



St Leonard's Church

Chesham Bois

Annual General Meeting

To include Vestry meeting and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2018

Monday 23rd April 2018, 8.00pm

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



Agenda & Minutes

Reports from Parish Organisations
For the Year Ended 31st December 2017

Rev'd Laurie Clow

Jonathan Coutts - Maggi Kenzie - Choi van Rest - Katie Flory

Registered Charity Number 1134113

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VESTRY MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Worship
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of 2017 Vestry Minutes
4. Election of Church Wardens

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING HELD ON 24th APRIL 2017

Present: Laurie Clow

50 church members on the electoral roll

Apologies: Jenny Beirne, Gwyneth Bradley, Steve Brown, Martyn Burton, Jenny Faulkner, Joyce Flory, Elizabeth Hale, Dorothy Hearn, Valerie Hickling, Debbie Horridge, Jo Jennings, Martin Jennings, Jonty Lees, Terry Neale, Steve Price, Judy Silley, Ben Smith, Anita Walton, Paul Wilson

1. Welcome and Opening Worship:
2. Present and Apologies : as above
3. Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on 25th April 2016 : Taken as read
Proposed: Simon Hollett Seconded: James Worthington Abstentions: 1 as not present last year
4. Election of Church Wardens:

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Jonathan Coutts	Peter Flory	James Neale
Maggie Kenzie	Robin Hale	Adrian Dunn

Jonathan and Maggie were elected by **unanimous** decision to serve as Church Wardens for the next 12 months.
5. Thanks to the Church Wardens: Laurie presented Jonathan and Maggie with gifts as a symbol of thanks for the time, work and care dedicated to St. Leonard's over the last year.
6. The vestry meeting was closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of 2017 APCM minutes
3. Correspondence
4. PCC reports:
Wardens' Report and presentation of Log Book of Fabric and Ornaments
5. Reception of Independently Examined Accounts
 - 5.1 Honorary Treasurer's report, as attached
 - 5.2 Present accounts as an accurate record of PCC activity
 - 5.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2018
6. PCC Elections for 2018
 - 6.1 Electoral Roll Officer's Report and Election of Electoral Roll Officer for 2018
 - 6.2 Election of PCC members in addition to ex officio members and church wardens
Following to continue:
Adrian Dunn, Katie Flory, Noel Meredith, Andrew Silley, Yvette Speakman, Jenny Robinson, Karen Willcox
In line with APCM 2015 resolution, Peter Flory and Jackie Lambert act as ex-officio posts for qualified LLM's
To be elected for 3 years: 3 people
To be elected for 2 years: 1 person
To be elected for 1 year: 1 person
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 22 April 2018

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON 24th APRIL 2017

1. Present and Apologies: as above
2. Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on 25th April 2016: Taken as read and approved
Proposed: Peter Bright Seconded: Fred Clayton Abstentions: 1 as not present last year
3. Correspondence : None had been received
4. Parochial Church Council Reports
The Log Book has been updated and made available for perusal. Laurie thanked James Worthington, Lance Hale, Toby Price, Graham Daw and Peter Bright for their work on the Property Committee.
5. Presentation of the Independently Examined Accounts
 - 5.1 Katie reported that the total expenditure in 2016 was similar to 2015. Parish Share contribution dropped by 34k which allowed for more to be spent on staffing in 2016.
 - 5.2 Katie thanked Peter Flory, Debbie Horridge and John Ogle for their assistance.
Katie officially presented the independently examined accounts.
 - 5.3 Katie proposed Nicola Anderson as the Independent Examiner for 2018
Proposed: Katy Flory Seconded: Jonathan Coutts Unanimous
 - 5.4 A question was raised about what would happen to the surplus funds which had been allocated to the 800th anniversary commemorations. Katie responded that PCC will decide how best to disperse these funds.
 - 5.5 Laurie talked about how the Lord had provided more than what was needed to start the building project and how the leadership had been able to make financial decisions in faith over the last year. He presented Katie and Peter with gifts as a token of appreciation for all their work on the finances of our church.

6 PCC Elections for 2016

6.1 Electoral Roll and Electoral Roll Officer

The updated Electoral Roll listed 193 members at April 2017.

The size of the membership at St Leonard's puts our church in the top 15% of churches with a membership larger than 150.

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

Proposed: Maggie Kenzie

Seconded: Veronica Meredith

Unanimous

6.2 PCC Nominations

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Katie Flory	Jean Clayton	Maggie Kenzie
Jenny Robinson	Sylvia Dollemore	Valerie Hickling
Noel Meredith	Jackie Lambert	Sue English
Toby Price	Martin Jennings	Keith Haward
Karen Willcox	James Anning	Juliet Brown

All candidates were duly elected for 3 years by **unanimous** decision and there were no abstentions.

7 Reception of reports from Parish Organisations

Laurie encouraged everyone to read the reports as they are a reflection of God's goodness in 2016.

Laurie thanked Chris and Ali Clare, Vicky Burton, Debbie Horridge, Daniel Sutcliffe, Faith Ramirez, Jonty Lees and Choi van Rest for their help and support.

8 In Conclusion

Jonathan and Maggie presented Wendy Clow with a bouquet of flowers to thank her for leading us with integrity and providing us with excellent teaching. Laurie was presented with a gift to show our appreciation for his dedication and hard work.

