

St Leonard's Church

Chesham Bois

Annual General Meeting

to include Vestry Meeting and

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2019

Monday 29th April 2019, 8.00pm

The Parish Centre, Glebe Way, Chesham Bois, HP6 5ND



Agenda & Minutes

Reports from Parish Organisations

Rev'd Laurie Clow

Jonathan Coutts Choi Mei van Rest Katie Flory

Registered Charity Number 1134113

VESTRY MEETING AGENDA FOR 2018

1. Welcome and Opening Worship
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Vestry minutes held on 23rd April 2018
4. Election of Churchwardens: Nominated Jonathan Coutts and Choi Mei van Rest

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING HELD ON 23rd APRIL 2018

Present: Laurie Clow

51 members on the electoral roll

Apologies: Maggi Kenzie, Mary Jay, Fred Clayton, Jeanne Clayton, Grace Worthington, Jenny Faulkner, Gwyneth Bradley, Dorothy Hearn, Angela Standing, John Ogle, Josh Wilson, Val Hickling, Jackie Lambert, Judy Silley, Judith Allcock, Stephen Brown, David Clare, Isabel Crispin, Phil Crispin, Elizabeth Hale, Robin Hale, Dan Jennings, Andrew Maclay, Louisa McLachlan, Veronica Meredith, Carole Price

1. **Welcome and Opening Worship:** Readings from Isaiah 53 (Message version) and Ephesians 2:10
2. **Present and Apologies:** as above
3. **Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on 24th April 2017:** Taken as read and approved
Proposed: Peter Bright **Seconded:** Cathy Baldwin **Unanimous**
Abstentions: 18 as not present last year
4. **Election of Churchwardens:**

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Jonathan Coutts	Peter Flory	Diana Wright
Choi Mei van Rest	David Clare	Katie Flory

Jonathan and Choi Mei were elected by **unanimous** decision to serve as Church Wardens for the next 12 months.
5. **Thanks to the Church Wardens:** Laurie presented Jonathan with a gift. He explained that the Church Wardens' role has evolved. He read out a message from Maggi Kenzie:
As I am unable to make this evening's meeting, I want to thank you for support, love and prayer after a sudden change in my life. I journey on in God's grace and with huge gratitude. I feel privileged and honoured to have been one of the wardens to serve the St. Leonard's family and also part of the Leadership Team. We are all equal in the sight of Jesus and have been given different gifts to spread His Glory. Choi is now our new warden. She is a godly woman, filled with His gentleness, grace, truth and prophetic insight. Please pray for Jonathan and Choi as they seek The Lord's will and cope with 'stuff' which wardens cope with. They will be an awesome team, devoted to their Lord and with His joy. Receive and experience the amazing grace of The Lord Jesus, deep deep within us all. His blessings, Maggi
6. The vestry meeting was closed

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AGENDA for 2019

1. Apologies
2. 2017 APCM minutes held on 23rd April 2018
3. Correspondence
4. PCC reports:
Wardens' Report and presentation of Log Book of Fabric and Ornaments
5. Reception of Independently Examined Accounts
 - 5.1 Treasurer's report, as attached
 - 5.2 Accounts to be received as an accurate record
 - 5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2019
6. PCC Elections for 2019
 - 6.1. Electoral Roll Officer's Report and Election of Electoral Roll Officer for 2019
 - 6.2. Election of PCC members in addition to ex officio members and churchwardens
Following to continue:
Adrian Dunn, Katie Flory, Malcolm Hafner, Stuart McLachlan, Jenny Robinson, Karen Willcox, Alison Greenhalgh, Monica Bartlett
In line with APCM 2015 resolution, Peter Flory and Jackie Lambert act as ex-officio posts for qualified LLMS
To be elected for 3 years: 2 people: Andrew Silley and Yvette Speakman
To be elected for 1 year: 2 people: Eduardo Carvallo and Gaby Horridge
7. Reception of Reports from Parish Organisations, as attached
8. Any other business of general Parish interest to be submitted to the Churchwardens or the PCC Secretary before Sunday 21st April 2019

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 23rd April 2018

1. **Present and Apologies:** as above
2. **Minutes of APCM held on 24th April 2017:** Taken as read and approved
Proposed: Jonathan Coutts **Seconded:** Karen Willcox **Unanimous**
Abstentions: 18 as not present last year
3. **Correspondence:** None had been received
4. **Parochial Church Council Reports**
The Log Book was made available for perusal and the Property Committee were thanked for all the work they carry out
5. **Presentation of the Independently Examined Accounts**
 - 5.1 Katie Flory reported that the PCC have accepted the accounts
 - 5.2 Katie pointed to God's provision at the Parish Weekend. While not charging, donations covered the cost of the event, meaning no one was excluded from attending
 - 5.3 Katie thanked Peter Flory, John Ogle, Debbie Horridge and Ruth Leach for their assistance throughout the year
 - 5.4 Accounts were received by the APCM
 - 5.5 Katie proposed Nicola Anderson as the Independent Examiner for 2018
Proposed: Katie Flory **Seconded:** Alison Naisby **Unanimous**
 - 5.6 Laurie thanked Peter and Katie for all their work and presented them with gifts as a token of appreciation

6. PCC Elections for 2018

6.1 Electoral Roll and Electoral Roll Officer

Electoral Roll is 189 at April 2018

Marian Chiappetti was thanked for carrying out her role and agreed to continue in this capacity

Proposed: Denise Kolb **Seconded:** Adrian Dunn **Unanimous**

7. PCC Nominations

Laurie explained that Toby Price, Stephen Pimenta and Choi Mei van Rest were stepping down from PCC. Peter Bright was also stepping down and thanked for his long service on the PCC

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Monica Bartlett	Karen Willcox	Jenny Faulkner
Malcolm Hafner	Martyn Burton	Martin Jennings
Stuart McLachlan	Joanna Clare	David Clare
Alison Greenhalgh	Isabel Crispin	Sarah Curtis
Josh Wilson	Chris Clare	James Anning

