



St John's Community Church

Annual Report 2017

Welcome to St John's Community Church Annual Report for 2017!

Many thanks indeed to all those who have contributed to this year's Annual Report. I hope you find the following pages to be an encouraging and uplifting read! 2017 has been a full, and hopefully fruitful, year as we continue to seek to serve God in all that he has called us to be as his church here at St John's.

We've continued to see **growing numbers** attending services and midweek activities, and we thank God for those new faces and friends he has blessed us with. It's been particularly pleasing to see the way in which newer folks have settled in to the life of our worshipping community, ranging from belonging to **house groups** to offering their **gifts and talents** in serving others. Equally, the **ongoing faithfulness, service and love** of those who have been part of St John's for some time continues to be an inspiration, and as vicar, I'm so grateful for the welcoming, open and flexible way in which the opportunities of growth have been embraced.

However, it's also fair to say that growth brings with it its own **challenges** – not least the sheer number of people to **get to know** and 'be' church with. An increase in the number of people attending and connected to St John's has also meant there's been a noticeable increase in the amount and complexity of **pastoral needs** we're encountering. And yet the good news is that I regularly hear numerous stories of St John's folks **quietly but effectively caring** for others, and it's both humbling and a privilege to be part of a church where so much meaningful love and care is offered.

In light of these (and other) opportunities and challenges which we face as a growing church, can I suggest that as you read through this report, you might like to use it as **a resource for your prayers**. For example, please join me in giving thanks to God for his generosity to us as a church over this past year – for his love, his provision, his resources, his blessing. At the same time, please join me in committing our next year firmly into God's hands – that we would be obedient to his voice, shaped by his grace, and empowered by his Spirit to be all that he is calling us to be as his church, in this community and beyond.

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 2017

Page 2:	Contents
Page 3:	Burntwood Chase Team Intercessory Prayer Burntwood Churches United (BCU) Card & Book Stall Christmas Day Lunch
Page 4:	Churchwardens' Report Community Care
Page 5:	Deanery Synod The Drop Inn Events and Fun
Page 6:	Foodbank Light for Children
Page 7:	Little Friends
Page 8:	Little Singers Lottie Backhouse - Children's Coordinator
Page 9:	Men's Breakfast Novi Most International Parish Administrator
Page 10:	Pastoral Care Pathway Project
Page 13:	PCC Secretary
Page 14:	Planned Giving Prayer
Page 15:	Safeguarding Sunday Stars Youth
Page 16:	YPC#1, YPC#2 & YPC#3
Page 18:	Trustee's Annual Report (TAR)

Burntwood Chase Team Intercessory Prayer

The Burntwood Chase Team Intercessors Group is made up of myself, Annette Haywood, Marg Nicholls from St. John's and Julie Hall from St. Anne's. Our first meeting was held on 1st March 2016 and we have been meeting up to pray monthly since then on behalf of Christ Church, Hammerwich, St. Anne's and St. John's. We treat each Minister and each church with equal importance and although the prayers may be different from one church to another, we all pray with the same object in mind - salvation for the lost and a safe place for them to worship where they will see the Holy Spirit at work.

In April 2016 we sent out our first prayer diary to all 4 churches which encourages the congregations to pray for the Team alongside us. The prayer diary goes out every 2 months, going into the churches in February, April, June, August, October and December. If you haven't seen one and would like to join in this important ministry, please speak to me and I will make sure you get one.

Elaine Betts

Burntwood Churches United (BCU)

BCU (churches together in Burntwood Chase, Gentleshaw and Farewell) comprises a very active faithful group of members drawn from most church denominations in our town. We also oversee the Foodbank. We seek to encourage church members to worship, witness and work together ecumenically to grow the kingdom of God in these places. We contribute three major events to our shared Christian life. The 12-hour cycle of prayer at Emmanuel Church encouraged folks to come together to pray for our churches missionary organisations this year. St John's partners in mission (Light for Children, Novi Most, Pathway, Foodbank) all took part. We welcomed CAFOD from St Josephs, Live at Home from our Methodist circuit, and many more from St Anne's, Christ Church etc. Over 200 visits were made during the day to pray for this mission work.

The Advent Service saw the welcome addition of the New Creation Choir to lead our singing, taking place at St Anne's on a very wet and cold November night. Some £90 was raised in a freewill offering which was used for our Burntwood branch of the Foodbank. Finally the Easter ecumenical "Sunrise" Service took place at 6am on Easter Day at Castle Ring Gentleshaw. Thanks once again to our own John Nicholls for his skilful use of technology to lead our singing. Thanks to everyone who has contributed so much but especially to Sue Southgate our valiant secretary for keeping me on track!

David Stanton

Card & Book Stall

The sale of cards is something I had wanted to do for quite some time so when it came to fruition, I was absolutely delighted. I began with a 'sale or return' facility operating from CLC Bookshops based in Stephenson Street, Birmingham and on their closure was recommended to transfer to their Wolverhampton outlet. After some time CLC closed and the Manager of the shop recognised the need for a Christian Bookshop in Wolverhampton, praise God.

The bookshop, now called 'Way, Truth and Life', offer a fabulous service for us as a church, the 'sale or return' works extremely well and they have an abundance of cards, books, gifts, cd's etc. They are most accommodating and quite prepared to help in any way possible. Should you get chance to give them a visit, please do, you can be rest assured the welcome will be wonderful.

Personally, I would like to thank you so very much for your continued support and interest in our card stall and look forward to many more years of service. The amount raised for St John's Community Church to date is £196.36 and this money is used to purchase Bibles, books etc. for Baptisms and other celebrations within our church.

Marg Nicholls

Christmas Day Lunch

December 2017 saw the church offer a Christmas Day Lunch for the third year running, for those who would otherwise be on their own. A record number of 52 people attended - the previous 2 years had seen 35-38 attending.

As in previous years, we were blessed with a generous donation from Bradshaw's of turkey, which was cooked for us. In addition, congregations from St Anne's and St John's made generous donations of food or money, which allowed us to ensure that every guest went home with a packed lunch as well as a gift each. We had many volunteers who had helped in previous years but in addition we had volunteers from the community, who were actually eligible to attend and have the meal, but who wanted to help serve instead.

A huge thank you goes out to all those who help to serve on the day, but special thanks must go to Jan, Dave, James and Edward Moss who have cooked for the 3 years that we've been offering this event and for Chris Hill who has assisted with food prep and provided the soup. This meal wouldn't happen without their support. I believe that the increase in numbers highlights the need for this event to continue and I pray that additional team members will come forward to help in advance with the organisation of this event.