Chris remarked that the ability to bless each other is God given.

The meeting closed with prayers of thanks.

RECTOR'S REPORT

I have a lot of people to thank but I want to celebrate significant changes at St Leonard's in 2017 that have focussed our vision for going forward.

The amazing team here at St Leonard's has served the Lord here with vision, energy and deep faith. Their desire to be obedient to the Lord in all things is so encouraging. Chris is invaluable as our Associate Minister and a huge encouragement and support to me personally; his energy, enthusiasm and desire to follow the Lord no matter what is exhausting and exciting in equal measure. There have been changes in the office during 2017: Debbie Horridge is now my PA and as Events Coordinator she is able to develop her creativity – especially through things such as Unchained. As well as continuing to be the Freedom Prayer Coordinator, Ruth Leach is now the Office Manager and keeps the office and the activity of the Parish moving forward, ably assisted by Dan Sutcliffe, who is taking our communication areas forward – developing the Website and looking at various social media platforms. Dan has developed the Youth Work at church and is seeing the fruit of this. Vicky Burton stepped down from her role as Children and Families worker in September but after a sabbatical she agreed to become our Assistant Pastor and to step into a more central leadership role alongside Chris and myself from the New Year 2018, thus retaining her prophetic voice in our leadership. Denise Kolb stepped into the role of Children's Work Co-ordinator on a voluntary basis and is a fabulous addition to the team. Jonty Lees knew that his call to St Leonard's was to bring breakthrough into new areas for our worship life – this he did brilliantly, finishing his degree (First Class) and becoming a new Dad at the same time. He moved to a new post at Christ Church Fulham from September. We appointed Jo Jennings as our part time Seniors' Pastor in the Autumn to acknowledge the great work that has been growing in this area of ministry and to release her to develop it further. This staff team is of the highest quality and I cannot thank them enough. They challenge and support, but I know that we are of one vision and one mind on all things fundamental – they are awesome.

Jonathan and Maggi are wonderful churchwardens. They know what they need to do and what can be delegated or postponed. With the staff and clergy team, they lead our fellowship forward in Kingdom values and directions and they are a great support to me personally. Katie exercises her faith over our accounts and budget – our finances are solid and have grown sufficiently during the year for us to employ people and expand the team and to commit to the Parish Redevelopment Project that has launched during the year – this has a great unity around it from the fellowship and there is growing excitement – thanks to everyone for catching the vision and encouraging me to be daring and courageous with it. Katie and Peter are long term servants of the Parish and they do so much more than we see. Thank you. Choi is an efficient and effective PCC secretary. She brings a prophetic voice to all that we do and gets on with all the admin stuff with no fuss or drama!

Our LLMs – Peter, Jackie, Peter and Margaret – bring energy and enthusiasm to leading worship and preaching – I have been excited to see their development in their areas of ministry and look forward to hearing more of their preaching. Our homegroup leaders work hard for us all. There are so many on PCC, set up at church and the Beacon, welcome, pastoral care, mission committees, worship teams – all who need thanking. Please hear this huge thank you from me.

I believe there have been three key things in 2017 – the Parish weekend Away with Pete & Sarah Portal, the Missions Fair in October and the number of "Joint" things we have done – services, devotional booklets, Christmas services.

We are beginning to live unity not just talk about it, and in fact we live it more comfortably by not talking about it and just doing it. It was great at the Mission Fair to see so many people from all the services mingling together, engaging with the different stalls, displays and visitors from the Mission Agencies, and going on the bouncy castle – this is church!! To see how wide the range of agencies and individuals is that we support was mind boggling and so Kingdom!

Pete and Sarah blessed us beyond understanding back in May, and they were blessed in return. Sarah was mightily blessed by our openness and gentleness towards her and as one person said to me, "Sarah stood up, shared her story and broke the church!" The time together at Wokefield Park was a huge breakthrough for us and for the PCC to insist that we did not charge, but allowed people to donate towards the weekend, showed great faith – we broke even financially the day after the weekend and further donations meant we were able to give bigger gifts. Your generosity was astounding – Pete described it as hilarious giving. When

he returned in the autumn to update us on life in Mannenberg – the atmosphere was so electric and full of anticipation – one of the youth commented that Pete didn't speak long enough (he went for over 40 minutes!)

Last year I asked us to focus on four words: **IDENTITY**, **FAITH**, **HUNGER**, and **UNITY**. I see the growth in these areas in 2017 – thank you for being willing to engage, stretch and step out in faith. We continue with these areas going forward but our Vision and Mission Statements sum us up as we move forward – What the Lord is doing and bringing is so exciting. Bring it on!

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 & corporate worship and prayer
- expect Kingdom growth in evangelism & the transformation of society

Values To Live By

- We ***FOCUS*** on ***JESUS*** - in His empowering PRESENCE we worship & pray
- He ***DEFINES*** our ***IDENTITY*** - individually & 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 & provision
- We ***EXPECT*** to see the ***KINGDOM*** manifest - we rejoice in His VICTORY

RESPONSE FROM THE WARDENS

We suggested in last year's report that with services in more than one location, the St Leonard's family would on occasion need to draw together in its entirety. Opportunities came through joint services at the Church and the Beacon School. The evening Encounter service was (and is) an additional, monthly opportunity for worship and fellowship. We were blessed indeed through the Church Weekend Away in Reading, which must rank as a highlight of 2017. Much hard work was involved but resulted in a memorable occasion for those who were present. The church family shared fellowship in a special setting, and heard the teaching and experience of Pete and Sarah Portal from South Africa. (Pete was subsequently to speak to us again at a joint service in October).