Monica Bartlett, Malcolm Hafner and Stuart McLachlan were duly elected for 3 years, Alison Greenhalgh for 2 years and Josh Wilson for 1 year by **unanimous** decision and there were no abstentions

Laurie thanked those who have been on committees already and explained that the structure of the committees will be changing to help things run more smoothly

8. Reception of the reports from Parish Organisations

Laurie encouraged everyone to read the reports on the activities that have taken place in 2017. He thanked Ruth Leach, Debbie Horridge, John Ogle, Jo Jennings, Jackie Lambert, Dan Sutcliffe, Denise Kolb and Choi Mei van Rest for their support and help and presented them with gifts

9. Election of Deanery Synod representative

Noel Meredith was nominated for the role of Deanery Synod Representative

Proposed: Monica Bartlett **Seconded:** Choi Mei van Rest **Unanimous**

10. Additional thanks

Laurie thanked the eldership, having explained their role. Gifts were presented to Chris and Ali Clare, Vicky and Martyn Burton and Diana Wright

11. In Conclusion

Jonathan Coutts thanked Laurie for his work for St Leonard's and presented him with a gift to show our appreciation and love for him. Jonathan also presented Wendy Clow with flowers and a gift in appreciation for all her support

The meeting closed in prayer

RECTOR'S REPORT

What an amazing year we have had here at St Leonard's. From the big projects – developing the plans for the PC/Rectory site, restructuring PCC and growing in intimacy with the Lord – to the individual journeys, the increasing sense of unity and many unheralded breakthroughs. We have lost some good friends in the year as they have gone to be with the Lord, and we continue to pray for their families.

My sense is that we are in good heart and ready to face the challenges of 2019 and beyond. Numbers never tell the whole story but are a decent barometer to health, so we are healthy in attendance and giving – thank you to all of you. I was chatting to Chris Clare recently and saying that Wendy and I have the privilege of serving among a family of amazing people of all different kinds. We feel personally and professionally supported and again thank you to all of you.

I have to thank so many individuals, I hope I do not leave anyone out – if I do forgive me. Let's start with worship. John Ogle continues to bring focus for our 8am congregation and with his band of helpers enables Chris and I to just turn up and do it – thank you. Gwyneth, Lance and so many others at the 10am again make things so straight forward – thank you. Phil and the set up team, Martyn and the sound team and Neil and the visuals team and the hospitality and welcome team are fabulously reliable and a great blessing at the Beacon. So many people do so many things I cannot name them all – read these reports and be encouraged.

I have an amazing team around me on staff and on the PCC. Choi Mei & Jonathan support, encourage and challenge as required and are anointed leaders of our fellowship. Katie (and Peter) is a faith-filled treasurer – overseeing and releasing funds for kingdom work. Ade works tirelessly at deciphering my handwriting as PCC secretary – as a standing committee they are awesome and it is fun walking with them and watching their faces when I've had a break or holiday and come back with a shed load of new ideas and revelation!!!

I could not want for a more committed, heavenly-minded and dependable core team. Chris, Vicky and I went on a day's retreat together in the autumn. Vicky got us to write down what was on our heart for the ministry at St Leonard's. We are different personalities, but our hearts are identical – it is a coming together of like minds that can express the same things differently and so embrace diversity – you'd've think that the Lord planned it!!!

Our staff team is exceptional. There is a unity of vision and purpose and all are excellent practitioners in their areas. Dan and Denise have a huge heart for their charges and are busy enabling the growth of the church of today. Jonny has led all of us in inspiring and humble worship and he is growing a team around him. Ruth keeps us all on our toes and Debbie knows how to keep me in order (well she thinks she does anyway!!). They are always there. Our round of full leadership meetings once a month, with elders, staff and standing committee, followed by core staff meetings twice a month and ministry support meetings monthly has enabled us to think big and support in the detail. This has been helpful and enabled the core of the church to pray and worship together – always a key ingredient.

We have had great visitors and wonderful teaching from the home team. Peter and Jackie focus on the 10am service and have led worship and preached as their LLM calling would suggest but they are

so much more in leadership, pastorally and practically. Wendy Clow, Phil Parkinson, Martyn Burton, David Clare and others have brought great insight on the occasions they have preached.

