

ALL SAINTS' with ST JAMES' BRIGHTLINGSEA
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
to be held on SUNDAY 22 April 11.15 am 2018

AGENDA

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

- 1a.** Resolution: This PCC recommends to the APCM that, because of the particular circumstances, it adopts the resolution that the six year norm be set aside and that Mrs Carole Warren should serve as Churchwarden for a further period of office.
- 1b.** Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for those on the Electoral Roll

- 1.** Prayers
- 2.** Apologies for absence
- 3.** Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 30 April 2017
- 4.** Matters arising - if not part of reports
- 5.** Treasurer's Report and Examined Accounts 2017
- 6.** Presentation of the Electoral Roll
- 7.** Reports from the PCC for the year [circulated prior to the meeting]
- 8.** Elections to the PCC and for one vacancy on Deanery Synod
- 9.** Approval of Sidespersons and Assistant Wardens
- 11.** Appointment of Treasurer & Independent Examiner
- 12.** Confirm persons for Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults
- 13.** Questions relating to meeting
- 14.** Closing remarks and prayers

APCM REPORT for 2017

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

In the Autumn, the Quinquennial Inspection was carried out and we later received the report. There were, of course, a number of defects which were identified as being in need of repair; the most serious and expensive of these concerned the tower. There were, however, none that we had not already been aware of. Simon Marks, the architect, did have useful suggestions to make about repairs to the Lych Gate and we are investigating these.

Elizabeth Foss-Smith has taken on the chairmanship of the joint PCC/Friends of All Saints' group which is formulating a strategy to carry out these repairs, as well as providing necessary toilet and kitchen facilities. A Feasibility Study for these facilities had already been carried out and the next stage involves a visit by the Diocesan Advisory Committee later this month. After they have given their view of the preferred option, Elizabeth's group will firm up a detailed proposal which will form the basis of an application for grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund. She has already submitted a first draft and received feedback which will need to be taken into account for an application.

On the day of the Quinquennial Inspection we were visited also by a local historian doing research into the bells in the tower at All Saints'. Alice Goss has since then, published an article in "The Gazette" and also written an article which appeared in the April edition of the parish magazine. We're appealing for volunteers to help restore the bells to working condition. The cost of a professional restoration would be in the region of £7,000 to £10,000; it may be that we could seek sponsorship for that.

The tubular bells are not as loud as conventional bells and their sound does not carry over such a great distance – but that sound could be amplified electronically. It would be very nice to be able to ring wedding bells.

There is one of the original 14th century bells remaining and Bob had been ringing it but Simon's inspection revealed that its frame has deteriorated and should not be rung in its present condition.

A vault in the churchyard had collapsed and it seemed for a while, that we would have to pay for a full restoration/rebuild. That advice from the Archdeacon was, however, subsequently changed and the vault has been filled

in, levelled and will be landscaped. There are other mid nineteenth century tombs which are also close to collapse so this was a welcome outcome. One of the people laid to rest in that vault was Sarah Jolly who was a benefactor of the church. All this happened in the worst of the winter weather. In better weather we will ask for a blessing for the site, from visiting clergy.

The Holy Mowers have done wonderful work in the churchyard and one of the consequences of this is the number of graves which were inaccessible before but are now being visited and where flowers are being left. In some cases this is a surprise because it is a very long time since an interment took place (for example, 1936).

ST JAMES FABRIC REPORT

We have had no additions to the fabric of St. James over the last year. We are awaiting the removal of the old chairs after the Tendring Band Concert on 6th. May. These will be moved to Lesley and Payne Gunfield at Moveron's Farm for storage and will be easily accessible if we need them. These chairs will be replaced with 30 more upholstered chairs.

We have received a bequest of £1000 from the late Rev. Michael Swindlehurst. The PCC are considering ways in how this should be used. If you have any thoughts on the matter please speak to a member of the PCC.

The glass on the back door is cracked and is due to be replaced as soon as possible.

Bob and I are responsible for overseeing the Vicarage during the Interregnum. Our thanks to Rodney and Renata as next door neighbours who keep an eye on the building and report any concerns. The alarm has been causing some problems but revealed nothing untoward. Our thanks also to Julia our cleaner who cares for All Saints and St. James. She has also cleaned the vicarage to keep it in good condition for the next incumbent.

St. James is still causing us some problems following the refurbishment. We are sure that you are all aware of the problems with the heating system – either too hot, too cold and certainly too noisy!