The baptism service outside the church in June was also cause for celebration and rejoicing. We give thanks for the promises made, whether in person, or on behalf of the very young.

We enjoyed each other's company in August at the afternoon tea at the Rectory.

Sanctuary continued with the church normally open for prayer on the first Friday of each month. We thank Diana Wright for her leadership. Your prayer requests and expressions of thanks have also continued via the Sharing Life resource.

Practical work took place to consider the future of the Parish Centre. In May, the PCC heard a presentation from Habitat for Humanity Homes. A further presentation was given to the church family in November.

The Christian Aid Breakfast took place at Church in May. A great deal of work also went into the success of the Mission Fair in October. This event was an occasion for hearing about the opportunities to share God's love with others. With that in mind, we are thankful for those who have grown up within the St Leonard's family and who have gone on to serve others during a gap year or at university.

We would like to thank Choi van Rest for her work as PCC Secretary. We also record our deep gratitude to Katie Flory as PCC Treasurer; and Ruth Leach and Debbie Horridge at the Church Office.

We thank God for Laurie Clow, his ministry and his gifts of preaching and leadership. For ourselves and on your behalf we express our gratitude to Chris Clare, Dan Sutcliffe, Vicky Burton, John Ogle, Wendy Clow, our LLMs, children's group leaders and all who help and contribute to the ministry of our church.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever."

Jonathan Coutts & Maggie Kenzie, Church Wardens

WARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC AND CHURCH PROPERTIES

During 2017, we have continued usual ongoing maintenance and also given attention to a few items still to be done under the 5-year 2013 Quinquennial Survey Report. This included completing the outside decoration by employing steeplejacks to clean and paint the downpipe attached to the tower. Some slates/tiles were also replaced as needed on the church roof and stonework on what remains of the chimney was repaired and made fully secure.

The next Quinquennial Survey is due to be done in 2018 so that the condition of the church and tower can be checked and any required work identified and prioritised for the next 5 years.

There have been no major repairs to the Parish Centre. 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 & Maggie Kenzie, Church Wardens

PCC TREASURER'S REPORT

In 2017, the total income of the church increased, as did the total expenditure resulting in an overall surplus. The giving to our Mission partners has been sustained and we have met all our costs.

The PCC agreed to underwrite the Parish Weekend as they didn't want to make a charge, so that no-one was excluded, but instead donations were invited at whatever level was prayerfully felt to be appropriate. Gifts from those attending, as well as some who were not, made the weekend possible without calling on additional PCC funds.

The PCC did not feel a Gift Week was needed as general income was covering general expenditure.

The PCC took the decision to begin to seriously explore a Parish Centre development and, thanks to some generous gifts, have funds in place to take the church through the consultative and preparative stages to planning.

In 2017, 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.

The budget for 2018 shows a deficit which we need to address as we go through the coming year.

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, PCC Treasurer

FINANCE: SIMPLIFIED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR 2016

	Actual 2017 £	Actual 2016 £	Budget 2018 £
Income			
Bankers Orders	180,896.24	169,130.24	175,102.00
Envelopes	11,715.00	12,865.00	11,053.00
Collections - Regular	7,574.83	8,837.58	8,017.00
Irregular and One-off gifts	30,097.67	11,101.68	21,330.00
Tax Recoverable - Gift Aid	40,894.56	39,527.04	39,789.00
Wedding & Funeral Fees	4,330.00	5,545.00	
Property Rent	8,550.00	1,250.00	11,400.00
Bank Account Interest	716.63	649.40	
Bookstall	492.59	144.00	
Donations	1,240.49	2,115.98	
Sundry Income	85.31	93.44	
Total Income	<u>286,593.32</u>	<u>251,259.36</u>	<u>266,691.00</u>

	Actual 2017 £	Actual 2016 £	Budget 2018 £
Expenditure			
Parish Share	81,935.04	93,168.00	85,360.00
Salaries	59,012.06	46,391.52	82,457.00
Staff Training and Costs	3,448.79	1,366.58	2,050.00
Housing - Youth and Intern	26,397.59	13,854.97	24,880.00
Youth and Children's Ministry Costs	4,055.33	2,445.11	3,950.00
Rector Expenses and Housing	2,400.47	1,663.14	3,100.00
Holiday Club	147.70	1,535.82	300.00
Chesham Bois School	294.58	530.28	500.00
Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals	4,017.76	2,918.51	500.00
Alpha and Outreach	664.52	500.00	450.00
Church Utilities and Maintenance	7,424.15	12,141.75	8,531.00
Church Audio and Visual Systems	247.61	182.41	350.00
Beacon - Rent, Equipment and Worship	28,080.02	24,154.82	16,751.00
Rector's Discretionary Fund	1,000.00	850.00	1,000.00
Wine, Music, Speakers fees	839.14	102.26	1,038.00
Lay Training	297.68		300.00
Office Phones, Photocopier and Equipment	3,870.45	3,686.71	3,384.00
Office Other	872.95	871.18	1,050.00
Bank Charges	810.79	1,011.94	872.00
Insurance	4,657.89	4,652.79	4,774.00
Independent Examination Fee	800.00	800.00	800.00
Bookstall	1,028.31	38.61	250.00
Levies	105.00	120.00	105.00
Other	3,673.13	4,407.93	5,487.00
Mission Transfers	29,087.34	22,517.03	25,529.00
Total Expenditure	265,168.30	239,911.36	273,768.00
Surplus/Loss	21,425.02	11,348.00	-7,077.00

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The Electoral Roll for April 2018 stands at 189 members.