Kay Gascoigne

Churchwardens' Report

2017 has been an exciting year for St. John's with many new people of all ages joining us. The Lord has brought in families, couples and single people at all stages in their Christian walk, and although this can be overwhelming at times getting to know everyone, we thank God for every one of you. What a privilege it is to be wardens in a church where Jesus is at the centre of all we do and the Holy Spirit is working in so many of our lives, guiding and showing us the way ahead.

January 2018 sees us worshipping for 20 years in this church building, but there are many who remember worshipping in the old building, then in the church rooms, until this new building was completed. Many things have changed during these 20 years but one thing that has never changed is the love we have for Jesus and the love He has for His people.

We thank God for Matt and his family who are there for us whenever we need them. We also thank Matt for the way he brings God's Word to us in a way that is relevant to the world today and to our individual and joint journey as God's people. We would like to thank Assistant Wardens, Nigel, Marg, Gill and Carolyne who help to make the Sunday services run smoothly, the PCC and the many people in the congregation who serve the Lord in so many different ministries.

The closure of the Church Rooms has meant a lot more organisations are now using the church building. This has put an extra strain on our ability to meet all the storage requirements and this is constantly under review. It has been another year demonstrating the amazing teamwork that is essential to the continuing development of the church. The example of Nehemiah chapter 3 demonstrates what good teamwork can achieve.

With this in mind we thank all those who have been able to assist in the business of maintaining the integrity of the building and the day to day issues that present themselves. Much of this goes on behind the scenes and no one individual is looking for praise, it is done as a service to God and to His glory. The additional staging is now complete and the re-decorating of various room has taken place, with more pending. Additional TV screens have been fitted and we have fulfilled the requirements of last year's Quinquennial Report. Planned maintenance for 2018/9 is to be reviewed by the Wardens and PCC but the windows are of particular concern, some of which are in a poor state.

Elaine Betts and Les Careless

Community Care

The Community Care lunches were started in 2001 under the leadership of Rory and Pat McInnes. Not long after Mike and Irene Holmes joined St. John's, they took over from Rory and Pat and then in 2012 I took over. Over the 16 years the elderly people in the surrounding area were invited to a lunch followed by entertainment. The entertainment was led by Janice and Peter Howard, and later by John and Marg Nicholls. These lunches took place at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, and later we introduced one in the summer too. Many of the people we saw year after year, and the lunches were enjoyed by those who came and those who helped to get the food ready and served it.

Sadly in October 2017 it was decided that this would be the last Community Care in this present format as we felt it was time for a change. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make these lunches such a success over the 16 years and for all the people who came along to share in the food and entertainment. I

am sure many, like myself, will have happy memories of these lunches and it was such a privilege to be part of 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 – “Baptism -Hospitality and Mission”. The presentation challenged us to see Baptism as an opportunity to show God’s love to the families and their friends when they come for baptism through the welcome at the door to using simpler language in the service and also ways in which we can support and encourage them to fulfil the promises they have made for their child.

JUNE – “Unity and Diversity”. Rev. David Primrose asked whether we thought our church was non-conformist, and whether we accept diversity? Would we welcome anyone and everyone as Jesus showed by his example. Election of Deanery Officers took place.

SEPTEMBER – “Grave Talk”. The Church of England has introduced a fresh approach to the subject of grief, death, life and funerals, and the way in which society should be encouraged to talk about the subject openly and without discomfort. Using a new resource entitled “Grave Talk Pack” there was an opportunity to see how to facilitate such discussions.

NOVEMBER – “Setting God’s People Free”. Is a report from Archbishops Council, which asks the question “How can we make the most of opportunities for ordained and lay to enable one another to live out the Good News of Jesus in our lives 24/7. Also how we affirm, equip and enable each one to tell their story and support them in their daily work and walk with God.

Annette Haywood, Marg Nicholls, Steve Taylor.

The Drop Inn

The Drop Inn has continued to serve a considerable number of people throughout 2017-18. It is a great privilege to minister to our regular church members who support us week by week but also to a 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. A growing number of children come with parents, grandparents and childminders and enjoy playing with the toys in the lounge area.

Our fundraising coffee mornings have continued to be a 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 £170.14 for the Pathway Project, £233.74 for Macmillan Cancer Trust and £363.36 for Light for Children. After expenses, we have also been able to give just over £1300 to the church funds in 2017 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

Events and Fun

This year has been another very successful year in building community both within the church, and in welcoming in our local community to join us in events. The spring began with a “Can’t wait ‘til summer indoor picnic” which was well attended and bought out the competitive nature of our great sandwich makers! This illustrated to us that sometimes the simplest of events can still be worthwhile in providing opportunity to talk and build friendships.

Planning then began for the Spring Fayre and we were busy preparing menus, floral decorations and organising many community stalls. The Spring Fayre was a great success due to the brilliant team of volunteers who all helped in the preparation and on the day. It was good to see a great number of our community come through the doors. Locals were entertained by little singers and games were organised for the children. The event was a good fund raiser as well as a good community event, which helped us to meet many members of our local community and hopefully they left having had a good time.

The congregation of St. Johns were keen throughout the year to get involved in organised events, especially if there was food involved. Our organised meal at Gio’s Italian was a sell out with lots of good Italian food being appreciated by all, and a chance for us all to meet this great Italian family and see how

they are forming relationship with their community through food. Since the event there have been many requests for a revisit, and so this has been organised again for this year. The curry night in October was a sell out too, and everyone enjoyed a night of great Indian food and great conversation. Food and fellowship was becoming a popular theme.

The summer seaside trip to Llandudno was not as successful as last year, and we realised that maybe a different trip is needed each year. However, the trip gave many a chance to get some sea air and get away from it all for a day. Again, this was a good opportunity to chat, walk, picnic and tram ride with friends and for church family to continue to get to know each other. This year a trip is being planned to the Black Country Living Museum. Hopefully being a bit closer to home this will attract more families to join in.

The summer barbeque on Cannock Chase was again well attended and provided another low-key opportunity to simply be together and chat and eat. Simple, but enjoyable on a lovely summers afternoon.