The chancel roof needs permanent attention with a view to then redecorate the chancel. You will all have noticed the deterioration of some of the

paintwork near the main door which again is need of attention. We have money in the refurbishment fund for Phase 3, but we need to complete Phase 2 properly and deal with the problems already mentioned. The kitchen tap is also in need of attention.

Phase 3 includes Sound System, IT, altering the vestry/sacristy, ?further new build at rear of Church to provide a meeting room, flower arranging area, storage. Again, we do need to ensure that Phase 2 has been completed properly before we move on for more fundraising.

Bob and I are very grateful for the support from the PCC and Church family. It is with regret that we were unable to appoint a new vicar at the last interviews and our Interregnum is ongoing. The PCC have made some minor changes to the Parish Profile which is available for all to see on the website, and the vacancy is in the process of being readvertised, with the next round of interviews to be held on May 24th. Please continue to pray that the right person has been touched by God to lead us in the future. We thank all of you . We have all pulled together over the last few months to keep our Church alive and vibrant.

We have been very fortunate with retired clergy who have supported us and love to come to Brightlingsea. Christmas and Easter were especially uplifting. The Reverends John and Janet Driver who led us through Holy Week very much enjoyed it and said how wonderful Easter Sunday was. Thanks also to June Sherratt for providing breakfasts for visiting clergy.

We have been extremely fortunate to have very few services not covered by a priest. This is down to the hard work of our administrator Sue Wills who has been emailing and 'phoning in order to cover our services.

A special mention to Ruby Summers and her helpers who hold Sparklers /Sunday School on the 3rd. Sunday of the month. It is proving very popular with growing numbers of children attending. If you want to see what is going on, pop in on your way up to All Saints.

We are sure that you will all agree that Catherine Graham our LLM has worked her socks off to provide the services we hold that do not necessarily require a priest. Eg. Laying Up Service, Christingle, Light up a Life, Lessons and Carols, Friday Evening words and music, All Age Services. Bearing in mind that she is

still studying, working and has domestic matters to consider. She has really developed and found her niche over the last few months and we are so thankful for her commitment to our Church Family. Catherine we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Bob and I would thank everyone for the reports of activities and services provided by church members, from brass cleaning, laundry, preparing for services. So many to mention, but thank you all.

One final note, this will be my 7th. year as a warden. Bob is starting his 4th year. As much as we enjoy working together and serving you, neither of us can go on for ever. Please think about this. Are you being called to be a Churchwarden in the future? Please speak to Bob or myself if you are interested.

Every Blessing,

Bob and Carole

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The PCC met 12 times for their regular meetings, with 3 extra meetings in October & November as we started to deal with the consequences of Revd Anne's sudden retirement, by updating our Parish Profile and discussing what qualities we would hope her successor will bring as our next Vicar.

The greatest impact has been upon our churchwardens Carole and Bob, as well as Sue Wills, our Parish Administrator. They have had to take on greater responsibilities including arranging regular locum clergy for our services, as well as dealing with a constant stream of paperwork.

PCC meetings continue to focus on church finances, as there is an unending challenge to keep our finances buoyant, with two church buildings to maintain, and the services we provide for those who come through the doors. We continue to be vigilant in monitoring our expenses.

Further meetings and discussions have taken place on the proposed changes for our Deanery which is dividing into what are now called Mission & Ministry Partnerships. This has proved a complex issue. Brightlingsea is in the newly named 'Priory Parishes' group. Our 3 elected Synod representatives and several PCC members have attended meetings during the year where fuller explanations have been given. It is anticipated this transformation should be resolved in the year ahead.

This APCM report gives an impressive overview of the many facets of our church life here in Brightlingsea; so many people who are finding ways to glorify the Lord in acts of service to our church community. Underlying this is the lower profile input 'behind the scenes' by many other people who quietly perform small but essential tasks to oil the cogs. Thank you.

The Social & Fundraising Group is making good use of our lovely space at St James' for the social events they arrange for us to enjoy, as was envisaged when the refurbishment project was devised. Plans will be initiated in 2018 for the third phase of that project.

PCC members particularly acknowledge the enduring commitment of our two churchwardens, Carole and Bob who have risen marvellously to their extra challenges since October. We thank them for their leadership and guidance throughout the year.

Carole Maytum, PCC Secretary

ELECTORAL ROLL

Revised Electoral Roll as at 1st April 2018

Since 2nd April 2017 when the previous Electoral Roll was updated, the following changes have occurred :

4 deletions (3 deaths and 1 removal from parish)

3 additions

The current total now on the Roll is **162**.