The changes are made up of the following:
12 members removed from the roll due to:

- 1 worshipping elsewhere
- 9 moved away
- 2 deaths

8 new members have been added to the roll.

Marian Chiappetti, Church Electoral Roll Officer

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00

This said service of Holy Communion follows the liturgy set out in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer and includes a short sermon. The service is characterised by the atmosphere of peace and tranquillity which pervades the church and is valued by regular attendees and visitors alike. The congregation is typically 15 – 20. It is sad to report that during the last year we have lost 2 of our long serving members – Anita Walton and Betty Leakey, who are no longer able to get to church. Together they have clocked up well over 100 years of attendance at St Leonards. We miss them, and remember them in our prayers.

Most of the congregation have been members of St Leonard's for very many years and a real sense of community and fellowship has developed amongst us. This is strengthened by the fact that after the service on the first Sunday in each month we meet together for coffee and cakes in the Birkett Room. Virtually every member of the congregation contributes in some way to this fellowship, either as sidespersons, readers on Sunday mornings or helping with the breakfasts, whilst several also help with more general duties such as church cleaning and the flower rota. It really is a great community, why not come along and join us sometime?

John Ogle, Congregational Leader

10:00

Our 10.00 fellowship has been blessed this year by having some combined services with both the 8.00 and the 10.30 fellowships, which contributes to the unity of St Leonard's as a whole.

As a fellowship we have much to be thankful for during this past year. Although we may not have grown in number over the year we have certainly grown in our depth of fellowship, as we have worshipped and studied God's word together under Laurie's leadership.

Our fellowship numbers an average of about forty with a wide range of ages from 4-90 years old. We continue to worship with a mixture of traditional hymns and more modern songs, catering for different preferences of styles of worship. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and on special festivals.

It is a privilege to welcome families who bring their babies and young children to be baptised at our Parish Church and also the couples who come to hear their marriage banns read. Many comment on the welcome they receive and the feeling of fellowship and so we pray that they will continue to reflect on that experience and seek to know more.

We would like to thank our band of volunteers who, week by week, serve behind the scenes in so many ways to enhance our time together on a Sunday morning. We look forward to the future as we listen and seek the Lord's will for us.

Jackie Lambert, LLM

10:30 'The Beacon'

In some ways it almost seems wrong to write a report on one section of our Church's worshipping life as if it stood in isolation. We are one worshipping community that meet in different places and times, but with one vision, one mission, one Lord! However for the purposes of the governance of the Church of England, and because the PCC Secretary asked me....

The Beacon service has, in my opinion anyway, continued this year to develop in it's depth of worship and openness to the leading of Holy Spirit. We were blessed with Jonty as our regular worship leader for most of the year, and since he has left us in September, we have been encouraged to see new faces from our number leading our worship. My thanks to all of you who have stepped up, even to the extent of learning a new instrument!

The willingness of the congregation to participate, to share testimony, to try new songs and styles, to overlook the occasional technical hitches, and to engage actively with the teaching has been fantastic. We are a pilgrim people on a journey together to discover more about our God and to enjoy him in worship.

Youth Stream and Junior Church have continued to be a real blessing to us and our thanks go to all those who organise and run these essential events. Part of the joy of being at the Beacon is that we have good facilities for Youth and Children's activities. Behind the scenes we negotiated a new 2 year contract with the Beacon School at a slightly reduced rate, and we continue to enjoy a good relationship with them. Our ability to use the Beacon School does give us capacity for larger events to which the whole Church can come. This year we have had the Mission Fair, the visit of Pete and Sarah Portal, the Christmas Eve service and Easter Day.

... and the gate code is STILL 569911!!!

Chris Clare, Associate Pastor

LIVING IN FREEDOM

We continue to provide these opportunities to learn and to experience greater freedom in our walk in Christ. The first series of talks are an introduction to truly supernatural and kingdom living, focussing on the reality of the two realms, our identity and authority in Jesus and our intimacy with Him such that we hear His voice clearly. There is also the opportunity to explore the ways that demonic schemes can gain footholds in our lives and so hinder and snare us in old patterns of life.

The second series of talks go much deeper, looking at specific schemes of rebellion and religion and enhancing the breadth of our prophetic understanding. We also take the opportunity to look at key issues such as rest, manifest presence, disappointment, victory and unity.

It is worth hearing these talks several times as there is so much within each one and taking the opportunity to engage in Freedom & Warrior Prayer. It was for freedom that Christ has set us free, do not be burdened by a yoke of slavery. Come and join us again and rejoice in new levels of freedom, authority and power.

Laurie Clow

I started coordinating Freedom Prayer appointments in February 2017. The prayer team has grown in number over the year and now has 34 people as Captains and Listeners who have all received training and grown spiritually through praying for people and having their own prayer appointments. During this year, there have been a total of 78 appointments for Original Design and Freedom Prayer - which is amazing! We started Prayer Days in June, where 21 people were prayed for and then another two days in September and October, during which 8 people each time received prayer. The prayer team has also prayed for people at the end of the teaching time for the Living in Freedom 1 sessions that ran in September. Thank you to our amazing prayer team for all your hard work, prayer and commitment, without which none of this would be possible.