Some members of the church family visited the "Church Big Day Out" and this was a great event that we would like to support more in the future. Also the summer camp at "New Wine" this summer tested our endurance of all things muddy, whilst providing us with a real spiritual time of worship, fellowship and teaching. Again, a camp to be remembered,

Many social events were organised by representatives of our supported charities including garden parties, magic shows, musical evenings and breakfast meetings. All were well attended and supported by the church family and provided opportunities to invite non-church friends along too.

The Christmas Fayre rounded off the year with a very busy event which was a great fund raiser, raising over £2,200. This was due to the brilliant work of all of the church volunteers, who by now know their roles well and work hard to make this event so welcoming for our local community. This year the "Winter Wonderland" themed event was lots of fun, with children's competitions, endless turkey baps, wonderful singing and lots of great stalls and activities.

Our thanks and appreciation goes out to the lovely friendly church family at St Johns. All of you are a pleasure to be with and an inspirational team. We are looking forward to many more years of fun events. Thank you.

Chris and Paul Hill

Foodbank

Burntwood Churches United maintain their oversight of the workings of the Foodbank here in Burntwood in partnership with Cannock and District Foodbank based at Pye Green Christian Fellowship. A number of our congregation actively support the collection and distribution of emergency food. Our church has contributed at least some 1154kg of food which is over one hundred percent increase upon 2016-17. We also collect from Morrison's each week and their customers are contributing a minimum of a further 70 kg each month. The Cannock and District Foodbank have received financial aid from the church on a regular basis this year using monies from our Church Tithe. For your generosity, St John's Community Church is much appreciated as an active partner of this vital local charity. More information regarding the number of adults and children fed can be found in our annual Foodbank and BCU reports.

David Stanton

Light for Children

The charity 'Light for Children' was established in 2007 and came about after Helen Roe a young member then of St. John's made a visit to Romania in 1997 and following several short visits, chose to settle there in 1999 initially volunteering to work with a group of young children living in an institution in Dersca and later committing to support the same children when they were moved to institutions in Dorohoi and Botosani in 2001. Since then Helen has steadfastly worked to make a difference and has seen the youngsters in her care grow and get help with their education and life skills so that they can go on to become adults in their own right. While carrying out this work she met and married a Romanian, Costel Cosman, and now together they continue the work of the charity in Dorohoi, Romania.

The objectives of the charity are:

"The advancement of the Christian faith through the relief of need, hardship or sickness amongst children and young people, resident in or citizens of Romania, by offering social, educational, cultural, medical, emotional and spiritual support according to Christian principles."

The charity seeks to achieve these objectives by providing support to children and young people in the Romanian town of Dorohoi, focusing primarily on those living in families in poverty or with needs or living within, or recently moved on from, the state-run orphanage system. Helen and Costel dedicate their lives to support these children and young people.

For more information please visit the website: www.lightforchildren.org.uk or speak to one of the Committee members here at St John's, Trish McElroy, Brian Buckley, Mike Emery or Mary Aplin. We are always seeking new faces to join us please have a chat if you feel you would like to help.

Helen has sent the following report to show what has been happening in Dorohoi this past year:

‘There are currently 140 children and teenagers living in 23 apartments in Dorohoi, which are owned and run by the Romanian child protection authorities. As a charity, we have continued to support these children by funding their school books, extra tuition and speech therapy. We have also funded their medication, dental work, eye tests and glasses. Special projects during the year have included summer holiday activities, a Christmas celebration and paying a local tradesman to renovate a number of the children’s bathrooms.

Over the last twelve months, we have worked closely with another charity in Dorohoi which has built and opened a house for young adults who were brought up in the care system and who continue to need support to be able to live independently. Two of the young people whom we have known for 20 years have been able to move into the house, which is a fantastic opportunity for them. As well as supporting them in practical ways, we have started to meet once a month with the young people for a time of prayer and worship.

We have continued to support several young people with their university education and two girls, aged 5 and 13, as they receive treatment for leukaemia.

The children’s orchestra has continued to rehearse each week and have enjoyed being able to expand their repertoire, play regularly in our local church and be invited to special services in local towns and villages. As well as encouraging the children to rehearse their music, we have also inspired them to read more by providing them with a range of books about Jews. Dorohoi itself has an important Jewish history, so we felt that this was particularly appropriate.

Costelus, a 10-year-old boy, continues to spend weekends and school holidays with us. We were delighted to be able to bring him to England for a holiday in June 2017.

As a church, St John’s, you have supported us in every possible way and we are incredibly grateful for the love and encouragement that you have shown to us. Thank you very much.

Helen and Costel Cosman

The Light for Children Committee would sincerely like to thank St John's Community Church for their continued support, to Helen personally, and to the charity as a whole by allowing fundraising events to take place in the church building and for the encouragement that the members of church give to these events.

Mary Aplin, on behalf of the Light For Children Committee

Little Friends

Thursday mornings at Little Friends is always a joyous occasion – welcoming between 45-55 children and their carers to a happy fun-filled morning with plenty of toys, crafts and singing to keep us all amused! It continues to be a great way for families to become part of church life and belong to a group that caters not just for babies and toddlers but we believe provides a bridge between community and church. We aim to offer love and friendship to the adults too and many young or first-time mums have made lasting friendships which provide love and support – not just on Thursdays but at other times, particularly when life gets tough.

This year has seen some very challenging times for some families, including devastating news, sickness and bereavement. I have been particularly encouraged to witness how members have responded with love and compassion for one another. Our leaders and other members have gathered together during these difficult times with offers of prayer and practical support. The way people respond to this type of care and concern is very humbling and I observe a great witness to Christ’s love being shown in so many ways.

I am very grateful indeed to all those who turn up week by week to offer gifts of love and help in setting up, making tea and toast, chatting to carers and children, manning the desk, clearing away, operating the sound system etc. It really is a team effort and well-oiled machine that enters a new phase with Gemma and Lottie at the helm from next September.

It has been 25 years since first being asked to start a Baby and Toddler Group, which started some 6 months later after some quick learning and gathering of toys and equipment to begin our group in the Church Rooms, Ironstone Road. We had approximately 15 members and children to begin with and some of those original people still come along now!! Moving to the church was a wonderful opportunity to grow the group to 70 members on the register with a waiting list. We have had many happy times over the years and it's so good to see some of our first children bringing their own children along on Thursdays. It has been a joy to work with Yvonne and Mike, Sheila, Pam, Brian, Sarah, Val, Pat, Lindsay, Anji, Gemma, Matt and Lottie as well as Jan who also retires this year. Thank you all so much for being there to show love and support. A special thanks to my Phil for helping me since retiring from the bakery. You are a star providing the music for us and for putting up with me!!