Annette Whittle, Electoral Roll Officer

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR 2017

In 2017 a total of 21 people in the Stewardship Scheme gave between them £22,214, which provided an additional income to us of £5554 claimed back in Gift Aid refunds.

A further five non-tax paying members donated between them £960.60 over the year. I am able to claim tax refunds annually on this amount and all the open-plate collections for both All Saints' and St James' services as part of the Gift Aid Small Donations (GASDS) scheme. The tax refund for 2016-17 was

£1690 on top of the total of £6762 the Gift Aid Small Donations total for both churches.

Please remember tax can only be claimed on non-gift-aid stewardship envelopes as long as individual amounts do not exceed £20. Cheques are also not permitted to be included, either in non-gift-aid envelopes or in open-plate collections.

In addition to these sources of income there are currently 16 members who donate through the Parish Giving Scheme. This is a direct debit system which makes monthly gift aid payments to our church bank account automatically. In 2017 the total amount donated was £13,936.63 which with monthly gift aid payments totalling £3,484.17 made an annual total of £17,420.08.

I encourage everyone with a bank account to join the scheme as it gives us that monthly gift aid payment on top of donations and greatly reduces my workload each quarter. Please ask me for information about the scheme.

My thanks to the tireless work of the banking team Linda Salmon, Jennifer Gallant and Margaret Singleton who count, bank and complete all our weekly record sheets.

Faithfully, Sue Wills

REDEVELOPMENT REPORT

The first meeting for Phase 3 at St James' is planned for May 2018.

Sue Wills

SACRISTAN'S REPORT

Thank you to all the wonderful people who launder and iron the altar cloths and Communion linen, every week of the year. It is a 'behind the scenes' labour of love. Very little thanks is offered (or even expected), but without the skills of those involved, how different All Saints' and St James' would appear. So next time you are in one of our churches, look at the altar and say thank you to the washing fairies who keep the linen 'so fair'.

Shirley Raynes

LICENSED LAY MINISTRY

I am privileged to be the Licensed Lay Minister, (LLM) at All Saints' and St James' Churches in Brightlingsea, serving God through leading services of the Word, and teaching and encouraging others.

The "5th Sunday" all-age family non-Eucharist services have become a regular feature of our worship life at St James. The format is less formal, and singing, dancing, jumping, playing instruments and joining in is actively encouraged. We are often visited by "Dilemma Dave", a hapless puppet, who usually has some kind of problem to solve, and the congregation are entreated to help him with his dilemma! My thanks to David Girdlestone, for bringing Dilemma Dave to life! We are blessed in having some wonderful musicians who regularly play at the All-Age services, enhancing our worship of God. My thanks to Chis Bloor, Peter Marchant, Fred Dart, and Peter Dines who contribute so vibrantly to the music at these services. My thanks, too to the children who sometimes act out the story, read, or take part in the services.

Links between the Church and our local schools continue to grow, We again welcomed Year 3 children into St James' to learn about the Christian faith and a Christian place of worship. The children learned about key Christian symbols, and what happens in a Church. They explored the Church space and asked questions. I was also invited into the Infant school to lead a Harvest assembly, where "Monty the Harvest Mouse" puppet learned about the Christian festival of Harvest. The children brought in produce for the food bank as part of the Harvest celebrations.

I have contact with Charley Day, the Christian Youth Worker who regularly goes into the Colne School as a Christian presence and to support counselling services for some young people there.

During the interregnum, in-between work commitments, I have had the opportunity to lead or take part in a number of services, including the annual Laying Up service, Morning Prayer, the Christingle service, the Nativity service, the Christmas Morning service, and All-Age Worship services.

Apart from taking services locally, I am involved with wider Diocesan events. I am part of a group which interviews and recruits new LLM's and encourages lay people to explore their vocations.

I am passionate about good safeguarding and this year I am fortunate enough to have become involved in safeguarding training in the Diocese. I am currently attending “Train the Trainer” training to enable me to work alongside the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to deliver safeguarding training to clergy, and other people involved in work with children and vulnerable adults across the Diocese. Once training is complete, we hope to be delivering robust and high-quality safeguarding training to everyone with positions of responsibility in the Church in this Diocese as soon as possible. I am honoured to have been invited to be part of this team.