Please watch out for upcoming prayer days in the notices. Prayer appointments are available on request by contacting Ruth Leach on ruthleach@hotmail.co.uk or 07939 243035/01494 724680. When you get in contact, I will find someone to lead your prayer appointment who will contact you directly to arrange a time suitable for you. They will find another person to pray for you as well, so you have at least two people praying for you. If you have any queries about prayer appointments then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ruth Leach, Prayer Team Coordinator

CORPORATE PRAYER

Through this past year, we have continued opening the church building for quiet prayer once a month. This creates an oasis of time for those who want space to pray and reflect. Life is busy and so it can be difficult to find time seek God. Putting aside some regular time away from normal life to pray helps us to hear more clearly the heart of Christ. As we as a church come to know our identity and freedom in Christ, time alone with Him comes increasingly desirable.

We have had a wonderful team of committed stewards to make this possible and at the end of each prayer day we pray together to bring to God those who are sick and in need of prayer. We also pray for our mission partners and for each other.

Throughout the day, any words of prophecy for St Leonard's are noted and passed on to Laurie. Our prayer days are open for anyone to come and spend time in His presence so please feel free to come along for as long or as little as you desire.

Diana Wright

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Heartfelt thanks go to our volunteers who have committed to regularly blessing our children and families. May God's rich blessings of joy and peace be yours in abundance.

During the summer of 2017, I felt led to hand in my notice as Children's Minister and to seek God for the next thing. At that time, the leadership and PCC agreed to not appoint a successor straight away, but to find a volunteer to coordinate the Sunday and Monday children's groups. Denise Kolb volunteered to take on this role. Please read her report which follows this one and includes an update on Sunday and Monday children's groups.

Twiglets continues to run alongside the women's Thursday morning homegroup, Connect, to provide a safe, fun environment for a small number of crèche aged children.

A good number of church members continue to be on the Amersham Open the Book Team. More than 30 volunteers from at least 7 local churches, present Bible stories in assemblies in Chesham Bois School, St Mary's Amersham and St George's every week, plus other times at Heatherton House and Woodside School.

Our Fundays which have provided a welcoming space for young families to have fun and connect during school holidays have not taken place this year.

Amersham Churches Holiday Club runs each summer at King's Church, for a week of gospel presentations and lots of fun for around 200 children aged 5-11.

Thank you for your prayers for our children and families, many of whom face daily challenges. If God stirs your heart to reach out in love to them, please do speak to Denise or one of the church leaders about getting involved.

Vicky Burton, Children and Families Pastor

I took on the role of Children's Work coordinator in September 2017 after Vicky stepped down as a part time paid Children's worker. My role is a voluntary one and the reasons for this were based on prophetic revelation. This has been a blessing in so many ways, leaving me feeling unburdened in the role and encouraging others to step forward.

Since September we have been using very comprehensive and easy-to-follow teaching materials from Urban Saints called Energize. Last term we covered Christian Characteristics and at Christmas we have combined age sessions including Open the Book style storytelling.

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

- 5 in crèche
- 5 in KS1 ages 4-7
- 15 in KS2, ages 7-11

We are blessed with a great team of twenty adult helpers across all age groups, of which 7 feel confident to lead the groups. Eight of the helpers no longer have Junior Church-age children, but still want to minister to our children, which is very encouraging.

Lighthouses, the Monday Home Group for Year 6 children, still continues to meet at my house with Simon Hollett faithfully dedicating his time. It would be great to have a second adult alongside Simon and to be able to have a group for current Year 5s.

Going forward, I would love to see assistant leaders growing in confidence to lead Junior Church sessions and members of our Youth joining in to have fun with the children. I pray that our children grow in their prayer lives and boldness in declaring Christ as their Lord. There is no such thing as a child-sized Holy Spirit!

Thank you all for your continued prayer and heart in ministering to our children.

Denise Kolb, Children's Work co-ordinator

YOUTH MINISTRY

The calendar year 2017 is covered by this APCM report. Firstly may I begin with a huge thanks to Faith Ramirez, Chris Clare & Lydia Davies for supporting and leading the youth work with myself at St Leonard's during 2017.

In January, we took a group of 11 of our young people along with 6 young people from St Mary's to the Frontier Centre in Northampton for a youth weekend away. It was great fun with great weather and a time away from the usual to take a closer look at John 14-16 and the Holy Spirit in our lives. It was a real pleasure to practice unity with St Mary's Amersham.

After February half term the previous age related home groups came to an end and we moved to two distinct groups both open to Years 7-13 but with different focuses and aims. 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 easter egg hunts to playing cards and eating toast, with a healthy dose of ping pong and pool of course. Our first Tuesday went down a treat with American pancakes cooked brilliantly by Faith.

Thursdays have a more 'digging deeper' feel of exploring and outworking our faith. In 2017, some of our older Year 13's shared fantastically with the younger ones why they are Christians and what it means to them in their everyday lives. Each week tends to have a thought, a time of worship and prayer. And of course more food.