I will miss it greatly but feel the time is right to hand over the reins and for Phil and I to be just "grandparents" to Elsie when we visit from time to time. Love Jane x

Jane Tennant

Little Singers

Little Singers continues strongly with an average of 15 children each week. The dynamics of our team changed again in September of last year as we unfortunately lost Anji Haywood to her new part time job and wish her the very best in her new venture. However, Gemma, Pat, Sammy and myself welcomed young leader Georgina Hodgetts to the team who has been a great asset and has bonded well with the children. We are currently prayerfully considering another helper to cover any absences.

We continue to sing and dance to worship songs. We have introduced some more new songs and performed them at the Christmas Fayre. We have recently introduced a coffee and chat room for parents and toys for siblings who wish to stay and wait for the hour. This is run by Ellen Nicholls in the church lounge, and Ellen has been able to draw alongside some of the Mums supporting and chatting with them about all manner of things. We hope that these sessions may encourage some of our families to venture to church on a Sunday.

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. It would be great to see some of our children and their family attending services over the next 12 months. 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

Over the past 2 years in this role, I have been coordinating, supporting and resourcing activities for 0-11's, including the weekly children's groups of Little Friends, Little Singers, YPC#1, YPC#2 and Sunday Stars. I have also attended some training courses run by the Reaching New Generations Team for the Lichfield Diocese: 'Sustainable Youth and Children's Ministry', 'Listening to Youth and Children', and 'Working with Volunteers'.

I have also attended an 'All-Inclusive Course' run by Youth Net which talked about how to make our churches and groups more accessible to people with disabilities, and this enabled me to implement some new ideas to the groups. One of these ideas is a fidget box for autistic children - a box of items including play-doh, fidget spinners, stress balls and kaleidoscopes that the children can fiddle with during sessions to help them to have a focus and keep calm whilst in a group situation. These ideas have been very well received by the children and leaders. As we are currently seeing an increase in children in our groups who struggle with group situations I am currently looking at how we can better support these children and their families.

I'm also hoping to attend a listening course to help me to be able to listen to the children better as many of them need a listening ear. The possibility of attending a Bible course is also being considered which will

enable me to understand the Bible better with the hope that I may be better equipped to share the Scriptures with the children.

We continued to work in partnership with Burntwood Town Council and WS7 Events over the summer holidays, helping to provide some fantastic Play in the Park sessions in Chase Terrace Park for families in our community. The main aim of this is to continue to establish better links and relationships with our local community.

A great big thank you to all the teams involved in the many children's activities we run, for their support, help 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

We did not have many meetings last year which was my fault – the meetings we did have were mainly to do jobs around church. I hope we can have some outings this year as well as the jobs around church. I am asked why the ladies are not invited, so this year we hope to invite them to some meetings. We would also invite folks from other churches in the Team, and people that do not attend church – they would all be very welcome!

Mike Emery

Novi Most International

Thank you so much to everyone who has prayed, supported and given to Novi Most this year. It has been a challenging one for everyone involved with the charity with personnel changes and unexpected events but our focus of empowering, equipping and serving young people in Bosnia-Herzegovina continues faithfully and positively.

This year saw the first ever St John's mission trip to serve in Bosnia & Herzegovina with Novi Most on a summer camp organised by the Evangelical church in Sarajevo. It took several months of planning and fundraising but what a fantastic experience for the whole team of Matty, Carol, Jon, Josh, Ellie, Kerri-Ann and Annie. With the prayers and support of St Johns we left Birmingham airport and flew to Split in the middle of July and after a night staying at the church in Sarajevo we were driven by Ivica to the camp in the mountains to the north of the capital. A spectacular scene met us as we descended into the valley and Lake Jezero.

We arrived at the same time as many of the 50 young people aged from 12 to 17 who had travelled from across Bosnia, and soon we realised what a privilege the week would be.

All of us were given tasks for the week including cooking, cleaning, leading team devotions, sports, and small group activities. We were put into teams based on The Hunger Games films and worked in our small groups on activities and challenges including an Olympics, and a 5am start for a Survival challenge plus Bible studies and worship times in the evenings. For many of the young people who attended it is their one chance in the year to be blessed and meet with God and other young Christians as the Bosnian church as a whole is so small and spread out.

It was amazing to be a part of some Bosnian worship, share our faith with the kids and serve the resident team who were on their 5th week of camps and were very tired by this stage. It was a privilege and joy to represent St Johns there and we hope there will be others from our church that are able and willing to serve in Bosnia in the months to come. My new role is to be an ambassador for the charity as I also pursue a call to ordained ministry, but look forward to continuing to share the work of Novi Most with more people in the coming year.

Bog te blagoslovio (may God bless you)

Matty Sutton

Parish Administrator

We are now well into the second year since the Parish Office was moved to the church, and it continues to prove a very successful change, providing easy access for staff, church users and members of the public. The office hours have increased from 15 to 20 per week, enabling me to take on the

administration of our church room hire. This has seen a steady increase over the last 12 months. It has also enabled me to take over the running of our payroll system and some pastoral care.

The accounts software package still proves to be a valuable purchase, giving fast and accurate information for our Treasurer, PCC and Accountant to report on.

During the past year we have seen the introduction of Faculty applications from the Diocese - a procedure necessary for anyone wishing to use our Churchyard for the interment of ashes or installation of headstones etc.

As the church grows, pastoral needs and the general welfare of people are continuing to grow also. The warm environment of the office provides a welcoming and gentle atmosphere for anyone who needs a little time or support.

Finally, 2018 is looking just as busy and vibrant with the challenges of learning the Gift Aid software package. This will enable me to cover for Sue Southall (Gift Aid Secretary) as and when necessary.

Marie Hiley

Pastoral Care

It has been very encouraging to have Sharon on board to share in this ministry. Our role is to help oversee the house groups and generally look out for anyone who needs help, prayer or encouragement on Sundays and at other times.

This year has seen the increase and re-organisation of our home groups now re-named 'House Groups'. The number of people requesting to be part of a group continues to grow. There are currently over 150 people belonging to 11 groups, with another 50 'attached' to groups for socials and keeping in contact with.