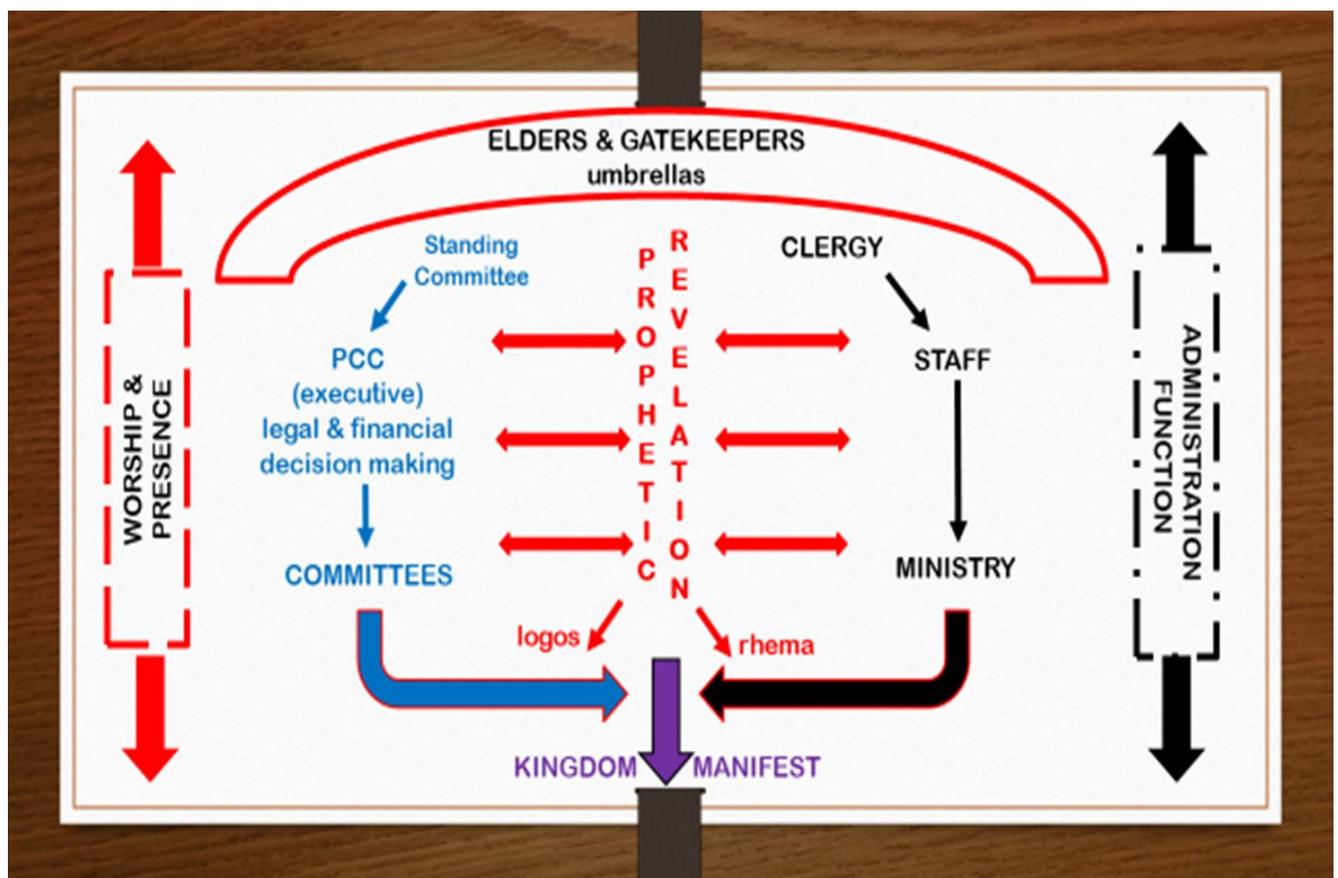
We are starting the School of the Prophetic and 2019 appears to be a great time to grow together and walk into our identity as a courageous and prophetic community. Do continue to pray for increased intimacy with God, wisdom for our building project and for the leadership of the parish that we will be courageous, be obedient to revelation and walk into our corporate identity.

Below is an illustration attempting to show how the structures of church fit together – if it is helpful then that is good.

Our God is a good, good Father. He has redeemed us in, by and through Jesus and He continues to transform us by the power of His Spirit. Praise the name of the Lord and walk with joy in all circumstances for He has and will give us the victory. We are children of the living God, overcomers in the world, walking by faith to see supernatural truth come to pass in our natural world.

... and God's people said AMEN

Laurie Clow – Rector



Vision Statement

We at St Leonard's are a *prophetic people and lion-hearted* disciples who

- *see* the **Kingdom of the Father** manifest as we...
- *worship Jesus as LORD* and we...
- *submit* to the **Spirit's leading**

Mission Statement

SO, to see our vision come to pass, our MISSION is to

- maintain our foundations and values at all times
- commit to personal restoration
- commit to regular, individual and corporate worship and prayer
- expect Kingdom growth in evangelism and the transformation of society

Values To Live By

- We **FOCUS** on **JESUS** – in His empowering PRESENCE we worship and pray
- He **DEFINES** our **IDENTITY** – individually and corporately we believe His PROMISES
- **The FATHER** shows us what to **DO** – in humility, we depend on REVELATION for life
- We **TRUST** Him in all circumstances – we have FAITH in His love and provision
- We **EXPECT** to see the **KINGDOM** manifest – we rejoice in His VICTORY

RESPONSE FROM THE WARDENS

It has been another year of spiritual growth and activity in 2018. We were encouraged in March to partake in a day of Prayer and Fasting in order to seek the Lord. Each month has had corporate prayer themes and the opportunity to gather weekly outside of Sunday services.

In May, the leadership team received encouraging teaching from Stuart Lees. At the Chesham Bois Village Fete in June, St Leonard's was well represented. We were able to minister and witness to our friends and neighbours. In July, we said farewell to Margaret and Peter Ibison as they were called to relocate to Sheffield. They have been faithful members at St Leonard's, and their teaching, support and love have impacted many. A picnic lunch generously hosted at the McLachlan's was a lovely opportunity for church family to gather informally and to say farewell.

Being together as the St Leonard's family is very important. Along with joint services we have had a bring and share lunch at the Parish Centre and in December, there was a wonderful sense of unity at the Carol Service. Proclaiming the gospel and worshipping The Lord together is a privilege and a joy.

Our sincere thanks go to Adrian Dunn, our PCC Secretary, for organising and preparing minutes of PCC meetings as well as all that goes into the preparing for the APCM. We are also deeply grateful to Katie Flory, our PCC Treasurer, for her tireless stewardship of our church's financial matters and to Ruth Leach and Debbie Horridge for dealing with all office matters with such efficiency and grace. Thanks to all our staff, PCC and volunteers who work hard for the Fellowship.

We thank Laurie Clow for his evident love of the Lord, for encouraging us and leading by example, by listening to our Father and doing as he sees our Father doing. Laurie's commitment to opening our eyes to the fullness of the gospel is a special gift to us which is deeply appreciated and treasured by the St Leonard's community.

Jonathan Coutts & Choi Mei van Rest – Churchwardens

WARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC AND CHURCH PROPERTIES

A faculty was granted by Oxford Consistory Court in January 2018 for the reinstatement of the Chrisom Child brass and accompanying inscription plate in their original indent spaces in the chancel of the church. Both items are currently with the conservator prior to this work being carried out.

A separate faculty was issued confirming the deposit of a silver cross and Elizabethan chalice at the Treasury at the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford (an interim arrangement has been in place since 2016).

The usual maintenance work has continued. The clock was serviced and maintained, the downpipe was repainted, and the gutters were cleared.

A Quinquennial Survey was effected in August 2018. The surveyor instructed by the PCC produced a report that identifies and prioritises maintenance work for the next 5 years. The Property Committee subsequently met to consider this report and a work list was drawn up.

The Church continues to use 37 Milton Lawns (Chesham Bois) and 19 Stubbs End Close (Amersham) under Licence from the Chiltern Christian Trust.

