parochial Visitation were fed back, our Mission Action Plan was discussed, and the prospect of establishing a Garden of Remembrance in the churchyard was considered

JANUARY 2017: Thanks were made for the work that had gone in to installing new blinds throughout the church, plus a new shed for storage outside, whilst various maintenance jobs (leaks, boiler, ceiling work, new taps in hand basins) were reported on. A major topic for discussion involved the future of our Church Rooms, and after taking into account the likely maintenance work required, a decision was taken to close and sell the rooms, whilst ensuring that as many existing hirers as possible could be accommodated in church or elsewhere.

MARCH 2017: The possible changes to services were discussed with the retirement of Rev Linda Hood later in the year, and further discussions took place regarding diocesan training for service leaders, preachers, intercessors etc. The Quinquennial Report was shared, which highlighted an urgent need to address windows frames and doors, whilst our Mission Action Plan was approved for 2017 – 2022

This concludes my report as PCC Secretary, I hope it's given you an insight, albeit small. On a personal note, I enjoy every moment in my role as PCC Secretary and look forward to my next term very much.

Marg Nicholls

Planned Giving

The number of folk/families giving by standing order has remained virtually the same as last year, up from 43 to 45, and those using the envelope scheme has dropped from 16 to 15. These aren't necessarily the same folk as last year as some have left, circumstances have changed and new members are giving. This as you can see doesn't reflect the growth in numbers attending St John's. Those giving by these methods have been generous in their giving as we have seen an increase of over £12,500 gift aided and over £600 on non-gift aided gifts. The 'open plate' giving for last year was £10,937.01 and this year £14,344.12 (all provisional, unaudited figures).

On the 'open plate, we can claim tax back on the first £5,000. This means we cannot claim on the £9,344 remaining, so I do urge those who give in this way and are taxpayers to please consider setting up a standing order or using a set of envelopes. Both are simple to set up and does mean we as a church, without any cost to you, can claim back 25% on any money given. It doesn't matter how small your giving is – it's a gradual process of increasing your giving over a period until you are able to tithe (i.e. 10% of your income). This tithe may not be possible but it is good at each APCM to perhaps reflect on and consider your giving. What you give is strictly confidential – only the Planned Giving Officer has your information. Please do see or phone me, Sue (01543 677806) if you have any questions or would like to start giving on a regular basis.

If you are a tax payer but only give occasionally, please use the 'one-off' white envelopes - these can be found on the notice board or ask a warden.

My thanks to Elaine who helps me with the opening and counting the envelopes money. Also, my thanks to Marie for her support. Once again thank you for your continued generosity enabling God's work to take place here at St Johns and in the wider community.

Sue Southall

Prayer

In last year's report I said that prayer had underpinned all that we had done together over the last 12 months, and that as we continued to seek God's guidance and direction, we had witnessed first-hand the truth of Jesus words that those who seek will indeed find. This is also true of the past year and we have been greatly blessed as a fellowship in seeing so many people grow in their faith in our Lord.

Our prayer life has continued to focus not on what *we* may do for God in order that *we* may build, grow and prosper *our* church here at St. Johns, but rather on what God may do through us as *he* builds, grows and prospers *his* church here at St. Johns. And as we did last year we can once again give testimony that we continue to see the Holy Spirit moving powerfully within and through our fellowship. Again it is good for us to remember that there is always more where God is concerned, consequently, our prayer life must not remain static, but continue to grow in vibrancy, intimacy and desire for more.

We would always encourage people to pray for and with each other and we also have a Prayer Team which continues to meet before each Sunday service and offers confidential prayer ministry to those who need it during and after the service. I am pleased to say that a number of new members have joined our prayer team in the last 12 months and we always are pleased to welcome more new members who would like to share in the privilege of praying with others.

A number of folk have also continued to make use of our Deeper Healings Ministry which operates in tandem with our Pastoral Care Team in providing extra support for those who need more than can be given during our Sunday services. This is a form of ministry seeks the Holy Spirit's guidance for the root cause of all aspects of sickness in spirit, soul and body in order for healing not simply to be applied to the manifest symptoms, but also into the root cause from which the symptoms are manifest.

A time of reflective prayer which is focuses on listening rather than speaking takes place in the lounge at 7.30am each Saturday morning, and all are welcome to simply turn up and join in.