I have been involved with the formation of our new Mission and Ministry Partnership, made up of the 9 Priory Parishes, from the benefices of The Tenpenny Villages, St Osyth & Great Bentley, and Thorpe, Weeley & Little Clacton as well as us in Brightlingsea. The document we have produced has to be agreed by all PCCs involved, before going to the Deanery Synod in May, and then to the Area Mission and Pastoral Committee for final agreement. Once we are officially formed, we will be formally sanctioned as a MMP by the Bishop at a special service, hopefully in the Autumn. I look forward to working in partnership with the other parishes in our MMP.

I am also looking forward to working with a new incumbent to this parish in the near future, and continuing to learn and grow as your Lay Minister.

Catherine Graham

LAY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

There are 18 people licensed by the Bishop of Colchester to assist at Holy Communion and of these people 6 take communion to the sick and housebound when asked to do so. They also continue to take communion to three of the town’s care homes on a regular monthly visit. Each care home has the same two people visiting each time in an attempt to make relationships with residents and staff. This is quite difficult because there are frequent changes of both staff and residents.

The licences are for 5 years from 17th August 2017 and were presented during Rev. Anne Howson’s final communion service in St. James’ on 10th October 2017.

Colin Singleton

ST OSYTH DEANERY SYNOD

In 2017, Deanery Synod met four times and, following the election of Jennifer Gallant and David and Linda Salmon as the three representatives from this parish, our representation on Deanery Pastoral, Mission and Standing Committee has remained the same - with me being an ex-officio member of Synod by my membership of Diocesan Synod, being re-elected Secretary at the July meeting - and David Salmon replacing Alison Gabbedy. The debates leading to establishment of MMUs dominated discussions, and preparations for a CAP Debt Centre came a close second. There were speakers on Fresh Expressions and on Church Growth.

Janet Russell

REPORT ON MUSIC (Compiled 21st Feb 2018)

It is a great privilege to play for God.

All Saints' organ had two problems when tuned in December 2017: 1. The main wind pipe from the blower to the bellows was leaking. They repaired it, but it is symptomatic of an old organ. 2. The joints in some of the wooden pipes were found to have separated. They were glued but the problem is variations in temperature. We need to keep the church at a reasonably constant temperature to stop this sort of thing happening. Bob has set the heating at 'background level' during the week but for some reason the thermostat is not playing ball!

St James organ soldiers on.

The keyboard at St James' is 20 years old and is past its 'sell-by' date but it serves its purpose.

The piano in St James' is relatively modern. It serves its purpose and is useful because I can play along on it when Peter Marchant plays the keyboard or Fred plays the guitar.

I have tried to keep a balance between modern and old hymns.

My thanks to Colin Singleton and Peter Marchant for helping out when I'm not here; and to them and Jackie Edmunds for operating the Overhead Projector when I am here. Thanks to Bob Goodenough we now have a cable to the OHP so it can be operated from the ground floor in the Nave. Colin and Jackie no longer have to be perched in isolation in the gallery! The OHP and the laptop computer seem to be working satisfactorily.

My thanks also to Fred Dart (guitar) and Peter Marchant. We now form a regular worship group to accompany the modern hymns. I would love to find someone who can come and play the drums each week.

Thanks to Rudi Drost for occasionally playing his zither before the service.
Enchanting!

Thanks to Melanie Bridle for playing as always at the Nativity Play.

The CLGB band on the first Sunday of the month at Parade Service is now down to Greta Totenhofer on clarinet and Karen Talmey on flute. I would welcome anyone else to play, particularly a percussionist even if you are still learning and don't feel confident. Don't be afraid of mistakes. The best way to learn is by your mistakes!

The music in the last year has been lifted by the *St James' Singers* at the Carol Service, Good Friday Meditation, Easter, Harvest, and the Laying-up Service.

We also sang at the concert given by the Clacton Concert Orchestra in November.

The Motley Crew also sang at the Blessing of the Waters by the Bishop in May. Let's never forget we do everything first and foremost for God's glory.

Chris Bloor

CHURCH LADS & GIRLS BRIGADE

This year, we have had quite a few new younger children but our older members have got less. We have spaces for all groups but especially in the older sections.

We have done various activities during the year and we all enjoyed a good night out at Clacton Pier Bowling. We took our members to camp in the Lake District in August and everyone had a great time. During the year we do a lot of craft items and the children make items for Mothering Sunday, Easter, Christmas. This year the children made a Snowman out of plastic cups for the Christmas Tree Festival, they also did bits for our tree entry.