Our House Groups provide a relaxed home environment for Bible Study, Prayer and Worship as well as opportunity to share fun and fellowship together. They are also a great way to get to know a few folks really well, which makes it easier for new people to feel integrated into church life, particularly as members increase in number.

We are very grateful for all our House Group leaders who lead our groups on a weekly basis and offer pastoral support to their members.

'In Loving Memory' services provide an opportunity for pastoral care and bereavement support at a difficult time for individuals and families. This continues to be a very important, developing area of our ministry.

Sunday services continue to be an important and significant time for pastoral support which takes many forms – welcoming, listening, prayer as well as generally pointing people in the right direction. Support continues in various and appropriate ways throughout the week including on Mondays at our Drop Inn coffee shop.

As we get older it may be more difficult to get to church regularly due to illness or disability. This can be a difficult time for those who have been used to being involved in church life on a very regular basis. We are becoming increasingly aware that a number of our church family need to feel part of church – even if they can't attend on Sundays. Regular visits by other members of church, a phone call or offers of lifts to church services are a life-line and a great witness to the love of church family. We are very grateful to a number of people who do keep in touch in this way but if this is something you can offer your brothers and sisters in Christ, please let Matt, Sharon or Jane know.

Jane Tennant & Sharon Broomhall

Pathway Project

People often find the statistics which we share about domestic and sexual abuse horrifying and sometimes difficult to take in. Two women each week dying as a result, 1 in 10 women in Britain experiencing abuse as we speak, and 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men experiencing abuse at some point in their lives. Actually the reality behind the figures is far worse.

The statistics come from the Office of National Statistics Crime Survey. They are flawed because there is a cap on the number of incidents that a victim can report experiencing, of five. No further incidents are counted, although they may happen on a daily basis. The true figures are likely to be 70% higher than the figure recorded.

So what does this mean to people locally, and to Pathway as we provide services to support them? Pathway has experienced an upsurge in numbers. This is partly because we took on a new district and are now delivering services in East Staffordshire, from October 2017. That doesn't account for the total increase. In 2016 we took a total of 2049 helpline calls. Some were from people needing advice and information, some were looking for services such as support and counselling, and some were for victims desperately searching for safety and refuge.

Our refuges continue to be at risk financially and you may have seen the debate about future funding at the highest level of government. Again, the local picture is that in 16/17 we supported 88 women with 89 children in our refuges. So far in 17/18 we have supported 87 women with 97 children. Our services are all very busy with:

- 251 service users receiving outreach support in the community
- 151 high risk service users engaged with our Independent Domestic Violence Advisors
- 40 people in our counselling service
- 25 in the Empowerment Programme
- 77 working with our Independent Sexual Violence Advisor
- 89 engaged with our self-help courses
- 31 working with our Young Women and Girls Worker
- 983 young people who have engaged with our Action Kids programme since 2015, with an activity programme to build confidence and then weekly youth clubs

We also run legal clinics each week, drop in service every weekday, and a wider group programme.

We love to see the work that we do making a difference to people who had lost hope and their vision of their future. We love to see people succeeding in life and overcoming serious and life damaging situations. We are working hard to ensure that our services continue and this year our successes have been:

- Getting a new service up and running in East Staffordshire in two weeks
- Attracting over £14,000 through our Patron's Scheme launch – photos below
- Being part of the Bishop of Lichfield's Lent Appeal
- Joining with partners to submit our tender for a second time after the first one was withdrawn
- Being accepted on a mentoring programme called Pilotlight to work through our plans for the future and the challenges that lie ahead

Our challenges have been many:

- The withdrawal of the first tender after many hours of work with our partners
- The funding for our refuges, and reaching a point in October when we were due to close both of them due to lack of funds. Thanks to prayer they were saved when the Department for Communities and Local Government awarded us £92,600 and have since awarded a further £13,000
- The constant and considerable workload which puts a great strain on our staff and causes us to be constantly working with way too many people (a caseload of 60 is not unusual)



This is a quick snapshot of the George Hotel set up for our Patron's event in October and we are following this up in April – it is not too late to sign up as a Patron so please ask if you are interested in supporting our work.

Other information about our work can be seen on our website: www.pathway-project.co.uk or on our Facebook page on <https://www.facebook.com/Pathway-Project>. A huge thank you to everyone at St John's for supporting us whether financially, prayerfully, by listening and encouraging, and a couple of very special people who help me on a regular basis so that I can carry on working. You are real angels. We are truly blessed. I want the last word to go to a service user, Jane, who talked about what the service had done for her:

My Harmonious Journey

A voyage of discovery, learning to let go,
 The first steps towards freedom, taking it nice and slow.
 Pathway provides security, empowerment and care,
 Mutual understanding when you feel there's no one there.
 Learning to walk with my head held high, having a sense of pride,
 The courage to put on a concert, with the strength I feel inside.
 Feeling what I thought I'd lost, was really just hidden from sight,
 Add some friends, some music too and everything feels right.
 Music is a powerful force and stirs within your soul,
 It provides a sense of comfort even when life takes its toll.
 Performing with friends brings extra joy, teamwork at its best,
 Sharing moments of harmony, putting friendships to the test.
 The sense of achievement, the smell of sweet success,
 Makes me proud to be me, I know I deserve no less.
 With every day that passes, I've healed a little more,
 And with friends and love - and music too, I'll cope, you can be sure.
 So thank you, Pathway, for all your support, the groups have helped no end,
 I've got courage and strength to live my life with you as my best friend.
 I hope you enjoy this concert, and if there's a bad note, please be kind!
 It's not just for raising funds, but for healing heart and mind.

Jane has raised money for Pathway with her classical music concerts at Christ Church in Lichfield, and together with friends she provides a wonderful evening of entertainment. We love helping people to find the music in their soul again.

Kathy Coe, CEO Pathway Project

PCC Secretary's Report

How quickly these last twelve months have passed by; another year as PCC Secretary has been most enjoyable for me personally with both PCC and Standing Committee Meetings.

Here is a brief summary of our PCC Meetings held throughout the year:

MAY 2017

Our first PCC Meeting welcomed newly elected Sharon Broomhall and re-elected members Mrs Jane Tennant and Mr Nigel Procter, together with newly elected Deanery Synod Representatives Mrs Annette Haywood, Mrs Margaret Nicholls and Mr Steve Taylor.

New appointments were made: Ian McKeown PCC Vice Chair, Marg Nicholls PCC Secretary, Jay Haywood Treasurer, Marie Hiley Electoral Roll Officer and Assistant Gift Aid Secretary.

