

ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH

BARTON SEAGRAVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019

(Registered Charity Number 1130426)



PRESENTED TO THE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

8th April 2019

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**St. Botolph's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting
8th April 2019**

Contents

	Page
Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting	A-1
Minutes of St Botolph's Vestry Meeting	1
Minutes of St Botolph's Annual Parochial Church Meeting.....	2
1. Rector's Report 2018	5
2. St Botolph's Church Sidespersons 2018.....	7
3. Kettering Deanery Synod Report 2018	8
4. St. Botolph's PCC Annual Report 2018	10
5. St. Botolph's Accounts 2018	13
6. Churchwardens' Report 2018	22
7. Finance Group Report 2018.....	24
8. Annual Fabric Report 2018.....	25
9. Children's & Youth Ministry 2018.....	26
10. Safeguarding Report 2018	29
11. Missions Task Group Report 2018	30
12. Evangelism Report 2018.....	31
13. More than Gold Report 2018.....	31
14. Lay Pastoral Ministers' Report 2018.....	32
15. Music Report 2018	34
16. Home Bible Study Groups 2018.....	35
17. Prayer for Israel Report 2018	35
18. Cornerstone Report 2018	36
19. Coffee Shop Report 2018.....	36
20. Bellringing Report 2018.....	36
21. Flower Report 2018	36

St Botolph's Church

This page has no content

Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 8th April 2019

Vestry Meeting at 7:45pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 8:00pm in church

Opening Prayers and Welcome

Vestry Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held Monday 16th April 2018
3. Matters Arising
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Election of Deputy Churchwardens
6. Electoral Roll

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held 16th April 2018
2. Matters Arising
3. Election of Parochial Church Councillors
4. Appointment of Independent Examiners
5. Election of Sidespersons
6. Annual Reports
7. GDPR
8. Chairmans'
9. Any Other Business
10. Date of Next Meeting

St Botolph's Church

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St Botolph's Church

Minutes of St Botolph's Vestry Meeting

held in Church on Monday 16th April 2018

51 parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Revd Mark Lucas.

The meeting opened with the hymn *Christ Alone*

Revd Lucas spoke on Matthew 9: 35 - 38. Jesus could see not the rejoicing of people that miracles had been done, but that they were sheep without a shepherd. and the question arose as to whether the congregation looks at those outside the church in this way. The labourers are few for the harvest, so Jesus asked his disciples to pray. Then he sent the disciples out to tell the people about the good shepherd. The congregation should pray for the sheep without a shepherd, but should also be prepared to be the answer to the prayers, to go out themselves to tell others. Revd Lucas expressed his wish for the church to take on a person part-time to work with families and children, at an estimated cost of £20,000 per year, which would be a challenge. A Stewardship Sunday is coming up at which this will be mentioned.

Revd Lucas highlighted the Archbishop of Canterbury's initiative *Thy Kingdom Come*. A prayer opportunity in St Botolph's in May, with prayer stations in church, testimonies, etc.

Prayers were said in small groups.

1. Apologies:

Martin Adamson, Robert and Barbara Bashford, Lindsay Burch, Judith Edwards, Diana Ellis, Paul and Ali Gosling, Maurice Haynes, Victoria Hutchinson, Julie James, Claire Johnson, Carol Keach, Angela McClatchey, Tina Noble, Debbie Palmer, Sheila Thompson, Jane Wade and Elaine Walker.

2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held 24th April 2017.

The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Churchwardens.

Revd Lucas spoke about the value of having a team of Church Wardens and that he was grateful for all their hard work.

Nominations for the position of Churchwarden had been received for Peter Jackson, proposed by Philip Burch, seconded by Andrew Saville, and for Ken Ansdell, proposed by Andrew Saville, seconded by Peter Jackson. Peter Jackson and Ken Ansdell were unanimously elected to serve for the coming year.

5. Electoral Roll.

It was reported that at the end of the past year the number of parishioners on the electoral roll was 263. By April 2018, 14 new people had been added to the roll, and 1 person had come off it, so the total number on the roll was now 276

The Vestry meeting ended at 8.21pm.

St Botolph's Church

Minutes of St Botolph's Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Church on Monday 16th April 2018

51 parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Revd Mark Lucas. Apologies are as for the Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2017.

