

Christ Church Biddulph Moor
Trustees Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the
Year Ended 31st December 2017



Jesus saves all.
Christ Church welcomes all to follow Him.

1. Aims and Purposes

Christ Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Darren Fraser, in promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church, church hall and school house in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Biddulph Moor.

2. Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of the parish community at Christ Church. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and makes suggestions on how the services can involve the many groups that live within the parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

When developing the Mission Action Plan and planning the activities for the year, we consider the Commission's guidance on the Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

- Worship and Prayer; learning about the gospel and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work it is also important that the trustees maintain the fabric of Christ Church and its associated buildings.

Thought for the day Mark 9:2 v2 by Reverend Darren Fraser

'After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.'

I want to briefly explore three things, **climb, rest, and come down.**

Climb - Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain.

Like the three disciples, we must be willing to be led by Jesus, and at times climb the high mountain that we are being asked to climb. It's not always easy to follow Jesus Christ and at times we may feel like giving up. But don't give up carry on climbing like Peter, James and John.

Rest - Where they were all alone. The climb can leave us tired, and at times life can be tiring. These few words encourage us to stop. As Christians we are called to rest in His presence, and in that time of stopping and being refreshed, we can fix our eyes back on Him.

Come down - There he was transfigured before them. You will notice that Jesus was transfigured before them in that time of rest and being alone with Jesus. The transfiguration really changed the disciples, we are not fully aware of this until we read John's gospel and 2nd Peter, and look at the lives of Peter, James and John. Whilst Peter wanted to build shelters for a

permanent residence on the mountain, he came to realise that he needed to go back down and carry on sharing the gospel.

Like the three disciples, we are called to come down the mountain after a time of refreshing. The need for balance in our lives is so important, so we are called to **Climb** with Christ, **Rest** with Christ and **Witness** for Christ.

3. Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the year that the community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example; Thursday Prayers provide a quiet intimate and reflective environment for worship and the monthly Monday Fellowship enables folks to meet in fellowship, sometimes with those from other churches. On the Sunday mornings we offer different styles of worship; Morning Worship, Book of Common Prayer and Holy Communion. These appear to be well received by the regular congregation and visitors. Throughout the year we also hold special services to celebrate the many church festivals. As a Worshipping community, two new people have joined Christ Church, and we continue to reach out to people with the good news of Jesus Christ. It's not always easy, but we continue to fix our eyes on Jesus Christ.

As well as the regular services, we enable the community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through Baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services, where friends and family express their grief and thanks for life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

At various times throughout the year six members of the church placed or funded flowers in memory of loved ones. The names of the loved ones being remembered are recorded on the flower rota planner at the back of the church. At Christmas time Pauline Dunn, Jane Hawley, Sybil Meehan and Anne Walker ably assisted by Kevin Dunn created beautiful Christmas arrangements in the church. The flower fund box can be found on the table at the back of the church, donations are always welcome and much appreciated.

At present there are 38 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 20; however this number increases at the various special services held during the year with over 60 joining us for the Christmas Carol Service.

Deanery Synod

Four members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod they are Reverend Darren Fraser, Anne Gadsden, Jane Hawley and Hilary Williams. This synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. This year the subjects considered were; the Transforming Communities remit and the Church partnerships programme, Celtic style Worship and Alternative uses for Church Buildings with a Deanery Eucharist led by Roy Searle of the Northumbria Community.

Church buildings and grounds

This year the interior of the church was completely redecorated including improvements to the plaster finish in the clergy vestry and the loose wooden floor blocks were re-laid. There continues to be regular monitoring of the roof and the walls, this is carried out with the support of a professional resulting in a programme of works that is constantly ongoing.

Outside the weather once again proved a challenge for the loyal team of workers who care for the church yard throughout the year, however this did not deter them and they carried on despite the very wet conditions.

All the machines were cleaned and maintained by the groundwork team at no extra cost. The Japanese knotweed in both the church yard and the church hall was treated by Pointon's Nursery but requires further attention this coming year.