This year we were able to run several joint events with King's Church and St Mary's. This included a joint youth worship evening down at King's with worship led by young people. 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 for cost. In June, we gathered down at Restore Hope with around 150 young people from across the area for an evening of worship and teaching at their United event. We finished our joint events for the year in November with worship round the bonfire. I only broke one guitar string and wide games in the dark were great fun.

At the end of August we took our youth, sixteen in all, and a few leaders to Soul Survivor Christian camp in Peterborough. We camped again with Quaystone church from the Isle of Dogs plus this year with King's Church Amersham. 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.

September saw us say goodbye to 10 of our young people as they left to go to university or work. They are a real credit to St Leonard's and we pray every blessing upon them as they continue to walk out and practice their faith into adult life.

My prayer for 2018 is that we will continue to provide opportunities and contexts for young people to encounter Jesus and grow in their faith. My sense is also that the time is beginning to come that as our young people feel safe in what we do weekly that they may begin to bring friends, prayer for this would be very welcome. We were unable to find a youth intern for 2017/18 but this is something we will look to find for September 2018. Your prayers in what God is calling us to specifically in mentoring and providing opportunities for interns would be greatly welcome.

Thank you for your continued 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

ADULT HOME GROUPS

We have been encouraged by all our groups again this year. We now have 10 groups with a total of 110 members. Groups meet on various evenings and there is also a daytime women's group. Our men's group, while small in number is still very active. We have had encouraging leaders meetings during the year for specific training and also for regular feedback, support and prayer. The groups are all very active in different ways, which is lovely to see, with the aim of encouraging their members to grow closer to the Lord. If you would like to join a group please contact us.

Steve and Juliet Brown, Home Group Co-ordinators

Connect

Daytime Connect is a women's home 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 around 12-15 women.

For the first term, the whole group (15 women), joined with other members of the church to attend the daytime Living in Freedom 1 teaching sessions and freedom prayer sessions. They also held a couple of socials during this term. When the group met after the teaching sessions after Easter, they experienced a release and new depth of the presence of God during the meetings and there was a new level of honesty and openness in the discussions. The group grew spiritually and together in unity through the summer term, supporting those who were unwell or experiencing difficult life circumstances and celebrating life's joys and milestones.

In September, Ruth Leach stood down from leading Daytime Connect to take on the staff role of Office Manager and Helen Livingstone (previously co-leader) took over leading the group. During this time the group has grown in number and continued to grow spiritually and in unity and supporting those in need in and outside the group.

Daytime Connect have continued to support Maryland Nursery each term, by providing and serving refreshments at their Easter Service, Sports Day and Christmas Service.

Ruth Leach & Helen Livingstone

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women's Evening Fellowship have had another interesting year of talks and activities ranging from reminiscing with Amersham Museum, The Youth Group's visit to Kenya, life as a Foundling in Berkhamstead and experiences of a midwife in the 1960's and 70's. We have been able to give donations to several charities over the year. For 2018 we have planned another very varied selection of speakers and will be taking part in the Village Fete. We still have a problem with declining membership and would welcome some new members.

Marianne Reilly

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 also encouraged by the number of seniors from the local community who regularly attend. It has been lovely too to welcome some new faces this year.

It is our desire to bless our guests by providing a welcoming and friendly environment where all feel valued, find friendship and where we have the privilege of sharing God's love and our faith in Him.

The main event of the year once again was the Holiday Club, held over four days in the last week of July. We are very grateful to James Allcock for sharing a spiritual thought at the beginning of the first two days. The mornings were taken up with a choice of activities and on one afternoon we enjoyed in-house musical entertainment from the talented duo, Pam Hick and Vicky Burton, interspersed with amusing poetry and monologues ably performed by Angela Haward. On another afternoon, Diana Wright gave an informative and helpful talk on nutrition with an emphasis on the senior years. Our trip this year was a river cruise on the Thames, boarding at Henley. This included a cream tea and the service of a blue badge guide. Everyone agreed that it had been an excellent outing. The Holiday Club was rounded off on the following afternoon with our popular garden party.

At Easter, we gathered for a short service at which Laurie spoke, followed by afternoon tea. Harvest was celebrated at the beginning of October with a lunch followed by a service. The children from Chesham Bois School choir sang for us and also took part in 'Open the Book' which Jackie Lambert kindly led. The story of 'The Sower' was read and acted out to the great enjoyment of all.

We are very grateful to Laurie for his support of the Seniors' Ministry. He gave a thought-provoking talk at our "Readings and Carols" service at the beginning of December and Vicky Burton also joined us and sang a beautiful rendition of the Appalachian carol, 'I Wonder as I Wander'. Tea and mince pies followed...

Refreshments and meals are an essential part of all our events, a way of blessing our guests and providing an informal opportunity for us to chat with one another.

We would not be able to run these events without the support of our St Leonard's family who willingly volunteer to serve in so many ways. A big thank you to you all!

Above all we give God all 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

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Last year the work of the Pastoral Team continued in its format of meeting together as a team and following up issues which required attention.

Visits, telephone calls and practical help were given, cards sent out appropriately and an overall awareness of the needs or illnesses or wider implications for the 10:00 congregation were met with practical assistance and prayer.

Holy Communion was administered by members of the team and others, to Chesham Bois Manor and Cheriton Care Home on a regular basis throughout the year.

As always, the team is greatly helped by members of the congregation who all look out for one another which we hope provides an awareness of love and support in times of need.