We are grateful to the Property Committee for their diligence in these matters.

Jonathan Coutts & Choi Mei van Rest – Churchwardens

PCC TREASURER'S REPORT

In 2018 the unrestricted income of the church increased, as did the unrestricted expenditure resulting in a surplus in the General Fund. The giving to our Mission partners has been sustained and we have met all our costs.

The PCC took the decision in 2017 to begin to seriously explore a Parish Centre re-development and, thanks to some generous gifts, have funds in place to take the church through the consultative and preparative stages to planning. In 2018 the PCC spent £91,113.83 on the project which has the effect of showing an overall deficit in 2018 across all funds, as this was met from previous surplus reserves.

In 2018 we paid a Parish Share based on our current clergy. We have been able to make staff changes to facilitate the work of our church.

Our God has been generous to us and we need to follow His example in our giving of time and money.

The simplified accounts in this booklet show the General Fund transactions only.

Thank you to those who support me in my role, especially:

John Ogle
Debbie Horridge
Ruth Leach
Peter Flory

Katie Flory – Treasurer

FINANCE: SIMPLIFIED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR 2018

	Actual 2018 £	Actual 2017 £	Budget 2019 £
Income			
Bankers Orders	204,120.68	185,447.74	199,461.00
Envelopes	9,150.00	11,715.00	9,893.00
Collections	6,929.02	7,574.83	6,387.00
Irregular and One-off gifts	35,161.66	25,546.17	27,508.00
Tax Recoverable - Gift Aid	49,327.16	40,894.56	45,206.00
Wedding & Funeral Fees	3,978.00	4,330.00	
Property Rent	8,300.00	8,550.00	
Bank Account Interest	1,612.86	716.63	
Bookstall	158.88	492.59	
Donations	1,358.05	1,240.49	
Sundry Income		85.31	
Total Income	<u>320,096.31</u>	<u>286,593.32</u>	<u>288,455.00</u>
	Actual 2018 £	Actual 2017 £	Budget 2019 £
Expenditure			
Parish Share	83,415.29	81,935.04	84,620.00
Salaries	85,520.97	67,611.74	96,863.00
Staff Training and Costs	5,519.80	3,085.24	4,029.00
Housing - Youth and Intern	25,371.97	26,397.59	23,929.00
Youth and Children's Ministry Costs	3,820.86	4,203.03	6,150.00
Rector Expenses and Housing	2,070.93	2,400.47	2,762.00
Chesham Bois School	722.56	294.58	750.00
Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals	2,903.88	4,017.76	250.00
Alpha and Outreach	813.87	664.52	700.00
Church Utilities and Maintenance	7,430.40	7,671.76	16,740.00
Beacon - Rent and Equipment	16,912.59	19,405.04	17,478.00
Hospitality for Services	326.87	438.85	300.00
Rector's Discretionary Fund	200.00	1,000.00	750.00
Wine, Music, Speakers fees	647.99	839.14	670.00
Lay Training	446.85	297.68	500.00
Office Phones, Photocopier and Equipment	4,380.28	3,870.45	3,637.00
Office Other	1,309.76	872.95	1,288.00
Bank Charges	698.31	810.79	714.00
Insurance	4,923.63	4,657.89	5,022.00
Independent Examination Fee	800.00	800.00	850.00
Bookstall	139.11	1,028.31	250.00
Levies		105.00	50.00
Other	4,180.20	3,673.13	3,360.00
Mission Transfers	31,170.98	29,087.34	28,846.00
Total Expenditure	<u>283,727.10</u>	<u>265,168.30</u>	<u>300,508.00</u>
Surplus/Loss	<u>36,369.21</u>	<u>21,425.02</u>	<u>-12,053.00</u>

Katie Flory - Treasurer

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The Electoral Roll was revised before this APCM. The Electoral Roll for April 2019 stands at 170 members. The changes are made up of the following:

44 members removed from the roll due to:

- 6 worshipping elsewhere
- 11 moved away
- 5 deaths
- 22 no longer worshipping or unknown

22 new members have been added to the roll.

Marian Chiappetti – Church Electoral Roll Officer

CHURCH CONGREGATIONS / SUNDAY WORSHIP

How good and pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity!

When we have had joint services, either at the Church building or the Beacon School, there has been a tangible atmosphere of joy and unity this year. This is surely evidence, in part, of the renewed joy experienced within the diversity of our weekly Sunday services.

The 8am service continues to offer a warm welcome with liturgy from BCP Holy Communion. Regular attendance is between 10 and 20 people and the fellowship continues to develop.

The 10am service welcomes a range of ages to worship using Common Worship with a mixture of contemporary songs and traditional hymns. Around 35 regular members offer a friendly welcome to visitors, including larger groups who come for baptisms.

The 10:30am service at the Beacon School is informal in its approach to contemporary worship and welcomes around 80 to 100 members of all ages. It supports youth and children's small groups. Regular sharing of testimonies and prophetic ministry reflect the growth of the fellowship and deep worship led by Jonny Somervell and his team has progressed this deeper discipleship.

The evening Encounter services have offered refreshment and reflection to all. There have been extended times of worship, prophetic prayer ministry and teaching shared at these services. Huge thanks to Jonny Somervell who leads worship at all services so sensitively and releases many in this ministry.

Laurie Clow – Rector / Vicky Burton – Assistant Pastor

LIVING IN FREEDOM

Many have benefited from the Jesus' Ministry conferences, by attendance, participation and by being on team held by Christ Church, Fulham and Restore Community Church, Loughton. We have also delivered the Living in Freedom teaching over the past year and the teaching on these is beginning to inform and shape the core theology of our fellowship. The prayer team is also growing in confidence, experience and number as we continue to offer freedom prayer throughout the year. Living in Freedom will be run again towards the end of 2019.