Many thanks should go to Kevin Dunn, Anne Walker and Michael Ward for their sterling work in the upkeep of the church grounds. Thanks must also go to Andrew Pickin who took over the upkeep of the north section of the church yard along with weed killing the paths etc. Andrew also laid a new land drain along the ecclesiastical south side of the church yard as well as levelling and clearing the ground around the old shed up to the old vicarage. This now gives far better access and a place for grass cuttings. Grave mounds and marker stones were also laid and tidied by the team as well as the maintenance of the glebe land at the back of the church hall. The groundwork team also completed all tree bush and hedge cutting assisted by Geoff Walker. The team also continued to hand out prayer cards to relatives who visited their loved ones' graves, these were always accepted with grateful thanks and this act of pastoral care will continue.

The costs incurred this year totalled £1,170 plus the voluntary work from the team; removing Christmas wreaths, mowing, maintaining those graves in need of attention, edging and tree cutting. The church is always pleased to receive donations or offers of help towards the maintenance of the church grounds. This year we received a very generous anonymous donation of £2,000 – thank you. If any church or village members would like to be part of this team, their help would be most welcome indeed. The team usually meets on Tuesday or Saturday mornings during the season (weather permitting) which is March to November. For offers of support or further information please contact Kevin Dunn on 515491

The Church Hall continues to be used by many groups here on the Moor. The Rainbows and Guides use the hall on Tuesday evenings during the school terms. The Brownies and Rangers no longer use the hall, the Brownies joined another group due to insufficient numbers and the Rangers have not used the hall since early 2017. Mr. Woodward who organises The Partially Sighted Lunch Club on the first Wednesday in the month has bookings from February to October taking a break during the cold winter period. The Dance Exchange a new group have started using the hall on Wednesday afternoon and evenings and Saturday mornings - their classes include ballet, hip hop, solo style, clubbercise, contemporary, gymnastics including a keep fit session for adults on Wednesday evenings, highly recommended by some members of the congregation! The hall is also used for funeral teas, parties and other private hire. The bookings are made on-line and invoices and payments are organised by Pam Murray. Sheila Hulme continues her excellent work of cleaning the premises for one hour per week.

Last year the tableau for the Well Dressing was constructed in a marquee erected in the hall yard with many folks from both the church and the village visiting to see the tableau taking shape and enjoying refreshments provided by church members. The petallers were most grateful for the use of the Church Hall and a generous donation was received from the BMCA for the use of these facilities.

This year there were two major cost items, the replacement of the oil tank and the repairs to the roof; the roof tiles were removed, damaged laths replaced and the roof tiles replaced so that once again the hall is safe from tile slippage and is watertight. This work cost £12,846. Sadly the monies raised through the lettings did not match this expenditure, a short fall of **£11,310!** Also due to the increased number of bookings the heating has had to be on for a much longer period of time prior to use to ensure that the rooms reach a comfortable temperature. However it is really good to see that the hall is being used more by the local community.

Throughout the year the biannual Health and Safety checks were completed such as the checking of portable appliances & fire extinguishers. There is still much work to do; the replacement of the ceiling tiles due to water damage, the ingress of water causing damp patches on the walls in both the main hall and the Parish Room, the need for non slip flooring and the repair of damaged tiles, a more efficient heating system which would include replacing the boiler and the radiators, the bund around the oil tank, improvements to the downspouts and grids, the painting of both sets of gates and the treatment of the exterior walls. We thank Heather and David Shutt for all their hard work, Heather as the manager and David as the 'handy man'. We ask for your prayers for this facility to become a viable concern for both the church and the community.

Over at the Church House we have continued to use what resources we have in improving the property, this time to the outside of the house. Major repairs and improvements took place during November & December 2017. The back of the house was re-pointed in many areas, and substantial groundwork was undertaken to provide a safe surface area at the rear of the property. Whilst this groundwork was being undertaken we were able to identify collapsed drains that had caused damp in the house. These drains were repaired and already the internal damp in the house is improving considerably. The back exterior wall is also beginning to dry out. We will continue to do our best with the limited resources we have.