At the moment, we are in the process of making up little baskets to take round to the homes in Brightlingsea for Easter. This is all part of their helping others badge. They help in Church and this goes towards 'Me and God' badge, it gives them all something to work towards and learn about God's work and being there for us.

Hazel Dines

JUNIOR CHURCH REPORT - now known as SPARKLERS

Sitting in a service at All Saints', on a particular Sunday, there were no children. Thinking about this, it suddenly came to me: why couldn't we have a Sunday school in St James' Church while the adult service is here at All Saints'? That would be an answer to my prayers. I then mentioned my thoughts to Sue Merrell who thought it would be great and agreed to help, and suggested

speaking with Revd. Anne. Thinking about this for a while I then mentioned it to our church wardens Bob & Carole, who could see no reasons against it, but of course it would have to put before the PCC, so the wheels were put in motion, as they say. Everything went ahead, necessary forms were prepared and completed and also we had to make sure all helpers had a DBS authorisation.

Our first Sparklers commenced on 15 October 2017. Sue Merrell, Sally Goodenough and I were so pleased that 17 children came along, so all our preparation work was well rewarded on our first proper Sunday school. I had been praying for so long to be able to have a real time with the children, rather than just sitting at the back of the church.

We were free to have hymns, then praying together, Sally read a Bible Story, we sang a Chorus from the past: "Building up the Temple" which they loved, the children shared their news. This is their time in God's house.

Each month a member of the PCC comes along to join us, and looks after the register, and books in any new children. It also gives them a chance to meet the young people.

The Hymn singing and choruses are accompanied by Melanie Bridle on the piano. We have made a good start, and it looks likely that our numbers will grow. We have had a really nice Banner made, advertising Sparklers, which is displayed in the week prior to service.

All Children are very welcome - those under the age of 4 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

God Bless, Ruby Summers

BRIGHTLINGSEA BEARS - Third Wednesday of the Month

'Bears' continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in St James'. Our normal activities are singing, time for prayer, and story time, also a fun time marching around in the church making joyful noise with our percussion instruments.

Last July we sadly had to say goodbye to one of our little girls named Holly, as she was due to start school. Her mummy had been bringing her since she was a tiny baby, but we are now delighted to have the company of her little baby sister who comes along with her mummy.

The first time a child attends, each is given a small knitted Bear which they bring along to each meeting. It is such a rewarding and special time we have together. The children really enjoy doing crafts including colouring, and then drinks and biscuits.

Sally Goodenough and I prepare everything for the afternoon meetings, not really knowing how many will attend; it could be 10 or more, or may be only 3 or 4. It is very pleasing that many of the past 'Bears' children now come along to 'Sparklers'.

We pray that our numbers will grow during 2018.

God Bless, Ruby Summers

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The PCC for All Saints' with St James' Church maintain a serious commitment to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. We want our Parish to be the best it can be to make our churches safe places for all who attend them.

We continue to use the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for our Parish. This policy is available in the church office for anybody to read, and can also be found online at www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding. Pocket guides to safeguarding are also available in the church for anyone to take. This policy is followed by all who use the church space for activities involving children under 18 or vulnerable adults.

Catherine Graham is the Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR), and is responsible for keeping up to date with latest safeguarding guidelines and training, with ensuring safeguarding practices are in place within the parish and submitting requests for DBS checks to the Diocese. If agreed by the PCC, she is willing to continue in this role.

The PSR is the first point of contact, (or alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team), if there are any concerns about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult. Contact details for the PSR and Safeguarding Team are prominently displayed in the Church space, on posters around the Church, including in All Saints' Church, entitled "Looking the Other Way is Not an Option".

All activities involving children or vulnerable adults in the Church space are passed by the PCC prior to the activity, with risk assessments viewed and approved. Anybody wishing to hold an activity for children or vulnerable adults in our church space, or in the name of our church, must read, sign and follow

this policy. Any workers recruited by the church, either in a paid role or voluntary unpaid role, will be rigorously checked against the Safer Recruitment principles, outlined in the safeguarding policy. This will obviously include our new incumbent.

The team from the Diocese of Chelmsford are currently reviewing their safeguarding policies and practices, and the "Looking the Other Way is Not an Option" document is due to be replaced or revised. This is in the light of recommendations from serious case reviews carried out following prosecutions for cases of abuse within the Church, including historical abuse. The PSR will inform the PCC of any new policy or changes when they are approved by the Diocese.

We all have a duty to report abuse if we see it happening, or suspect it is happening. If you have a concern regarding the safeguarding of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, it is imperative that you contact the Parish Safeguarding Representative or call the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 01245 294444 as soon as possible.