The only prayer group that is closed to anyone other than its members is the Intercessory Prayer Group that meets on a Thursday afternoon. This group is closed because it is a safe place where people can ask for prayers especially in situations that they want to be kept private in every sense, knowing that confidentiality is assured.

Bill Humphries

Safeguarding

This year we have continued to ensure that all our volunteers and leaders are up to date with DBS checks. The diocese has introduced online applications, this has reduced the paperwork but proof of identity still has to be completed separately. Our church hosted two update meetings run by the diocese. Members of our church were asked to attend these for their annual Safeguarding update. Please pray for protection for our church, for the leaders in our children's work and especially for the young people who regularly attend our groups.

Lesley Stanton

Sunday Stars - Little Stars, Shooting Stars and Super Stars

We have three Sunday morning groups:

Little Stars is our 0-3 year's old group which is currently unstaffed so parents or carers stay and play with little ones during the service. We do try to use the speaker system most weeks so that the adults can hear the service whilst in this session. We plan to have an allocated parent/carer each week on a rota basis to welcome and talk to any new adults who may join this session so that they can be made aware of the facilities we have available during the Sunday service, and to help them to settle into this group.

Our Shooting Stars group is for children from age 3-7. We still have three teams of leaders who work on a rota basis who teach, create, worship and pray with these children using the Urban Saints Energize syllabus which is going well. All children seem to be growing in faith which is brilliant to see. The average number of children in these sessions is 12 which has been maintained from last year. We hope that this and all children's groups continue to grow over the next 12 months.

Super Stars is our 7-12 years old group which now has four teams of leaders and runs on a four-week rota which we hope to be able to do for Shooting stars also soon. We have recently taken on two new helpers who are enjoying their roles - a warm welcome to them, and a big thank you to all Sunday Stars leaders for their continued hard work, commitment and dedication to our children's ministry. We hope that all our children's groups will continue to inspire and help our youngsters to grow over the next 12 months. With hopefully further growth in all groups especially Super Stars.

Lottie Backhouse

Youth - Wednesdays

Highlights have been Soul Survivor where we got to take 19 young people to stay for the week and an additional 3 coming on day passes. It was amazing to see the impact on their lives which reminds me often why God called me to this ministry. I had a great team help me with both setting up and support throughout the week as well as prayers. This year we have around 10 young people booked in, please pray for a team to support us while we are there.

Last September saw a change in our Wednesday night 'Youth' group with members leaving for University or a gap year with YFC, but new members joining too. Prayers very much needed for this group as a few are in year 11 so have a lot of school work to concentrate on however, my wonderful team consisting of Kay Gascoigne, Anji Haywood, Ellie Sutton and Jon Biddle have met and prayed for moving forward. A few still attend Sunday morning services when they can which we encourage weekly. A small group of our 'newer' youth group have attended 'Hey' Youth event at Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas.

Jay Gascoigne

YPC

YPC#1 Lottie Backhouse took over leadership of this group after Easter 2016 and recruited Mandy Hodgetts in May of the same year. We have seen an increase of children over the winter term to an average of 6 per week. We currently have children from both Holly Grove and Boney Hay where we had previously only had children from Holly Grove. We now offer a range of activities in our hour slot including sports, cooking and crafts. We have continued to share Bible stories with the children. Recently introducing story boards, Godly play, puppets and open the book style storytelling, which the children have been really engaged

with. We hope that over the next 12 months we will see an increase in numbers for this group. Hopefully from Chase Terrace as well as Holly Grove and Boney Hay. Thank you to all the team for their support, hard work and dedication to this group. Our hope is that this group will continue to grow and be enjoyed by all involved.

YPC#2 continues to go very well, with around 50 young people attending each week. During the session they have time to play team games, do a variety of crafts, play sports and the various leaders will give a talk on a Bible theme, passage or character. Every room in the church is used for YPC#2 and it's an energetic group!

YPC#3 is increasingly being well attended, and has had a real change this year with the previous group now being year 11's preparing for their GCSE exams so not attended as often as previous however, a new year 8 crew has joined us and regularly join us each week and the relationships being built are happening organically with positive results. A group of year 9's have stopped coming more recently, but actually this had quite a positive outcome on the group and the dynamics changed greatly. We restructured the layout by using the crèche room more instead of the main worship room, this has made a positive impact. We have introduced an online video series on Urban Saints Energize called 'Kleer Series' we haven't used this weekly but incorporated it in-between other resource games from Youthscape and sport/team building activities.