Pastoral Care

Our Lay Reader, Terry Williams, and others endeavour to contact those who are unable to attend church for any reason to keep them in touch with church life. However Darren reminds us of the importance of the verses in the letter that St Paul wrote to the Church in Ephesus. Ephesians 4 verses 11-12. *'So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.'* In these few verses those responsible for leadership in Churches, such as the PCC, are reminded that part of their role is to equip God's people for works of service, for the building up of the body of Christ. This continues to be the focus of Church leadership.

Mission and evangelism

The Stoke on Trent Foodbank operates from the Community Fire Station in Hanley. Deliveries of food can be accepted there and also at Blurton Methodist Church, Wesley Hall Methodist Church in Sneyd Green and English Martyrs Church in Biddulph. Since September 2012 the members of the Christ Church congregation have been most generous in making regular weekly donations of dry grocery items for the Foodbank. The items have included tea, coffee, fruit juice, sugar, tinned meat, vegetables, soup and fish; biscuits and confectionery; cereals, rice and pasta. Between January to December 2017 Christ Church donated just over 187 kg of food and the total donated since the start is over 1 tonne (1,271 kg). Stoke on Trent Foodbank now has 15 distribution centres open across the city. From May 2012 to December 2017 the Foodbank had fed 50,000 people. Our thanks go to Mike Ward, ably supported by Sheila Watson, who oversees this aspect of our missionary work.

The church continues to support the work of several missions and charities. Each year the church gives a percentage of the planned giving to the Church Pastoral Aid Society, the Church Society, Crosslinks, and GMI-UK. The congregation also support The Gideons and the Leprosy Mission. We thank Hilary Williams and Anne Walker for overseeing this aspect of our missionary giving. The Lenten Giving was shared between the Mildmay Mission and The Bishop's appeal.

Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust

The 2017 in sponsored cycle ride/walk took place on the second Saturday in September, a dry, if dull, day. Anne and Jeff Walker and Hilary and Terry took part with Anne and Jeff visiting local churches whilst Hilary and Terry went out to churches mainly in the Newcastle and Madeley areas. Thanks to them and others who manned our own church, £105 was raised in sponsorship money shared between the Trust and Christ Church.

Ecumenical relationships

Christ Church is a member of Churches Together both here on the Moor and in Biddulph. In 2017 a number of Church Leaders settled into their new roles. Churches Together continues to grow together in unity.

Biddulph Churches Together organised a 'Pop up' choir in Sainsbury's on Good Friday surprising many of the customers, who joined in with the singing plus the regular street café on the Town Hall steps during July. The Biddulph Moor Churches Together held a Good Friday service at the cross on the green in the village centre and also produced a leaflet advertising the timings for the various Christmas services. We have also worked with Biddulph Moor Community Association to provide refreshments at the Switching on of the Christmas Lights as well as providing cakes for the cake stall at the Well Dressing and provided a place for the marquee to be sited for the creation of the tableau. The annual Pulpit exchange took place with Helen Foster from Hilltop Methodist coming to speak at Christ Church and Darren visiting Well Spring Methodist Church in Congleton.

The meetings of Biddulph Town Council continue to be opened with prayers and the ministers of the various churches have a rota for leading these.

Monday Fellowship

All are welcome to this monthly fellowship which meets on the first Monday of each month between April and December, to worship and learn together. There are hymns, prayers and Bible readings and usually a speaker. In 2017 talks included the History and Practice of Well Dressing, Congleton Street Pastors, The Flowers and Fruits of Autumn, and the Fair Trade Christmas Stall. At present our funds stand at £69 and these are used for small 'thank you' gifts, donations to various groups and for Gift Day.

Gideons International

Individual members of the congregation support the work of the North Staffordshire Branch of the Gideons. They receive the twice yearly 'Gideon News' magazine and prayer leaflets which give local, national and international information. Last year our church supporters gave £93.65 to help spread the Gospel through the presentation of copies of God's Word locally with the aim of winning men, women, boys and girls for Christ.

4. Financial Review

Total receipts on the unrestricted funds were **£22,965.09**; of which £18,093.99 was tax efficient planned giving, £751.62 was other planned giving and a further £4,119.48 was recovered through Gift Aid. The church house continues to be let which provided a gross income of £5,400. The gross income of the Church Hall was £1,535.95.