Laurie Clow – Rector

SANCTUARY PRAYER

The Church has been open for Sanctuary Prayer days on the first Friday of each month. This has been a sanctuary for those wanting the peace to seek God and pray. It is stewarded by a faithful few who are there if anyone wants prayer or just to welcome those who are walking through the grounds, inquisitive to see inside the church. It is a lovely opportunity to just step out of the busyness and stresses of life and be in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Additionally, we gather any revelation that anyone wants to share from their time of prayer, to pray through and sift so to hear what God is saying to St Leonard's.

At the end of the Sanctuary day we gather to pray and listen for the church, mission partners and community.

Even though we do not see large numbers using this opportunity, for some, this day has become a time of refuge and strengthening in the Lord.

Diana Wright – Sanctuary Coordinator

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

I continue to have joy in my role as a Children's Work coordinator, which I have held since September 2017.

I have two personal highlights I'd like to mention. The first is the introduction in September 2018 of Living in Freedom for Junior Church. It feels like quite a daunting task at times but God is holding us as we follow his will. Various people on Junior Church team help to write these sessions, during workshops, in pairs or writing solo. The outline follows that of the adult Living in Freedom material from Laurie. Thank you to all those who contribute to this God-led, work-in-progress venture.

The second highlight was the Christmas Family Celebration service in December organised by Youth and Junior Church. The outline began with a piece of revelation to base the service on Isaiah 9. The result was a gloriously fun and Holy Spirit-filled service, with a beautifully crafted nativity scene and the Rector conga-ing around the hall!

Rachael and Matt Palmer continue to be a great help in overseeing crèche volunteers and rotas. We aren't using the new LiF materials at crèche level but they are aware of the content and adapt if they choose. Thank you both so much.

We have approximately twenty-three children attending Junior Church on a fairly regular basis broken down as follows:

- 3 in crèche
- 6 in KS1 ages 4-7
- 14 in KS2, ages 7-11

We have a team of 20 adults and one teenager who are on rota to help run Junior Church. I am grateful to and feel blessed by those who consistently offer their time, whether helping with worship, writing materials or teaching on a Sunday. Many volunteers no longer have children at church but still lovingly serve by giving their time. Thank You!

At the moment we are not running any smaller children's groups during the week as we want to give priority to the School of the Prophetic.

Looking ahead, I would love to see the children continuing to grow in an intimate relationship with Christ, practising gifts of prophecy and healing – all the things that God has promised through original design prayer for Junior Church. Praise God!

Denise Kolb – Children's Ministry Coordinator

YOUTH MINISTRY

The calendar year 2018 is covered by this APCM report. Firstly, may I begin with huge thanks to Chris Clare, Lydia Davies, Owen Melville-Thomas and Rachel Otterson for supporting and leading the youth work with myself at St Leonard's during 2018.

In January we took a group of 12 of our young people along with 17 young people from King's Church Amersham to the Frontier Centre in Northampton for a youth weekend away. It was great fun and a time away from the usual to take a look at the theme of 'The One'; how we are the one to God, there is One God and we are One Church: An exciting weekend away to explore faith with young people their age across the town.

During the year we ran two youth groups. Tuesdays are hosted at the Parish Centre and focus on facilitating a safe environment for young people to come, have fun and build relationships. An opportunity to bring their friends to evenings of everything from scavenger hunts with mobile phone apps to playing cards and eating toast, with a healthy dose of ping pong and pool of course. Thursdays have a more 'digging deeper' feel of exploring and outworking our faith. Each week tends to have a thought, a time of worship and prayer. And of course more food. Both these groups are for years 7-13.

This year we were able to run several joint events with King's Church Amersham and St Mary's. This included a joint youth worship afternoon down at King's with worship led by young people and an evening's worship at St Leonard's church at which we were joined by some young people from King's Church Chesham. The Summer Ball in July was an evening of fun for all three churches hosted at King's Chapel in Old Amersham. We were incredibly blessed by them waiving their venue hire cost and providing us with a three course meal in a great old venue at cost.

At the end of August we took our youth, thirteen in all, and a few leaders to Soul Survivor Christian camp in Peterborough. We camped this year with some friends of mine from St Bride's in Trafford and their 4 young people. It made for a great week away for our young people mixing with different youth groups and joining around 4,000 other young people from across the country for a fun five days of great worship and teaching.

In September our youth group enjoyed a fantastic new influx of 9 Year 7's. This meant a slight change to the way we ran our youth groups. The Tuesday social for all ages would remain the same and we moved from one 'digging deeper' group to two age split groups. Year 7-9's meet on a Tuesday before the social, a time for those in that age group to come together each week, ask the big questions about life, build community, read the bible and pray. On Thursdays our

Year 10+ meet at Dan's House, a time to do bible study together, listen to God and explore how to outwork our faith in our everyday lives.

Also, in September we had the pleasure of welcoming our two new youth interns, Owen Melville-Thomas and Rachel Otterson. They have been superb additions to the youth team and fellowship. They spend their week helping with youth groups, studying for a day at London School of Theology and serving down at Restore Hope Latimer with their schools work.

My prayer for 2019 is that we will continue to provide opportunities and contexts for young people to encounter Jesus and grow in their faith. Thank you for your continued to prayer and support as we raise and disciple our young people as a church, may God continue to reveal His ways on how best to do this.

Daniel Sutcliffe – Youth Minister

HOME GROUPS

Home Groups at St Leonards are thriving. The numbers tell a story with there now being over 100 people in Home Groups. There are 10 groups (including Daytime Connect) with 106 members between them. The groups all have their own personalities and ways of doing things but fundamentally they are all about encouraging one another and growing together in our faith. This year the groups have followed the material provided by Laurie called "Free to live..." which were a series of devotional exercises for learning to Live in Freedom and the fullness of our identity in Christ. A key part of a Home Group is providing pastoral support to one another, and some have set up WhatsApp groups so that they can have immediate prayer for people who are ill or travelling. As well as this, groups have been involved in the local community and have enjoyed all sorts of social events together. We asked members to give us an idea of how they have found their groups this year and these are some of the comments we were given:

"I feel safe to express my opinions and ask questions."

"I already feel very at home in the group and the depth of fellowship and encouragement has made a massive difference to both us of since we joined."