Our Standing Committee was formed consisting of:-

Rev Matt Wallace	Team Vicar
Mr Ian McKeown	Vice Chair
Mrs Margaret Nicholls	Secretary
Mr Jay Haywood	Treasurer
Mrs Elaine Betts	Churchwarden
Mr Les Careless	Churchwarden
Miss Ellen Nicholls	PCC Representative

Feedback regarding changes in our Baptism Service were discussed and discussions took place regarding Burntwood Chase Team Youth Strategy 'Reaching New Generations Project'. Various other items were also discussed including our churchyard and Church Rooms

JULY 2017

Our July meeting saw discussions regarding the Learning to Lead Course, the Application for a One Stop Grant, and the retirement of Rev Linda Hood. Updates were given about our Church Rooms, churchyard and Community Care Lunches.

SEPTEMBER 2017

A positive feedback was given regarding the Learning to Lead Course and discussions took place about the new formation of our House Groups. Forthcoming events were highlighted particularly our Church Weekend Away and social events.

NOVEMBER 2017

At our November meeting discussions took place regarding the sale of our Church Rooms, more details were given regarding our Church Weekend Away and attendance at 'Naturally Supernatural' was discussed as an option to replace New Wine attendance this coming summer. Maintenance issues were discussed together with our Church Tithe and Safeguarding Policies. November and the coming months would see the beginning of a difficult and extremely prayerful time for our PCC as changes were discussed regarding our Youth provision at St John's.

JANUARY 2018

Among other items discussed, January's meeting proved to be a most difficult, sensitive and prayerful meeting regarding the future of our Youth Work at St John's.

MARCH 2018

Many items were discussed at our meeting, which were both thankful and prayerful. This was a most encouraging meeting with reports from Deanery Synod, our Children's Worker, Church Wardens and an extremely detailed report from our Treasurer. Events and updates were shared; Naturally Supernatural and our Church Weekend at Home - both of which gives us an exciting year to look forward to.

For me personally it has been another wonderful year as your PCC Secretary and feel extremely privileged to be part of a caring, prayerful and supportive body of people. Thank you.

Marg Nicholls

Planned Giving

Planned giving is what church basis its budget on for the coming year. Therefore, regular giving is important to the life of the church.

At the end of December, we had 40 folk/families giving by standing order and able to gift aid and 6 who use the envelopes and also gift aid. A total of 46 folk who gift aid their giving. 8 folk/families give by standing order but are unable to gift aid and a further 6 use the envelopes. A total of 14 who give but are unable to gift aid. This makes a total of 60 folk/families who give regularly to the life of St John's. This hasn't increased on last year, although the folk have changed with some leaving and new ones giving, sadly this doesn't reflect the growth of St John's. However, on a more positive note our giving is up on last year!

Planned giving runs from April to end of March (Tax year) whereas the church accounts are from January to end of December. I claim the tax back twice a year. From April to end September 2017 we have received £6,086.88 and the next claim will be end of March 2018. On tax payers giving I am able to claim back 25p on every £1 given at no cost to the giver. So please if you are a tax payer and you don't already gift aid your giving do see me and at no extra cost to you it can increase our income.

On the 'open plate' or 'collection bags' we are allowed to claim tax back on the first £5000 of the giving. In the first 6 months (April to Sept) we have claimed back £836.94 but as the total income from January to December was £11,806.74 it does mean we may be losing out if you give in this way but are a tax payer. If you are a tax payer but can only give occasionally, rather than put your donation in the 'collection bag' loose why not use the 'white one-off envelope'. We can claim tax back, this year (Jan – Dec) £3,036 40 has been given in this way.

Please do consider if you aren't already a regular 'giver' to St John's, setting up a standing order. The church bank account details are:

Account Name: St John's Community Church (HSBC)

Account No: 20724548 Sort Code: 40-17-60

It doesn't have to be a large amount, tithing takes time, but every pound helps St John's continue the work here and in the community. If you would like to know more please do see me, Sue Southall (01543 677806) - all information etc remains confidential.

My thanks to those folk on a Sunday morning that deal with the envelopes and a special thank you to Marie who helps me with the counting of the money each month. But most of all 'A Big Thankyou' to all of you who give in this way, without your generosity God's work couldn't be done.

Sue Southall

Prayer

Ecclesiastes 4:12 states that a cord of three strands is not easily broken. The same analogy can be seen in a three-legged stool. Remove a leg and the stool will not stand. I would suggest that the three main strands that strengthen the church are Evangelism, Pastoral Care and Prayer. Remove any one of these from our ministry and the cord is weakened and the stool will topple.

As our prayer life continues to underpin our outreach and our endeavours to care for those in need, whatever those needs may be, we can once again give testimony that the Holy Spirit is moving powerfully within and through our fellowship. But it is good 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 during and after the service. New members are always welcome to join our prayer team, if you feel drawn towards this ministry we would love to hear from you.

Within this fellowship we also have a Deeper Healings Ministry Team 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 body, mind, soul or spirit 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. We can testify that we have seen many wonderful answers to our prayers of intercession.

And a reminder that our prayer life should always 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.

Bill Humphries

Safeguarding

This year we have continued to ensure that all our volunteers and leaders are up to date with DBS checks. The introduction of online applications has made the process much simpler. This year the diocese has made the new Church of England on-line training programme available through their website at www.lichfield.anglican.org. I would encourage all our volunteers to access this free opportunity to refresh their understanding of safeguarding issues. We are also hoping to hold a training session at St. John's in the summer term.

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, parents or carers stay and play with little ones during the service. We have recently had a TV installed in this room and are excitedly awaiting live streaming of the church service into this room for parents to watch whilst caring for little ones! We are currently investigating the need and seeking Gods guidance and provision for the right helpers for this group, in order to enable parents to have the option to leave their little ones with a trusted member of the church while they are in the service.

Our Shooting Stars group is for children from age 3-6. We 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 for the last 2 years. However, we have seen an increase in children requiring extra care from our leaders and helpers and are hoping to be able to offer these children 1 to 1 care in sessions. This will help the children to engage with sessions in a comfortable and safe way We hope that this and all children's groups continue to grow over the next 12 months.