The Church Office should be contacted in the first instance for appropriate referral as required.

Jill Hale

MISSION COMMITTEE

St Leonard's has a long tradition of valuing mission as a key part of our Christian life, but what does it mean to have a heart for mission? For us as individuals, it means praying and caring for mission partners in the way that we pray for members of our church family. But sometimes it is difficult to do this unless we have opportunities to know those partners better.

2017 was a year when we had those opportunities. As a church, we hosted our first ever Mission Fair one Sunday in October. It was a wonderful morning when all the mission societies and partners we are linked with were gathered together in the Beacon sports hall, plus organisations with which we have local connections, such as the Foodbank, Open the Book, and Restore Hope Latimer. A café-style arrangement enabled us to chat with individuals - to put names to faces, to ask questions, and to learn about what it's like to 'do the stuff'. Perhaps the most memorable part of the morning was our corporate worship at the end – a precious opportunity to worship together.

During 2017 we continued to support 8 main mission partners.

Personal visits by partners have been a blessing to us through the year – by Jean Claude from **Burundi** in May, who was able to join us on our parish weekend; and by the **Masons**, the **McGreevys** (**Lunchbowl Network**), and **Jack and Claire** during the summer. We were delighted at the arrival of baby Michael to Jack and Claire in August. Our newest partner, **Steve Poulson**, visited us in March, before moving to Honduras in April. His first months there have been marked by political upheaval and many personal challenges.

Personal initiatives by members of St Leonard's: Wendy and Kirsten visited the Lunchbowl kindergarten in Nairobi in May. Following on their visit as members of the Transform16 team in 2016, Will Scott and Dan Jennings went back to Mumias in Kenya, and ran a successful sports camp in August. Who can forget the Dogs without Collars gig in March, or the Virgin 10K Run in July, both in aid of Lunchbowl, in which many church members participated? And another very successful Tearfund Bake in the autumn.

Financial support: in addition to amounts we committed to regular support of our partners in 2017, we were blessed with a 'windfall' as a result of some generous extra donations to the church in April. This enabled us in turn to bless financially others in mission for whom we have a heart: Pete and Sarah Portal, who so inspired us at our Parish Weekend in May; Open the Book (a valuable Christian outreach to primary schools in our area); Agape Student Life in Kings College London; and a recent member of St Leonard's who is embarking on an internship in India with the International Justice Mission.

Communication and prayer are at the heart of our mission support. Our thanks go to Felicity Maclay for her generous hospitality and thoughtful leading of the monthly Mission Links prayer meetings throughout the year.

Andrew Maclay and Jenny Beime

MARYLAND PRE SCHOOL NURSERY

Maryland continues to offer pre-school children a varied and stimulating curriculum with many extras!

Amongst these extras we have to include the wonderful garden to which every child contributes. We received a gold award in the 'Chesham in Bloom' competition for schools - the first Preschool to have been awarded it. We are enormously proud of this achievement and of Henny who does so much to enthuse our young gardeners.

She is also our dedicated Forest school leader and we have seen this activity go from strength to strength every Wednesday, with all children and staff taking part. The many advantages of learning outside are apparent in so many areas of our curriculum and it has been a joy to see many children conquer fears of creepy crawlies and mud as well as just having fun!

We are blessed with some delightful children and thrilled that despite the large number that have to leave us to go to school in September (which often leaves our numbers depleted) we will see ten new children start

after Christmas, the youngest being only 26 months old. Our talented staff look forward to accommodating their needs and will get the very best from them.

We have seen some changes in staff and committee members; two of our long-serving staff, Abbey Warner and Katherine Nagle left us to pursue other opportunities in education at Little Missenden and Hawridge and Cholesbury schools. We miss them but are delighted to welcome Jane Pepler (a past Mum and very active member of the committee) to the staff starting January 2018.

We also said a fond farewell to Melanie Peel who has been a dedicated and supportive secretary on the committee for over 8 years as well as a past parent, as she pursues other work and enjoys her family.

The committee, with great support from Dan Sutcliffe, have updated and revamped our website. It now is much more user friendly and modern! Many thanks especially to Dan and also to committee member, Daniel Stocker, for the wonderful photographs of the children.

In March, we took possession of a beautiful bench in memory of Flora Edward-Few. This was commissioned and guided by Henny and Nigel and we had a moving little ceremony on March 16th when it was delivered. 'Your Chesham' and Amersham published a photo and report to commend this event.

Also in March, we held a parents' evening. As parents now have access to their children's progress via Tapestry on line, these evenings take a slightly different form but it is a warm and useful occasion. The Easter egg hunts in the run up to the end of the Easter term were fun and profitable and as always our Easter service and the beautiful bonnets on display made the final day of term very special.

Our outing this year was to Odds Farm in May where the children, parents and staff had an enjoyable day out.

We said farewell to twenty children in July and enjoyed our Sports Day and tea, most of it inside owing to the British weather. However, as always, our enterprising staff ably led by Pam improvised with indoor activities and musical items from the children. Positive feedback and tears from parents made it a poignant afternoon.

We were pleased to welcome Lorraine Sutherland (Head of Chesham Bois) again in the autumn to chat to parents over a cup of coffee about the transition to primary school. As always our year ended with a lovely Christmas service with the children memorising a selection of songs and actions for the nativity performance. Said to be the best yet!!