£24,236.20 was spent from the above unrestricted funds to provide the Christian Ministry for Christ Church, this includes the diocesan parish share of £19,483. The diocesan parish share, that all churches have to pay, is based on a formula including the head count of the congregation.

Over the year, for all transactions, the net result was an **excess of payments over receipts of £9,660.59**. Adding the bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year and carried forward at 31st December, the amount of unrestricted funds totals £7,702.52.

It is the policy of the PCC to invest some of the funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit fund. The balance in this high interest account is £21,585.55. All of the designated funds, totalling £18,355.91, for the house, the hall, the churchyard and the fabric of the building are held in this account.

This year the financial review makes for grim reading so Christ Church needs your prayers and financial support more than ever to support the life and work of the church. We operate an envelope scheme for weekly giving, some members use monthly payments such as Direct Debit, Standing Order or Faster Payments. Giving in this way secures a regular income and reduces the amount of time required by the church wardens and the treasurer in opening envelopes, counting and banking cash. The church is able to claim gift aid on any cash donation of up to £20 as well as those who give gift aid. We thank all who give regular gifts of time and or money.

If you use the envelope scheme and are unable to attend church regularly please remember we still need your support, kindly fill in the envelopes for the Sundays missed and bring them the next time you attend church or ask someone to bring them for you or consider monthly payments. If you are not part of the envelope scheme or wish to give on a monthly basis please contact the Church Treasurer; Anne Gadsden 515023.

'Freely ye have received, freely give.'

5. Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Christ Church the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (the vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The fourteen PCC members met five times during the year with an average level of attendance of 73%. We discussed such matters as worship, mission and outreach work, fabric and finance. A book of minutes is available for inspection. A copy of each of the PCC, Extraordinary General Meeting and Annual Parochial Meeting (APCM) minutes is posted on the church notice board, inside the porch, for the information of all members of the congregation.

Twice-yearly Health & Safety checks are carried out by the church wardens and others using an itemised check-list showing that all concerns are addressed where possible. As part of their duties the Churchwardens also checked the inventory and found everything in order.

The PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard behind the scenes carrying out the many roles and responsibilities. In particular we want to mention our churchwardens Mrs Nicholls and Mrs Williams and Mrs Gadsden who has helped us to understand the church's accounts and its finances. The church wardens and the volunteers of Christ Church enable us to present a very clear statement and witness of faith and a well kept and welcoming church.

6. Reference and Administration Information

The Parish of Christ Church Biddulph Moor is in the Deanery of Leek, the Rural Dean is Brian Statham of Milton Parish Church. The Archdeacon is Matthew Parker, in the archdeaconry of Stoke-on-Trent. Michael Ipgrave is the Bishop of Lichfield. Geoff Annas is the Bishop of Stafford and Justin Welby is the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Christ Church Biddulph Moor
Church Lane
Biddulph Moor

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Rev. Darren Fraser (01782 512240)

The Vicarage
 62 Park Lane
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Church Wardens
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 Reganna
 Under the Hill
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Major CJ Waters
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 Ridgefields
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 ST8 7JE

Bank

TSB
 King Street
 Biddulph
 ST8 6AZ

Parochial Church Council members

Trustees' name	Office and other areas of responsibilities
Dunn, Kevin	Church Yard team leader
Fraser, Darren	Vicar, Church House Officer
Gadsden, Anne	Child Protection Officer/Deanery Synod/Gift Aid Secretary/H&S Officer/Minutes Secretary/Parish Giving Officer/Treasurer
Haddock, Elaine	
Hawley, Jane	Deanery Synod
Hulme, Sheila	Hall Cleaner and Verger
Nicholls, Nita	Church Warden/Electoral Roll Officer/Church Verger
Nixon, Ewart	
Meehan, Sybil	
Ridgway, Margaret	
Shutt, Heather	Hall Manager
Walker, Anne	
Williams, Hilary	Children's Advocate/Church Warden/Deanery Synod
Williams, Terry	Licensed Reader

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Full Name	Darren Fraser	Anne Gadsden
Signature		
Position	Vicar	Treasurer
Date of the APCM	27 th March 2018	27 th March 2018