Super Stars is now our School Year 2 -Year 6 group (6/7-11 years). The age range of this group was changed in September due to dwindling numbers in this group but rising numbers in Shooting Stars. On average this group has 7 children per session which has risen by approximately 4 children. We have also introduced a craft to this session which is enjoyed by all. We have recently taken on a new leader, Marie Hiley, and a new helper, Steve Thomas, who are enjoying their roles - a warm welcome to them! And a big thank you to all Sunday Stars leaders and helpers for their continued hard work, energy, commitment and dedication to our children's ministry. We hope that all of 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

The spring and summer terms of 2017 were as busy as ever with the Youth group. Attendance had fallen slightly due to members getting employment or moving onto further education. We were visited by external organisations such as Groundwork UK, who led the group in producing gardening projects at the

church. We were also very excited to host a social event for the Kleer series team, some of whom had travelled from America. We held a pizza night and the group were interviewed to give feedback about the Kleer series of talks that we had been using in our teaching. A group of 12 young people attended Soul Survivor in July 2017, and despite the appalling weather, the group had a great time in worship, exploring their faith and supporting each other.

Sadly, the majority of the youth group moved onto University and further education in September 2017, and due to the lack of new members interested in attending Youth, the decision was made for Youth to take a break for the immediate future, with time for reflection on future plans.

Thanks go to Anji, Ellie, Kay and Jon for their continued commitment and their support for our young people.

Jay Gascoigne

YPC#1

YPC#1 has seen a fantastic increase in numbers from an average of 6 children per session 12 months ago to an average of 15 per session now. In September, myself and Mandy welcomed young leaders Erin Procter and Immy Hunt to the team along with Georgina Hodgetts as a reserve young helper. We continue to welcome children from both Holly Grove and Boney Hay schools from within the parish, but also have children from St Joseph's and St Theresa's, and Highfields Primary Schools from outside the Parish.

We continue to offer a range of activities in our hour slot including sports, cooking and crafts. We have started to introduce talks about Christian living in everyday home and school life. We have recently welcomed a couple of our children and their families to our 10:30am Sunday Service which has been a fabulous answer to prayer and something we hope will continue.

We are prayerfully considering another energetic adult helper to become an addition to the team so that we can cover our ratios when we grow further. It would be nice to welcome some children from Chase Terrace Primary School who are also in our parish to the group. This is something the team hope to look at over the next 12 months and create a strategy of how to achieve this goal. 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.

Lottie Backhouse

YPC#2

YPC#2 continues to go very well, with around 45 young people attending each week. During the session they are welcomed and enjoy a start up game, organised by Gemma Wallace. They are then free to choose their activities and have the choice of team games, sports, crafts, a kitchen activity, or they can 'chill out' in the lounge. The leaders take it in turns to give a 15-minute talk at the end of the session based on a Bible theme, passage or character. We utilise every room during YPC#2 (except the office) and it's an energetic group! We are blessed with a well-established team, who are committed to helping every week and this allows us to offer a variety of activities.

In July 2017, there were a large number year 6s who were moving up to high school. We worried about how this would affect numbers in the new academic year, but we continue to welcome at least 35 children every week.

Kay Gascoigne

YPC#3

YPC#3 continues to grow – numbers ranging from 10-20 each week. The group meets in the lounge which creates a very warm atmosphere. The young people are offered a hot drink on arrival and the session begins with a chilled approach. In September 2017, we reintroduced a regular teaching session, which seems to have been well received, although it has proved to be more beneficial to restrict this teaching to 20 mins max. During September we welcomed some of the aforementioned year 6s who had just started at high school. Many of the year 9s have stopped attending with the exception of 2 or 3 of them, who

value the group and look forward to coming. We introduced YFC resources in September 2017 to allow for a more age appropriate, upbeat teaching session.

Although the group are only attending for 75 mins each week, we have established a nice mix of chill and chat, teaching and a game or sports activity to finish the evening. Matty and Ellie Sutton have assisted with planning and delivering sessions as Jay's planned surgery in January 2018 was going to put him out of action for several months.

Moving forward it is planned to give a smoother transition between groups by allowing year 6s to attend YPC#3 during the summer term, to prepare them for September. This can also apply to those moving up from YPC#1 to YPC#2, although we need to be mindful that those children are younger and may need more support as there is a big difference between the two groups - some may be a bit overwhelmed initially, so it may be that we assign leaders to support these children during this transition.

Kay Gascoigne

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2017

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2017

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 2017-18

Name	Elected	Period	Term End	05/17	07/17	09/17	11/17	01/18	03/18	%
Elaine Betts (W)	2017	1	2018	P	P	A	P	P	P	83%
Les Careless (W)	2017	1	2018	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Jay Gascoigne	2015	3	2018	A	P	P	A	A	A	33%
Ian McKeown (LC)	2015	3	2018	P	A	P	P	P	P	83%
Ellen Nicholls	2015	3	2018	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Mark Tennant	2015	3	2018	P	P	P	P	A	P	83%
Jay Haywood (T)	2016	3	2019	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Kathy Louis	2016	3	2019	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Lin Richards	2016	3	2019	A	P	P	P	P	P	83%
Steve Richards	2016	3	2019	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Matt Sutton	2016	3	2019	P	A	P	P	P	P	83%
Sharon Broomhall	2017	3	2020	P	A	P	P	P	P	83%
Annette Haywood (D)	2017	3	2020	P	A	P	P	P	P	83%
Marg Nicholls (D) (S)	2017	3	2020	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Nigel Procter	2017	3	2020	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Steve Taylor (D)	2017	3	2020	A	P	P	P	A	A	50%
Jane Tennant	2017	3	2020	P	P	A	P	P	P	83%
<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	n/a	-
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 LC Lay Chair n/a Not Applicable										

Names and Addresses of Bankers

Alliance and Leicester Commercial Bank, BBAM Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside GIR0AA
HSBC 20 Market Place, Cannock, WS11 1BX

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, and all trustees are regularly reminded of them.

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 subsequently been 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 Church 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**

- Develop **community links & partnerships** with Burntwood Town Council (particularly Play in the Parks), schools, scouts, website links etc.

5. Achievements and Performance

There were 150 members on the Church Electoral Roll at December 2017. 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 2017, our Average Sunday Attendance figures (calculated according to Diocese of Lichfield requirements) were 134 adults (128 adults in 2016; 103 in 2015; 93 in 2014) and 25 young people under the age of 16 (23 in 2016; 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+)	305
Young People	(0-10)	170
	(11-18)	50

These figures give a good indication of the extent of our weekly contact with people in the parish. Our Christmas Eve/Christmas Day services enjoyed a record attendance of over 500 people, with just 2000 people in attendance for various services during the month of December.