Lottie Backhouse and Jay Gascoigne

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2016

1. Reference and administration details

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chase Terrace and Boney Hay, St. John

Known as: **St. John's Community Church**

Charity No: **1131458**

Secretary: Margaret Nicholls, 'Ewlyn', Buds Road, Cannock wood, WS15 4NB

PCC Members (Trustees) Attendance 2016-2017

Name	Elected	Period	Term End	05/16	07/16	09/16	11/16	01/17	03/17	%
Elaine Betts (W)	2016	1	2017	P	P	P	A	P	P	100%
Les Careless (W)	2016	1	2017	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Chris Bates (D)	2014	3	2017	P	X	P	P	R	R	75%
Nigel Procter	2014	3	2017	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Steve Taylor	2014	3	2017	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Jane Tennant	2014	3	2017	A	P	P	P	P	P	83%
Jay Gascoigne	2015	3	2018	P	P	A	A	P	P	67%
Ian McKeown	2015	3	2018	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Ellen Nicholls	2015	3	2018	A	P	P	A	P	P	67%
Mark Tennant	2015	3	2018	A	P	A	A	A	P	33%
Annette Haywood (D)	2016	1	2017	P	A	P	P	P	P	83%
Jay Haywood (T)	2016	3	2019	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Kathy Louis	2016	3	2019	P	P	P	A	A	P	67%
Lin Richards	2016	3	2019	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Steve Richards	2016	3	2019	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
David Stanton (D)	2016	1	2017	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Matt Sutton	2016	3	2019	A	P	P	A	P	P	67%
<i>Co-opted:</i>										
Marg Nicholls (S)	2016	1	2017	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
<i>Clergy Members:</i>										
Revd Matt Wallace	<i>Team Vicar</i>	n/a	n/a	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Revd Marg Mattocks	<i>Team Rector</i>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	P	100%
Key: P Present X Absent A Not Present (Apologies received by the Trustees) R Retired/Resigned W Churchwarden D Deanery Synod Representative T Treasurer S Secretary n/a Not Applicable										

Names and Addresses of Bankers

Alliance and Leicester Commercial Bank, BBAM Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside G10AA
 HSBC Burntwood Town Shopping Centre, Cannock Road, Burntwood. WS7 8JR

Independent Examiner

Mr. Jonathan Hill, Director of Finance, Diocese of Lichfield.

Incumbent

Revd Matt Wallace (Team Vicar)

2. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. In 2009 we registered with the Charity Commissioners in accordance with the provisions of the 2006 Charities Act. All members of the PCC are thereby "TRUSTEES" of the Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. New trustees are informed of their responsibilities through the booklet *"Trusteeship – A Guide for PCC Members"* which is given to each PCC member to read and act upon.

The PCC is the decision making body of St John's Community Church and in accordance with the requirements of church law it has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church property and grounds of St. John's Community Church at High Street, Chase Terrace, the Church Rooms at 39 Ironstone Road, Chase Terrace, together with the Churchyard on Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace. At the present time some of the PCC's duties and functions in respect to the maintenance of the Churchyard have been assumed by Lichfield District Council; however we still have a duty to ensure that memorials are safe and that the Churchyard is in good order.

Since 2000 there has been a Mandated Ministry Team to work alongside the incumbent. In July 2011 the Diocese initiated a new structure to recognise shared leadership in a parish: The Mission and Ministry Covenant. At its meeting in July 2011 the PCC passed the following resolution: *This PCC affirms our commitment to shared ministry and resolves to accept the Bishop's invitation to enter into a Covenant under the terms of the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Covenant scheme.* At the same meeting the PCC approved an extended Ministry Team based upon the structure identified in our Organisation Review process and delegated this team to *"develop mission and ministry in this parish."* The new team assumed responsibility in September 2011.

As of 5th March 2016, the benefice of Burntwood, Chasetown, Hammerwich and Chase and Boney Hay was established, known as the Burntwood Chase Team. Christ Church, St Anne's, St John the Baptist and St John's Community Church have begun working closely together as a Team Ministry, under the leadership of the Team Rector, Revd Marg Mattocks. All clergy and readers have been licensed to the whole benefice.