Catherine Graham

MOTHERS' UNION

The Year of 2017 has flown by. We've had a varied and busy year, and some sadness, including the sad loss of Betty Scales and Joan Harding.

We had our AGM in January, and thankfully all of the Officers and committee members agreed to stand again.

A Shared lunch in February was well attended. March saw us listening to a very interesting talk from Bob Goodenough about his term as a JP. Our Speaker for April was Sue Wills; a very enlightening talk. Vivien Chapman gave us a talk on 'Dementia' in May. June saw us holding our Wave of Prayer for our worldwide members. July is always a social, a Strawberry & scones tea; a very enjoyable time together. September 6th, we entertained ourselves. A good Chat among friends is always good.

October we had a visit from Thorrington Wildlives Rescue Centre. They do so much more than you realize there.

November we welcomed the Rev. Canon Edward Carter, who spoke about his 4 years' service at Windsor Castle.

13th December we had our Christmas mince pies and tea and biscuits. We also had a puppet show this year, singing carols. Quite funny and enjoyable. We do NOT meet in August.

Kathryn Tidman

CRADLE ROLL

73 names were printed on the Cradle Roll in the Monthly News for 2017.

Kathryn Tidman

SEA OF FAITH.

Much of the year has been spent studying 'The Miracles of Jesus – What really Happened?' by H.J. Richards. The book has a subtitle 'An Introduction to the Theology of John' and concentrates on the seven 'signs', as John calls them, in that gospel. Richards says of John's account of the signs '...that he fills them with so much symbolism and surrounds them with so much theological discourse...(because) he is dealing with something more than just strange happenings; these are signs of a more profound reality.' Having finished Richards now we have started reading 'No God but One – Allah or Jesus? – a former Muslim investigates the evidence for Islam and Christianity' by Nabeel Qureshi.

The group meets on alternate Wednesdays in two of the members' homes in turn. Although one of the regular 8 members moved away from Brightlingsea during the year, the group has grown to 11 people when all are able to attend. We would be very pleased to welcome anyone else interested in joining us.

Colin Singleton

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2017

In 2017 the fifteenth Brightlingsea Christmas Tree Festival took place, and for the first time the weekend was beset by severe snowstorms; however a wonderful community spirit ensured that the atmosphere was as merry and busy as ever. Beautiful and eye-catching trees inside and outside the church drew admiration from all. Slightly fewer people were able to reach the church

but overall the profits totalled just under £10,000 which meant that we were able to donate £6000 to Friends of All Saints' and £4000 to the PCC.

During the daytime of Saturday and Sunday we had 1707 visitors; on Friday night the Marenzio Singers gave a wonderful concert to a highly appreciative audience of 85 people; and once again on Saturday, we hosted around 130 people for a splendid Gala night offering a delicious home-cooked canapé supper and rousing musical performance from local operatic singers. As previously, the event closed with popular carols led by Chris Bloor, who explained how the Christmas message was spread through words and music.

This year Catherine Graham designed popular children's activities which focussed on painted rocks, brought in by children and placed within a clever Christmas tree near the altar, alongside 'St Peter' (played by David Foss-Smith) who helped explain the links with the Gospel story. This proved to be a big draw amongst visiting families and enabled mums and dads to enjoy a longer browse around the Christmas trees, Christmas Shop and have something to eat and drink while their youngsters were busy. The Christmas Pantry, Chestnut Stall, Mulled Wine and tasty snacks from the Refreshment stall all proved very successful.

None of this happens without an army of volunteers, many of whom are drawn to help through their love of All Saints', and for which we are very grateful. Lots of free expertise is available to promote, publicise, set up and organise the festival – year by year the event has become more professional and we are indebted to many townspeople. In fifteen years we have raised over £120,000 which has helped our two parish churches to survive and flourish.

Elizabeth Foss-Smith & Jackie Edmunds, Joint Chairmen

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

The Friends meet every other month to organise how they will raise funds for the upkeep and repair of the fabric of the Old Church. The floodlights are lit up on evenings when they have been paid for - until now, the choice between white or gold lights has been operating, however, after one evening when both had been paid for, we tried putting both on - the result was stunning. As a result of this, the committee decided that from 1st May when the lights are paid for both will be lit up and the fee will be £8.00 a time. Also, requests for

lights to be on are being administered through the church office. These changes have been announced in the April issue of Monthly Parish News and on the notice boards. Please pass this information on to people who may not know.