On Remembrance Day attendances were even higher than the previous year, with around 500 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; 'Novi Most', a charity which builds bridges between disparate youth in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and various other charities including Youth For Christ (YFC), Link For Life, and United Christian Broadcasters (UCB).

In terms of the year itself, in January 2017, new blinds were installed throughout the church building, new push down taps in the toilets and a new storage shed added outside. The PCC decided that, due to extensive work needed to be done and the ability of the main church to accommodate most user groups, the time had now come to sell the Church Rooms on Ironstone Road. Proceeds of any sale

would be held by a Diocesan Trust – a fund which could be applied for use by the PCC as and when future needs arose.

A Quinquennial visit and inspection took place, praising the general condition and care taken in maintaining and improving the building. Recommendations were made in particular for the eventual replacement of wooden window frames and fire doors – a recommendation which is a high priority for the PCC as soon as funds become available (hopefully once the Church Rooms are sold, for example). A First Aid training course for church members was held, and a 60s/70s night in aid of Light For Children was held. Our Administrator's hours were extended from 15 to 20 per week. The PCC also agreed to amend/extend the Youth Coordinator's contract to a one year rolling contract, to commence 1st June 2017.

In February, proposed patterns of services for the Burntwood Chase Team were outlined – the idea being that whilst respective clergy would focus on their own churches, there would be plenty of scope for them to take services at the other churches in the team. Groundwork UK also led some sessions with volunteers helping us to make our outside space more 'green' and attractive.

In March, a grant of £200 was gratefully received from Burntwood Town Council towards our Good Friday Workshops. Our approach to and language used in baptism services was reviewed, whilst Hazel Hart retired as cleaner after many years of service to the church, for which the PCC were very appreciative. A new sofa (courtesy of a previous grant by Burntwood Town Council) arrived for the church office.

In April, Real Groups took part in a 'Spiritual Health Check' course for Lent, whilst a new house group for student-age young adults called 'The Mess' was launched. 236 worshippers attended our Easter Day services, when 6 adults were baptised or renewed their baptism vows. A full house also enjoyed a great Italian meal at Gio's restaurant.

In May, a good crowd enjoyed our Spring Fayre at which many charities and local sellers exhibited. A potential buyer for the Church Rooms had come forward, and discussions would be ongoing. Updates were made to the way in which records for the Churchyard are kept, including a clearer process by which permission for the interment of ashes in existing plots could be obtained.

During the summer months, Burntwood Scout Group helped to clear the grounds of old growth, and a church picnic was held on Cannock Chase. A survey was conducted of all church regulars regarding 'Real Groups'. A good number of teenagers and leaders attended Soul Survivor, whilst over 30 church folks attended New Wine. Locally, Play in the Park events took place in Chase Terrace Park, at which the church provided free drinks, BBQ and craft activities for well over 300 people at each event.

In September, a good crowd of both church and church-connected people enjoyed a day trip to Llandudno, whilst various church members from across the team participated in the Learning To Lead course. A stage for the band in the corner of the worship area was built and carpeted, and a grant for £1,000 was received from One Stop Carriers For Causes, which would be put towards the purchase of a new office PC, a new television for the Meeting Room and a new electronic drum kit. Two nearly-new sideboards and cupboards were purchased for the foyer and office. New 'House Groups' were launched, giving us 11 groups in total which meet each week, although our midweek 'Youth' group folded due to a lack of numbers of teenagers.

In October, a retirement tea was held for Revd Linda Hood (as her time as Self-Supporting Minister at Hammerwich came to an end) which was extremely well-attended by representatives from across all the churches in the team. A Welcome Lunch was held for new church members, and a curry night was held at Anan's. After many faithful years of service, October saw the last Community Care lunch, although there are plans for future seasonal lunches in the future. Plans were also put in place for a 'Church Weekend at Home' next summer, and it was decided to promote Naturally Supernatural as a

summer event for church members to attend. A detailed survey report was also received with regard to the planned sale of the Church Rooms.

In November, around 500 people attended our Remembrance Sunday services in church and for the Act of Remembrance outside. The Trustees were grateful to Burntwood Town Council for the award of a £300 grant towards the cost of a television for the lounge, which had also now been redecorated. A large indoor Christmas tree was donated by Tesco, whilst Burntwood Town Council also helped to fund an outdoor tree. John & Marg Nicholls played & sang through all 150 Psalms, raising over £1000 for the replacement of the sound system. A PCC sub-committee was appointed to explore the ongoing nature and shape of the role of Youth Coordinator, with the remit of helping the PCC to discern the right way forward for the church's work with young people.

In December, the Christmas Fayre was held in church, with record numbers attending, whilst many hundred attended Christmas schools, scouts and civic services as well as the Christmas Workshops. We had record numbers at our Christmas morning service and held a Christmas Day Lunch in church for local people from the community who would otherwise be on their own, serving Christmas dinner to over 60 people. The Trustees were particularly grateful for financial support for this venture from Morrisons, Cllr Woodward's Social Fund, Blakemore's, along with various public donations. Bradshaw Brothers kindly donated 3 turkey crowns for the meal. A week later on New Year's Eve, we held a party in church to see the New Year in with a 'Silent Disco', with 150 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, whilst Becks Louis embarked on a second year with YFC, as part of their dance group 'Stance'.

Our Sunday services continue to develop, mixing worship, teaching, prayer and fellowship. In 2017, our Sunday Series have included *Choose Life*, *Look at Jesus*, and *Psalms: The Soundtrack of Life*. Our ministries among children, families and the elderly, through *Little Friends*, *Little Singers*, *YPC clubs*, *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. *House Groups*, *Prayer Groups* and *Men's Breakfasts* continue to be well attended and offer support, encouragement, learning and discipleship opportunities.

The Drop Inn has continued throughout 2017 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 training, dance and Zumba groups.

2017 has been a year of change and growth, particularly with the continued development of the *Burntwood Chase Team* and the Team's adjustment to the retirement of Revd Linda Hood. We have seen continued 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 **86%**. Committees and smaller meetings of various Ministry Team members 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 2017 has been paid in full. The Trustees have maintained the financial stability of the church, and there has been a rise in both planned gift-aided and non-gift aided 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**

And once audited:

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