As Team Vicar with responsibility for the parish of Chase Terrace and Boney Hay, Revd Matt Wallace works in partnership the churchwardens, Mr Leslie Careless and Mrs Elaine Betts, Mr William Humphries, Dr Ian McKeown (Licensed Readers), the Trustees and the Ministry Team. Other voluntary leaders also cooperate with the incumbent to exercise responsibility in many different ways as they work together to carry forward the mission of the church.

St. John's Community Church has a Parish Office, and administration is carried out by a part-time paid Parish Administrator and other volunteer helpers. The Trustees are committed to encouraging all members of the church to play an active part in its life. All appointments of staff employed to work for any ministry associated with St. John's Community Church are confirmed by the Trustees, and they have ultimate responsibility for all financial matters. Volunteer and paid staff who work with children or vulnerable adults are required to complete a Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check. The PCC have final responsibility for oversight of Safeguarding.

3. Objectives and Activities

The object of the PCC of St John's Community Church is to fulfil the functions as laid down in law, namely to co-operate with the Incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - (PCC [Powers] Measure 1956)

Our aims have been set out in the policy document entitled *"The Way Ahead"* and agreed by the Annual Parochial Church meeting in April 2000. The values contained in this document represent the ethos of this charity - **Worship, The Bible, Prayer, Serving, Relationships and Evangelism.** We regularly review our activities, evaluate our performance and determine our priorities in the light of these shared values and commitments. Our mission statement is *"To love God and other people in the name of Jesus, and to live each day in the power of his Holy Spirit."*

Those who are employed by the Trustees (either in a paid or voluntary capacity) are expected to work in accordance with the values of this charity and be supportive of its aims.

Statement on Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

The trustees believes that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chase Terrace and Boney Hay, St. John, it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:-

Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers: and Promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

In accordance with the requirements of the Diocese of Lichfield, the PCC formulates a Mission Action Plan (MAP) to indicate some specific activities and objectives for the ensuing year(s). The MAP has been reviewed and agreed by the Trustees. The MAP is submitted to the Diocese, and responded to by an appropriate officer or representative. The MAP for 2017 -2022 is below:

Mission Action Plan 2017-2022

Vision:

Our aim is to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind & strength, & love our neighbours as ourselves. Our vision is to build on existing work in establishing St John's Community Church as a **hub for the whole community**: a place & people of welcome, hospitality, meeting, worship, prayer, pastoral care, discipleship & mission. **Mission is our shared responsibility** - the role of the church is to enable, equip & encourage that mission, through the power & inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship:

- **Identify, train & empower leaders** - encourage involvement in church services, pastoral care, mission, small groups; including commissioned, licensed, employed & ordained roles.
- Develop a model of **outreach & discipleship** through midweek groups & clusters - e.g. Alpha, Beta, Small Groups. Re-brand, prioritise leadership development & provide material for **Real Groups**, in particular developing a more effective model for 20's/30s discipleship & pastoral care
- Develop & establish regular **evening services** for discipleship, prayer, worship
- Develop **prayer life** of church - regularity, styles, opportunities etc.
- Work on raising profile & priority of **financial giving**

Building:

- Install new **AV system & lighting** in church
- Extend & re-fit **church kitchen**
- Establish a **welcome/information point** to connect people to the life of the church

Community:

- Build on **hospitality, socials, meals, fun times** - create opportunities for people to **share stories**, develop support & deepen friendships.
- Strengthen involvement & develop mutual support in our role as part of the **Burntwood Chase Team**
- Plan & implement a **Garden of Remembrance** in St John's Churchyard on Rugeley Road
- Develop **community links & partnerships** with Burntwood Town Council (particularly Play in the Parks), schools, scouts, website links etc.

5. Achievements and Performance

There were 145 members on the Church Electoral Roll at December 2016. Just over half of our members live in the parish, with a minority living outside the ecclesiastical parish boundary. Every member does not attend every Sunday due to family and work commitments. For 2016, our Average Sunday Attendance figures (calculated according to Diocese of Lichfield requirements) were 128 adults (103 in 2015; 93 in 2014) and 23 young people under the age of 16 (17 in 2015; 16 in 2014). These figures do not represent the total number of people attending during the week, as many visitors and attendees are not counted in the official returns. The higher attendances on special occasions are an indication of our strong relationships among the people of the community we are called to serve.