A big thank you to the Campbell family who gave up preparing the list and lighting up the tower in September - another big thank you to Peter Patrick who is now in charge of the switch.

Janet Russell

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee has held several very successful events this year, both social and fundraising.

The Spring Quiz in April, which included a ploughman's supper raised £275.00 for General Funds.

A three-course meal of prawn & melon, chicken breast with vegetables followed by Apple pie and custard was served at our very popular Harvest Supper in September. The money raised, £341.40, was donated to 'Tools with a Mission'.

There was a change of time for our Christmas Bazaar this year to coincide with the Town Christmas Shopping event. This proved successful and notice will be taken of what arrangements are made for the 2018 Shopping event. Our usual Father Christmas was busy elsewhere on the day and a very able substitute was recruited, thank you Bob! David Salmon donated a Father Christmas outfit for Church use. It was a very successful and happy event which raised £1,091.73 for General Funds.

The Breakfast club has gone from strength to strength and although started as a social event has proved to be a fantastic fund raiser. The committee agreed from the inception of the Breakfast Club that any money raised should be donated to charities. This year donations have been as follows:

March: Disaster Emergency Committee East Africa Appeal: 175.00

Holy Mowers	175.00
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September: First Responders	200.00
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November: Brightlingsea in Bloom	180.00
Brightlingsea Museum	180.00
Total:	£910.00

In future donations will be given on a rotation basis to 6 local charities:

Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade, Holy Mowers, First Responders, Brightlingsea in Bloom, Brightlingsea Museum and 4 Youth.

Consideration will be given in the case of National or International situations that may occur.

Linda Salmon, Sue Merrell, Carole Warren, Hazel Dines, Pam Bloss

SATURDAY COFFEE

‘Saturday Coffee’ has become the hub of a vibrant mix of people who come every week. They sit, talk, plan, enjoying each other’s company aided by cups of coffee and tea. The sausage rolls and bacon wraps continue to be very much appreciated; thanks to Carole Warren who makes them – amazingly - every week.

Thank you to all helpers who so generously give their time and effort. If you would like to be part of the team, please sign the list in church. You won’t be left alone to cope – but more help is always welcome.

Come and enjoy Saturday Coffee from 9.45 – 12 noon.

Shirley Raynes

SUPPER PARTIES

Our recent supper party at the beginning of March, was the tenth since we started in 2015. Over the past three years we have entertained about 170 guests who seem to have much enjoyed the chance to meet, chat and discover common ground over a plateful of supper and a glass of something refreshing. Our aim, as part of the church’s community mission, is to provide an informal opportunity for getting to know each other, both those who are familiar and those who are newly arrived. We are steadily working our way through the electoral roll as well as ensuring that new faces and those who work in the community are included; we hope anyone who would like to join us, makes themselves known to us so an invitation will be forthcoming.

We are grateful to Sally Goodenough for managing the invitation arrangements.

David & Elizabeth Foss-Smith

CHURCH FLOWERS

I would like to say thank you to the many members of our congregation who express their appreciation of the flowers in church, and for all who give so generously towards the cost of flowers. Especially for the donations for flowers for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas, and the money given covers the costs for most of the rest of the year.

Last year I mentioned that I would welcome anybody who would like to arrange flowers in church. I reiterate that request this year. Thanks go to Carole Warren, Carole Maytum, Amanda Schlotter and Margaret Davis who help with flowers at festival times, but more help would be appreciated for ordinary times of the year. If you feel you this is something you would like to do please speak to me.

Donations from congregation	259.00
Bal. b/fwd. from 2015	25.68
Costs for 2016	(277.71)
Carried forward 2017	£6.97

Linda Salmon

WEDDING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

In 2017 we have had 6 couples married at All Saints, all conducted by Revd Anne Howson; this is fewer than in the previous year. In the early part of the year a Wedding Preparation morning is held at All Saints', where the couples to be married during the year can look round the church, go through the wedding service and hear Chris play various music suitable for weddings to help them with their choices.

I find the position of Wedding Administrator a privilege to be of help to the couples and offers opportunities to get to know them and to help with their

arrangements and any other questions that may come up through talking to them.

With many other venues offering Wedding services it is heartening that there are still many couples who choose to make their Wedding Vows to one another in the presence of God.

There are 7 couples booked for weddings in 2018 and 1 Wedding Blessing. As we are in interregnum I have booked all weddings with visiting clergy, and on behalf of the PCC I offer thanks to all who have agreed to visit these couples and conduct their weddings.