"Church on Sunday is great, but a home group provides a degree of fellowship and sharing that is hard to achieve on Sundays. If you want to grow and be encouraged as a Christian – join a Home Group."

We would like to thank all the Home Group leaders for the work they do in keeping the groups running. It is such an encouragement to hear what is going on in each of them.

Steve and Juliet Brown – Home Group Coordinators

DAYTIME CONNECT

Daytime Connect is a women's group which meets weekly on a Thursday morning, during term time and provides a crèche for preschool aged children. At the end of the year, 18 women were committed to Daytime Connect with regular attendance of around 12-15 women. We aim to have a termly day time, as well as an evening social.

For the Spring Term we followed the devotional booklets on a weekly basis. As the group has a stable number of regular attendees, this enabled some really good and honest discussions. During this term, Sam McEwen stepped up to join Helen Livingstone as co-leader.

Throughout the Summer Term, we followed the Living in Freedom 2 teaching. This enabled the group to experience the material of these teaching sessions which had previously been offered in the evening, as many within the group cannot commit to evening sessions due to childcare. The whole group continued to grow spiritually, increasing their intimacy with God.

We carried on in the Autumn Term with the devotional booklets, growing spiritually and supporting those in need within the group.

Daytime Connect has remained supportive of Maryland Nursery each term by providing and serving refreshments at their Easter Service, Sports Day and Christmas Service.

Helen Livingstone and Sam McEwen – Daytime Connect Co-Leaders

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Looking back over 2018, I've been really encouraged by how the worship life of St Leonard's has progressed and developed in a number of different areas. From the beginning of the year we started to engage in more spontaneous and prophetic worship as part of the sung worship times. This has become a much more common feature of our sung worship and it has really helped members of our congregation to be able to express their true worship to God. I've been blessed to see members of the congregation lose their self-consciousness in worship and open up to the spontaneous. One particular example of this was at an Encounter evening in June where the time of sung worship started with a spontaneous song arising in the Spirit, with all present utterly caught up in worship.

The youth at St Leonard's have been really eager to get more involved in worship, especially in the latter half of the year. From September, we have started to gather once a month for a youth worship workshop – typically including a brief teaching on worship and then a chance to learn some new songs as a band. These workshops have not only increased musicianship and awareness in worship but also encouraged members of the youth to lead worship. In November, we held a joint worship evening for the youth with King's Church Amersham, with youth from King's Church Chesham also attending. It was fantastic to see so many youth from across the area joining together with a passion for worshipping Jesus.

In September, I began to work with Homegrown Worship, a project that looks to make worship an integral part of peoples' daily lives and devotion to God. Its aim is to release brand new worship tracks from artists around the nation multiple times a week that can be used not just as part of daily devotions but also as worship songs for the congregational context. I submitted 6 new worship songs to Homegrown Worship for release in 2019, 2 of which we have already started to use in our sung worship times. This new season of songwriting has also inspired members of the youth to start being more creative with music, with 2 members writing their own worship songs from revelation in times of personal prayer.

In October, we met as a full worship team for the first time to discuss how we would like the worship life of St Leonard's to progress and expand. We prayed for revelation and for our

vision as a worship team which is to be a CREATIVE AND PROPHETIC WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY which blesses the congregation as well as other small communities inside the church. We also decided to meet as a team for worship workshops, songwriting sessions and worship team socials.

Another thing I've been encouraged by this last year is our times of sung worship as a whole church family. We have started to use more family worship songs at the beginning of celebrations to enhance worship with the children and youth, with some rather lively actions and dancing! The Family Christmas Celebration was an especially joyful time of worship, with a mixture of family worship songs and carols enabling us to worship together as a family.

Jonny Somervell – Worship Pastor

SENIORS' MINISTRY

We are indebted to senior members of our congregation for their faithful support of the Seniors' Ministry events throughout the year and we are encouraged by the number of seniors from the local community who regularly attend and those we have welcomed for the first time this year. Our desire is to bless our guests with a welcoming and friendly environment, a place where all feel valued, experience friendship and where we have the privilege of sharing God's love and our faith in Him.

We celebrated Easter with a short service followed by tea and cakes. We are grateful to Laurie for speaking at our service and also to Vicky Burton for her worshipful rendition of 'When I Survey'.

The main event of the year was the four day Holiday Club held in the last week of July. We started the first two days with a Thought for the Day and it was special to hear a personal testimony from John Ogle. The rest of the mornings were taken up with a choice of activities and on one afternoon we enjoyed a super concert by the Chiltern Singers. On the second afternoon, Peter and Katie Flory gave an interesting illustrated talk on their recent visit to the Holy Land. For our trip we had an excellent cruise on the River Thames, including an equally excellent cream tea! The Holiday Club was rounded off on the following afternoon with our popular garden party. The exceptionally hot weather during this time was a matter for prayer and we thank God that everyone was kept well.

Harvest was celebrated early in October with a ploughman's lunch followed by an informal service. We were pleased to welcome Jackie Lambert as our speaker, who illustrated her thought-provoking talk with various fruits, and we heard once again from Vicky Burton who played a reflective piece on the cello. Jackie also gave a Christmas thought at our 'Readings and Carols' event at the beginning of December and Vicky organised a small choir of St Leonard's members who sang 'In the Bleak Midwinter'. There was a real sense of worship as we joined together to sing the familiar carols and this was followed by a lovely time of fellowship over tea and mince pies.

Refreshments and meals are an essential part of our gatherings, a way of blessing our guests and providing an informal opportunity to chat with one another. We would like to express our thanks to our St Leonard's family who willingly volunteer to serve in numerous ways. A big thank you to you all!

This is God's ministry and above all we want to give Him our thanks and praise for His presence with us and for the special atmosphere which we experience when we meet together.

Barbara Williams and Jo Jennings – Seniors' Ministry

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Much of the pastoral care within our Parish continues to flow from on-going relationships between our church members, from prayer triplets / small groups to home groups, and from friendships to intentional contacts, such as visits to care homes or individuals.

There are also several people in St Leonard's who work very hard to care and keep contact with people who may not otherwise be cared for. Thank you to our home group leaders and those key people in our congregations who regularly display compassion and openness to God's lead in visiting or contacting church members to offer prayer and care.