The Diocese of Lichfield have introduced another measure to indicate our impact on the life of the local community and asked us to compile figures for 'Worshipping Community'. A member of the Worshipping Community is someone who attends an activity that includes at least an element of worship. On this measure our Worshipping Community figures are as follows:

Adult	(18+)	310 (280 in 2015; 255 in 2014)
Young People	(0-10)	160 (140 in 2015; 115 in 2014)
	(11-18)	55 (40 in 2015; 33 in 2014)

These figures give a good indication of the extent of our weekly contact with people in the parish. In the two weeks before Christmas we once again welcomed over two thousand adults and children to the church. On Remembrance Day attendances were even higher than the previous year and there were over 475 people present in church for the morning services. These figures give a useful measure of our connection with the life of the community we serve.

Special occasions are only one measure of the connection of this church with the town as a whole, and there are many contributions made by our members to civic and community life. Members of this church serve as school governors at local primary schools in the parish; act as trustees of other charities, and contribute to community life in many ways.

We are committed to worship in ways that are accessible to and relevant for the whole community and we value each of the styles of worship that we offer to meet the differing needs of those we seek to serve.

Members of this congregation support the Cannock and District Foodbank, and this initiative continues to be generously supported by church members via our weekly collections of food. As a church we also offer financial, practical and prayer support to 'Pathway Project' - a charity which works with victims of domestic abuse; 'Light for Children' - a charity which works with disadvantaged young people in Romania; and 'Novi Most', a charity which builds bridges between disparate youth in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In terms of the year itself, in January 2016, a new church treasurer, Jay Haywood, was appointed by the PCC. A copy of the SAGE accounting computer programme was purchased and installed on the office PC, allowing for greater accounting efficiency and clarity for the treasurer, administrator and finance team. The PCC also agreed in principle that due to the increasing burden of Ofsted and significant questions over its ongoing financial viability, OSCAR's Out of School Care club should not continue in its current form, and negotiations were started with Holly Grove Primary School regarding possible alternative childcare arrangements.

In February, the PCC voted in favour of closing Oscar's in July 2016, and offered their endorsement of Holly Grove's new out of school care club 'Holly Berries'. Whilst the PCC vote to close Oscar's was all in favour (with the exception of one abstention), the decision was taken with regret, and the significant work and service of Oscar's over its 17 years in operation was very much appreciated.

In March, the PCC committed to giving a tithe of 10% of the church's annual giving income, plus any reclaimed tax via Gift Aid, to charities and good causes. It was also agreed that we would raise our Parish Share to a 1.0 K ratio by 2019, thus ensuring that St John's would, by 2019, be paying Lichfield diocese in full for the total cost of ministry. Progress was also made on the plan to move the church office from 39 Ironstone Road to the main church building.

In April, a full church enjoyed an evening concert by Bryn Haworth, whilst on Easter Day, two members of the church were baptised by full immersion. Later in the month, our St George's Day service was celebrated in conjunction with 1st Chase Terrace Scout Group at the 10.30am service, attracting a congregation size of 369, up from 290 the previous year.

In June, we enjoyed a full house at Anan's restaurant for a church curry night, whilst in July, the Archdeacon and a diocesan advisor visited the church to offer guidance on the possibility of installing new lighting and an AV system in the worship area. After 17 years of faithful service, Oscar's closed its doors for the last time.

In August, the church office was moved from Ironstone Road to the church building. 20 teenagers and leaders attended Soul Survivor, whilst 38 people attended New Wine. Locally, Play in the Park events took place in Chase Terrace Park, at which the church provided free drinks, food and craft activities for well over 300 people at each event.

In September, a full coach load enjoyed a day trip to Llandudno, whilst Slightly Unusual performed an amazing illusion show to a packed church. In terms of ongoing church layout, the stage was removed from the worship area and the band were moved to the corner - a move which seemed to meet with widespread approval and enabled another 15-20 people to be seated in the worship area. A new boiler for the kitchen was also purchased, helping our ability to offer hospitality to all users of the building; a new photocopier for the office was also purchased, whilst new blinds throughout the building were purchased and would be installed over the next couple of months. Due to insufficient interest and the high price to guests, the decision was also taken to cancel the proposed Church Weekend for 2017 at Whitemoor Lakes.