Once again many thanks to all who support this fabulous preschool and the dedicated staff and committee (for which we have three new potential members after Christmas)

Do please continue to pray for Maryland.

Andrea Hayers, Maryland Committee Chairperson

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, after long and careful consideration, the governors of the school had decided to move from the control of Bucks CC and become an academy and that we had chosen to join a new entity, the Oxford Diocese (Bucks) Schools Multi Academy Trust. We felt confident that this would be a Trust that shared our values and would be seeking to provide the best education possible for all the children in our community. We welcomed the opportunity to be in at the start of this venture (the Diocese's Oxfordshire Trust has been running for some years but ODBST is a brand new entity) and to be able to play a part in shaping the Trust.

As with all changes there have been delays outside our control (not least the unexpected General Election) and teething problems but we became an academy on 2 October 2017. We 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. The school is increasingly popular and for the first time in many years leans towards Chesham rather than Amersham, reflecting the original trust deed of the school.

Links with the church are developing. The 'Open the Book' team continues to play an important part in delivering assemblies in the school and the termly services in the church are popular with the children and are increasingly well-attended by parents. The weekly prayer meetings continue, although unfortunately, since September we have seen a reduction in attendees. The evening prayer meeting ceased as from October as no parents attended. Prayer cover is essential for the well being of our school and we invite all members of the church to come and pray for our school, occasionally or regularly. Details appear in the weekly church notice sheet.

Jenny Faulkner, Peter Flory and Jackie Lambert
Foundation Governors

DEANERY SYNOD

St Leonard's is part of the Amersham Deanery, through which the churches work together to extend the Kingdom of God in our area. The Synod consists of the clergy in the Deanery together with lay representatives appointed by church PCCs. For St Leonard's these are Monica Bartlett, Peter Flory and Peter Bright.

The Deanery now has an excellent website: <http://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk>

We welcomed Lawrence Tebboth from Gerrards Cross as our new lay chair this year. The long service of Don Sanderson (the outgoing lay chair) and Camilla Walton (the outgoing Area Dean) were recognised with gifts and cards from the synod.

One of the main areas of work is allocating the Parish Share, given by the Oxford Diocese to the Amersham Deanery, across the 17 churches in the Deanery. Our share for 2017 was £81,935 being considerably less than it used to be.

This money is needed to sustain the provision of clergy in the deanery and 78% of the Parish Share was spent on this. Our contribution covers training, salaries, housing, national insurance and pension contributions, not only for our own clergy, but also towards others in the deanery and the wider diocese, where the churches need support, so this is part of our contribution to the mission of the church. It also includes the provision of retirement housing for the clergy. Although our share is a sizable sum, it is of vital importance towards these wider costs.

Steve Poulson spoke very movingly at the February meeting of becoming a CMS Mission Partner working with street children in Honduras, and he was appointed as a Synod Mission Partner.

Bishop Steven was surprised how large the deanery is, and we now have two Area Deans, each with their own responsibilities – Tim Harper and Martin Williams, Rectors of St Mary's Amersham and St James, Gerrards Cross.

Peter Flory is now a member of the Mission and Pastoral Committee.

Alongside Deanery Synod, the clergy in the area meet for Deanery Chapter, a regular opportunity to spend time together over lunch, encouraging each other in ministry and discussing the issues that affect our work as part of the Church of Christ. A recent meeting in our church was particularly appreciated.

Monica Bartlett, Peter Bright, Peter Flory

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 a youth intern for the Free Church and other Christian young adults.

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.

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, Red Neale, 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

CHURCHES TOGETHER

As in previous years the main events that Churches Together in Amersham participated in were:

- The Christmas Showcase in December. A craft area was set up for children at St Michael's Hall by the Messy Church team from St John's assisted by members from other churches. They were also serving teas and coffees. Leaflets with information about services over the Christmas period in the local churches were available
- The Good Friday March of Witness – nearly 80 members from local churches took part; starting at the Free Church and culminating at St Michael's forecourt with a short service and hot cross buns and drinks in the Hall afterwards
- The Women's World Day of Prayer in March. The theme, prepared by the Christian women from the Philippines was 'Am I being unfair to you?'

The Carnival which provides an opportunity for the churches to make their presence known in the community did not take place in 2017.

The guest speaker at the AGM in November was Sheila Doig from the Wycombe Homeless Connection. She spoke about the challenges and successes of the work and need to persevere in spite of the setbacks.

Earlier in the year a letter from the Chair of the committee Peter Lawson was sent to the ministers of the Churches requesting their views on the role, direction and future of Churches Together. In response to this, the representatives and the majority of those attending the AGM felt that the need for Churches Together to continue had changed significantly.

The three churches on the Hill (COTHA) – St John's, the Free Church and St Michael's have been to a large degree fulfilling the role of Churches Together in the various main activities and are able to continue to do so.

Several churches including St Leonard's and King's have been involved in running the summer holiday club; some youth activities have been organised with the co-operation of St Mary's, King's and St Leonard's. Local charities which were initially set up, affiliated or dependent on Churches Together – e.g. LabAid Foundation, Wheeler Coffee Pot, Sycamore Club, etc. are now well established and able to function independently.

As a result it was decided that Churches Together in Amersham would cease to operate at the end of the year (2017) and any remaining funds from the contributions made by individual churches would be returned.

Grace Worthington