Linda Salmon, Wedding Administrator

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid week in May 2017 raised a fantastic £2013. The bulk of this was from door-to-door envelopes, collecting £1299.

Additionally, collecting at Fiveways -£167; in the High Street - £28; envelopes at Spirals- £14 & United Church Mini-Market - £505.

We do need some more volunteers either to collect door-to-door, and for an hour in the High Street on the Saturday morning. So please, if you can, join us.

Jennifer Gallant & Shirley Raynes

BEREAVEMENT COFFEE AFTERNOONS

Bereavement Coffee Group is held in St James' church on the first Monday of the month between 2 pm and 4 pm. If you have lost someone close to you, do come along and join us.

We are a small group who talk openly about grief, loneliness and any related problems. We talk about happy times and often share a laugh.

Jennifer Gallant

SATURDAY MORNING BOOKSTALL

During the year the Bookstall raised £450:

£200 for Colchester Night Shelter

£100 for Beacon of Hope

£100 for the Church Lads & Girls Brigade

£50 for the Autumn Centre.

It is lovely when you buy books and then return them for resale. The record this year was selling the same book five times. Thank you for your support.

Jennifer Gallant

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRIGHTLINGSEA & Simple Lunches

Recently, a series of Prayer Walks on Tuesday mornings has covered all Brightlingsea and has been received well by people who have no connection with any church.

Churches Together in Brightlingsea continues to run: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; Good Friday Service and Walk of Witness; a Christian presence at Carnival with a float in the procession; the Annual Mini-Market; Carols Outside.

This year's Simple Lunches have been successful but the move from the New Church to St James' church has meant that more people have attended and, consequently, more money - £597 against £350 in 2015 - has been raised to share between CAFOD and Christian Aid.

Janet Russell

BIBLE STUDY

During the past year 7 ladies continued to meet fortnightly on Monday afternoons at 1 Tudor Close and studied St. Matthew's Gospel.

Annette Whittle

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

We meet every Friday morning at 10.30 am in St James' church to pray for all those who are unwell and for those who have died, and those who mourn them.

Asking for God's blessing on our world and its leaders, we share the prayers and readings on our prayer leaflet which is available for anyone who needs one.

The service takes about 20 minutes. After discussion of who needs to be visited or phoned, or sent a card, we go off for coffee.

Hazel Rusbridge

PRAYER STAND/CANDLE STAND

These have been used consistently throughout the year.

The PCC did look at how much revenue these were making, and realised that donations for candles and prayer sheets more than covered the cost. People come in at any time when St. James' Church is open – to reflect; pray or light a candle. These are vital pastoral and outreach resources.

Alison Gabbedy

BOOKCASE

The Bookcase is now permanently open and situated at the left side of St. James' Church.

Books are available to be borrowed whenever the Church is open. There are no forms to fill in; although we would like to have the books back eventually.

Alison Gabbedy

OPEN HOUSE

During 2017, we met every second Tuesday of the month bar one when I was not available; contributed £43 for 2016 and £26 for 2017 to church funds.

There is still a core attendance of 5 people and we would be happy to welcome more.

Janet Russell

MONTHLY PARISH NEWS

When “*The Native*” ceased publication with the June 2014 issue, the ‘*Monthly Parish News*’ was born; it has been published throughout 2017 with items being provided, when asked for, by organisations connected with the work of the parish and gleaning items from the parish magazine editorial web-site “*The Parish Pump*”. My gratitude to Colin Singleton and Ken Russell for their enormous contribution to the selection of items and all three of us missed Brian Pingree’s presence at our ‘editorial and wine tasting’ meetings during 2017. Although it is 2017 which is under scrutiny in this Annual Report, *Monthly Parish News* ceased publication with its March issue in 2018 and the new parish magazine was published for the first time in the same month.

Janet Russell

PAM'S CARDS & CRAFTS STALL

Since April 2017 the stalls have raised over £1460 for General Church Funds; the Breakfast mornings helping to increase sales. Additional amounts were also donated to: First Responders £25; Church Lads & Girls Brigade £25; and £16 for Churches Together Brightlingsea.

Visits to *Springfields* continue to be appreciated by the residents who enjoy choosing cards over a cup of tea and a chat.

My thanks to everyone for saving greetings cards to be recycled, Thank you also to Graham for his marmalade making and garden produce for the stall.

Pam & Graham Bloss