In October, the PCC and Ministry Team joined for an away day at Lichfield, where the impact of recent changes and the future vision for the church were discussed and prayed through. Lichfield Rock Choir performed in a charity concert raising money for Pathway Project, whilst a rock band from Bosnia-Herzegovina played and shared testimonies at a fundraising and awareness evening for Novi Most. One adult was baptised and three more reaffirmed their baptism vows by full immersion.

In November, over 475 people attended our Remembrance Sunday services in church, with many more taking part in the Act of Remembrance outside. A group of young people and leaders from the church attended the Shine weekend. The Trustees were also very grateful to Burntwood Town Council for the award of a £500 grant towards the cost of soft furnishings for the side room. New window locks were also fitted throughout the building.

In December, the Christmas Fayre was held in church, with higher numbers attending than in previous years, whilst we also saw 2 adults baptised and 3 adults re-affirming their baptism vows by full-immersion. After a number of years of service, Ron Hart stood down from his position as Bookings Manager.

In total, over 3000 people were welcomed into the church for various school, scouts, community and church services during December 2016, with 447 people attending our services on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day in particular. We held a Christmas Day Lunch in church for local people from the community who would otherwise be on their own, serving Christmas dinner to around 50 people. A week later on New Year's Eve, we held a party in church to see the New Year in, with over 120 people in attendance.

We maintain our commitment to train and equip members for ministry. David Sims continues his training as an ordinand at Trinity College, Bristol, with St John's acting as his sending church. Tony Troy, having completed a year-long Diocese run course 'Pathways to Ministry', was approved for and commenced training to be a licensed reader. Becks Louis began a year with YFC, as part of their dance group 'Stance'.

Our ministries among children, families and the elderly, through *Little Friends*, *Little Singers*, YPC clubs, *Youth*, *Sunday Stars*, and the *Community Care Lunches*, have enabled us to make a positive contribution to the lives of many families in this area. Bereaved families also continue to receive pastoral visits following funerals, whilst our In Loving Memory memorial services held twice a year

continue to be well attended. *Real Groups, Prayer Groups* and *Men's Breakfasts* continue to be well attended and offer support, encouragement, learning and discipleship opportunities.

Jay Gascoigne continues as our 'Reaching New Generations Project Leader', working 12 hours/week with young people from the church & community, and Lottie Backhouse continues as our Children's Coordinator, also working 12 hours/week with children from the church and community. We are very grateful for the ongoing regular financial support from the Bishop's Growth Fund to help cover the costs of Jay's post, although this grant will come to an end in June 2017.

The Drop Inn has continued throughout 2016, and has grown steadily in numbers over the course of the year. The ministry aims to extend a welcome to local residents by offering a welcoming environment and a listening ear while visitors can enjoy tea/coffee and homemade cake. The Trustees recognise the debt of gratitude owed to the volunteers who staff this initiative week by week throughout the year.

The church building continues to be a community resource, with numerous user groups hiring the facilities on a regular basis, including the WI, Burntwood Chase Heritage and Slimming World, along with various dance and Zumba groups.

2016 has been a year of change, development and growth, particularly with the establishment and launch of the new *Burntwood Chase Team* - the Team ministry between the four local Anglican churches. As part of this initiative, a new benefice magazine, 'Burntwood Chase Vision' has been launched. We have also seen significant numerical growth at both Sunday services and midweek groups, and there is much to be excited about as this next year unfolds.

The full PCC met **6** times during the period shown. There has been an average level of attendance of **87%**. Committees and the Ministry Team met between PCC meetings, and minutes of their deliberations were received and discussed by the full PCC where necessary.

Through the faithfulness of our members and with responsible management of resources, the Parish Share for 2016 has been paid in full. The Trustees have maintained the financial stability of the church, and there has been a rise in both freewill and planned giving. There are still considerable financial challenges to face if we are to sustain and grow our ministries in this community and we recognise the need for careful planning, monitoring of expenditure and cash flow forecasting.

The trustees know that the year ahead will bring with it fresh challenges, but have trust that God will enable us do all that he calls us do.

Revd Matt Wallace

Team Vicar and Chair of the PCC

To be added:

- **Finance Report**
- **Accounts: Income & Expenditure Summary**
- **Accounts: Balance Sheet**
- **Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)**