When, in May, the PCC agreed some new structures for our committees, the Pastoral Care team officially changed in order to oversee all congregations together. We have now met to pray and to share information, and we are asking the LORD for further revelation as to how to structure pastoral care from this point forward.

Vicky Burton – Assistant Pastor

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission committee continues to be responsible for recommending to the PCC how to distribute the funds (10% of income) that we as a Church give to mission work. It is also charged with fostering the wider involvement of the Church in Mission work.

The period of this annual report covers a period of significant organisational change in the way the PCC's mission committee is structured and functions, but reasonable stability in the missions we support. However, in March 2018 the PCC decided to add Tree of Life (Pete and Sarah Portal) as mission partners. Our focus for prayer and support lies in the work being done to build His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven by our wonderful mission partners. For reference these are listed below - but I hope all of you reading this will know them, and will be praying for, at least, some of them:

Mission	Partner	Link Person
Burundi	Bishop Seth Ndayirukiye	Felicity Maclay
Eastern Sahara	Jack and Claire	Diana Wright
North Africa	Jonathan and Helen	Maggi Kenzie
CMS 1 Chile	Alf and Hilary Cooper	
CMS 2 Honduras	Steve Poulson	Jo Jennings
Tree of Life, SA	Pete and Sarah Portal	Laurie Clow
Lunchbowl network, Kenya		Wendy Clow
Restore Hope, Latimer		Alison Greenhalgh
TearFund		Phil Parkinson
Christian Aid		Alison Naisby and Annie Davies

Not all of the above receive financial support, and we also made a few small grants to support individuals' mission trips.

After the 2018 APCM, the Rector introduced, and the PCC accepted a new Governance model for the PCC and its sub-committees. For the mission committee this has meant that we now have a small committee (at present: Chris Clare, Noel Meredith, Josh Wilson from PCC and Jenny Beirne as secretary) meeting 3 times a year to prayerfully consider strategy and to advise the PCC on the mission budget, and a larger group (Mission Links), which includes the committee members, but also a link person for each of our supported missions who meet to pray and update each other on the work and life issues of each mission partner, and to pass updated information to the Church. This group is planned to meet twice a year at present, and feeds ideas into the sub-committee, but is not itself a decision-making body.

One of the first tasks the committee undertook was to try to draw up a statement of the criteria we use in order to decide which of the very many excellent missions there are that we, at St Leonards, should support. We also organised Mission Sunday in October 2018, when Graham Wakeman from Restore Hope came to speak to us.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who act as mission links, and all you for supporting our partners in prayer.

Chris Clare – Associate Minister

MARYLAND PRE SCHOOL NURSERY

Maryland started 2018 with Emma Culmer leaving the committee after ten years' service and 3 new committee members starting. The updated website is up and running and we have a healthier number of children on the books.

On February 28th, just before the 'Beast from the East' arrived, we had an Ofsted inspection. We were delighted that the outstanding care and hard work of Pam and the staff was rewarded with a 'Good' in all categories and 'Outstanding' in personal development, behaviour and welfare. The inspector particularly commented on the "exemplary behaviour of the children, their exceptional levels of confidence, independence and emotional security and that they show kindness and respect for each other and develop a clear understanding of right and wrong."

Comments that we are quite rightly proud of!

When the unusually cold weather of March finished, we were able to resume our Forest School sessions on Wednesday mornings. It's difficult to imagine that these sessions could get any better, but they have! Henny's confidence (she is now in sole charge) has increased and her meticulously planned and executed ideas and activities have been excellent! We've had help from some parents particularly Amy Lofthouse, and the multitude of skills shared and positive outcomes has been brilliant.

Henny's other role as garden expert has meant that yet again, we saw a flourishing crop to which every child contributed, another award from Chesham in Bloom and a gold award in the scarecrow section. There is no doubting the enjoyment and skills that the children get from this activity, not to mention the pride of being able to sell their harvest in the last week of term for Maryland funds.

Another successful parents' evening in March, a beautiful Easter service and a well-attended stall (making bird feeders and a sandpit treasure hunt) at the Chesham Bois Village Fete in June did much to show the qualities of our children and staff.

We enjoyed a warmer than usual summer term and were grateful for our new gazebo to offer shade when needed. Unlike last year, we were able to enjoy a sunny sports day at the end of term and, as on previous occasions, many parents were emotional as their offspring left Maryland for the next stage in their education. We enjoyed cake and other refreshments and some very generous donations.

Despite seeing 16 children leave in July, we started the Autumn term with a healthy 38 children. They settled quickly and enjoyed the challenge of Forest School into October.

We have seen more changes in staff and committee members; Orfana Isaacson left us to pursue other opportunities but stayed on in a supply capacity and has been called on for her IT skills amongst others. We are delighted to have Bekki Flory and Coralie Butler join the staff team as well as Emma Culmer as a supply member and Dawn Gould to help support a special needs child in the setting. Our three new committee members Jo Pearce, Margaret Mee and Jo Clare (new Secretary) have already made their mark with craft ideas and resources and support for filling Samaritans purse shoeboxes and helping at the fete. How lovely to see members of our church family get on board!

This Autumn term has been busy settling new children and staff, with many wonderful craft opportunities, play and learning. We had individual photos and a few days spent sorting donations for the Samaritan's purse appeal. Christmas approached and Henny, Pam and the staff did an excellent job of teaching the nativity songs and actions, all to be played out on December 19th in a lovely, well-attended service in Church.

Once again, many thanks to all who support this fabulous pre-school and the dedicated staff and committee.

Do please continue to pray for Maryland.

Pam Hick – Manager, Maryland Pre-school

CHESHAM BOIS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

“Believing, Achieving and Caring Together

As a Church of England School we place the child at the centre of all we do. We welcome children and families of all faiths and of none. Our work is motivated and inspired by our core Christian values (love, thankfulness, faith, integrity, respect, and resilience) which are lived out on a daily basis by children and adults in the school. We provide a caring, nurturing learning environment in which all children can achieve and grow together.”

Last year, we reported that the school had become an academy school and joined the Oxford Diocese (Bucks) Schools Multi Academy Trust (ODBST). One year on despite the initial teething problems, we are delighted that this decision has proved to be the right one for the school and we are enjoying being part of this new community within the locality. The ODBST now has six schools under its control and there are as many as that waiting to join the trust. The ODBST's purpose is that they want “our pupils to achieve all that they possibly can and, in doing so, that they and their

families experience the best quality of education and care.” In the ODBST there are church schools but what is particularly exciting is that community schools and other types of schools are also welcome and have joined.

We continue to face challenging times as Government funding for education continues to be very tight and this is unlikely to change. But we are blessed with a Head Teacher and staff who care deeply about the children and who provide an inspirational and supportive learning environment. Our children are keen to learn, kind and generous and our parents support the school in many different ways. Pupil attainment and progress continues to be good and we are delighted to have secured outstanding assessments from the ODBST of our SEN, ‘More able Learners’ and in Teaching and Learning. The school is increasingly popular and demographically there are now more pupils from Chesham than Amersham, which reflects the original trust deed of the school.

Looking ahead, we are due a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection this year with the likelihood of an Ofsted inspection the following year. Both of these are under new frameworks which will continue to challenge the school and leadership at many different levels.

The ‘Open the Book’ team continues to play an important part in delivering assemblies in the school which the children always look forward to and the termly services in the church are popular with the children and are increasingly well-attended by parents. The weekly prayer meetings continue, now on a Monday morning at 8.45am. We have seen many encouragements and answered prayers so we invite all members of the church to come and pray for our school, occasionally or regularly and if you can’t attend, please do pray at home. Details appear in the weekly church notice sheet.

Jenny Faulkner, Peter Flory, Jackie Lambert – Foundation Governors

DEANERY SYNOD

Amersham Deanery Synod, a group of representatives from Church of England churches in an area extending beyond Amersham itself, meets four times a year. St Leonard’s elected lay members are Monica Bartlett, Peter Flory and Noel Meredith. The clergy are automatically eligible to attend. Details are available on the Amersham Deanery website: <https://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk/>

Meetings usually include an introduction with scripture and prayer, an informative talk and an update on deanery finance. In 2018 there was a session on ‘Messy Church – Learning from one another’. The other talks were given by Steve Poulson, Janna Holder and Dr Fletcher, a retired doctor from Beaconsfield. Steve Poulson is both a Deanery and a St Leonard’s Mission Partner. He had spoken at Deanery Synod before so this was an update.

Janna Holder works with children, young people and families through her work with Seer Green Baptist Church, Holy Trinity Church and the local schools. She was inspirational and felt a children’s worker should be more like a vicar than a curate and that they should have durability. She emphasised the importance of building and sustaining relationships with families.

Dr Graeme Fletcher spoke about mental health issues such as depression including suicide. He flagged up the value of providing a listening ear and practical support, where needed, as a friend. He also stressed the importance of signposting to the most appropriate organisation if more input is required. He reminded us of the value of having good boundaries that we stick to and that friends

should never take advantage. One suggestion for us to consider was that we put the Samaritans' contact details on the church door.

Monica Bartlett – Deanery Synod Representative

CHILTERN CHRISTIAN TRUST

The Chiltern Christian Trust was set up in 1987 to spread the Christian Gospel, principally by supporting the ministry of St Leonard's Church. This includes owning and maintaining properties, essentially for the use of the church. The original trustees were all PCC members (Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer included) and almost all the funds were donated by members of St Leonard's Church. The trust is a separate legal entity to the PCC and church, however it is very supportive of the work and outreach of St Leonard's and has the intention to continue this support in the foreseeable future.

Currently, the trust owns three sites:-

- 37 Milton Lawns, which is being used by Daniel Sutcliffe in his role and as a hub for youth ministry to the young people and wider church.
- 19 Stubbs End Close which is being used by our worship pastor Jonny Somervell and our interns Owen Melville-Thomas and Rachel Otterson.
- The 3 acre field between St Leonard's Church and Bois Lane including access from Bois Lane via the gate at the South West corner of the field. This ownership protects the environment of the church. On application to the Trust the field is also available for Church use.

This year, we have been excited by the plans St Leonard's Church are proposing for the redevelopment of the Parish Centre and we are evaluating how the trust may be able to help in this project. We were also saddened to lose Red Neale from our board during the year who was a greatly valued trustee and we are grateful for all the dedicated work he did for the trust over many years.

From time to time, when trustees have moved away or resigned, new trustees have been appointed from PCC members, ex PCC members or others who are regular and/or longstanding members of the church.

The current trustees are Peter Flory, Malcolm Hafner, David Stephenson (Chair), Doug Thornton and James Worthington. Laurie Clow attends meetings as spiritual adviser to the trust. Copies of the accounts will be made available later in the year on request. If anyone is interested in being a co-owner of one of the properties, please contact one of the trustees.

Peter Flory – CCT Trustee

PARISH CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

This report covers the period January to December 2018 on the project.

Our main focus during 2018 was establishing the project vision, developing a working brief for the accommodation and then forming the design team of consultants to assist St Leonard's with the planning stage process. In particular, the architectural competition we ran in June

2018 resulted in the appointment of Oxford-based Paul Southouse Architects, who have proved to be an excellent choice of lead consultant.

We have run two events at the Parish Centre during the year: an open community consultation in January 2018 and a church consultation in November 2018. There have been other smaller consultation meetings with staff, Parish Centre user groups, the Parish Council, local residents in North Road and South Road, and the Local Authority senior planners.

Our aim during this initial consultation period has been to both inform stakeholders and to gather their views and feedback so that the design brief and feasibility plans can be refined and improved.

The project is being overseen by the PCC via working groups (PC Vision, PC Strategy and PC Implementation) and, therefore, there is proper church governance oversight of the process and the budget.

We ended the year at a point where the information gathered can now be processed and incorporated into the design by the architects and more developed plans shared with the church and community in 2019.

David Clare – Project Manager, Habitat for Humanity GB Homes