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising.

A query arose about £10,000 donated for match funding for children work in light of the wish for a children's worker. There would be a shortfall in funding but it would be a matter to consider.

3. Election of Parochial Church Councillors.

Seven members of the PCC had come to the end of their term of office, namely Rob Cowan, Graham Farrier, Victoria Hutchinson, Nick Johnson, Andrew Saville, Helen Tilney and David Wright.

Revd Lucas expressed his thanks to all who sit on the PCC, and especially for Nick Johnson, Graham Farrier, Victoria Hutchinson who are standing down after their term of office.

The following nominations had been received:-

Robert Cowan, nominated by Peter Jackson, seconded by Kate Curnock Helen Tilney nominated by Victoria Hutchinson, seconded by Louise Adamson David Jacobs nominated by Nick Johnson seconded by Andrew Saville

David Wright, nominated by Ken Ansdell, seconded by Andy Clark Andrew Saville, nominated by Ken Ansdell, seconded by Bob Edwards

There being 5 nominations and 7 vacancies, all were unanimously elected to serve for the next 3 years.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

Alan Deans was nominated by David Wright to be Independent Examiner again, Mary- Ann Ansdell seconded, and he was unanimously elected.

5. Election of Sidespersons.

Revd Lucas explained how wonderful sidespersons are, shepherding people in, and they need to be thanked. Those on the list presented in the Annual Report booklet were unanimously elected.

6. Annual Reports.

Revd Lucas referred to the reports in the Annual Report booklet.

6.1 Finance:

David Wright as Treasurer indicated that there was going to be a deficit of £30,000 for the year ending December 2017 but the year had ended up with a surplus, mainly due to a figure of £40,000 having been budgeted for property works of which only £11,000 was spent. There was also a net increase in income as a result of the Gift Day, a legacy, and an increase in wedding and funeral fees received, which together led to a surplus of just over £8,000.

St Botolph's Church

Whereas in 2017 general income was up by £14,000 in recurring gifts and a legacy, weddings fees will be going down in 2018. Rental income resulted from full occupancy in 2017 but that cannot be assumed for 2018 as one tenancy is on a month to month basis. A parish weekend has not been budgeted for, and additional income which increases the total to £270,000 would take the church over the £250,000 income threshold, which means having to fall in line with financial reporting and a fuller audit, incurring accountants fees.

There was a reduction in spend in 2017, mainly due to reduced property repairs but offset by an increase to the Parish Share, which is increasing by about 5% per year. The church paid the full Parish Share in 2017.

Back in October/November time, an increase in giving was sought and potentially an additional £15,000 was pledged, but over the year this was offset by other people leaving the parish or decreasing their giving, so the net effect was an increase of only £1,200 for the coming year.

About £6,000 per year is received in collections on a weekly basis. Voluntary receipts are one off gifts. The budget is conservative regarding the rental income in case there is not full occupancy throughout the year. The Parish Share is biggest expense. Church managements costs are likely to increase as so many repairs were deferred from last year. Mission giving is stable at £20,000.

The budget for 2018 has been prepared as a balanced budget, split into a general fund and restricted funds which have a deficit of £11,000 which will be funded by the property fund. The budget assumes property repairs will be £31,000. There is continued reliance on planned giving. There are 99 regular Standing Orders of an average of £100 per month, roughly £9,900 per month. But the cost of the Parish Share on its own is approximately £10,667 per month, so the church is under pressure to cover the additional costs.

Although the last financial year ended in a surplus, the church will still have a challenging year for 2018. A major issue is how to spend the resources. The Parish Share is 55% of all costs. The church is looking to offset restricted funds against the Parish Share, as some of the costs are due to youth ministry expenses. Property reserves will be used to cover fabric costs. If all plans come to fruition, the budget should be balanced at the end of the year. There will be monthly meetings to monitor the finances.. Based on the 2018 budget, including property repairs, it costs £695 per day to run St Botolph's, and even without repairs would still cost £606 per day.

David Wright presented charts to identify the sources of income and areas of expenditure.

Revd Lucas said there is a possibility to pay the Parish Share by Direct Debit which can be variable. This system is possibly being brought in by Peterborough Diocese. A church can agree to it being increased every year by e.g. inflation, or the RPI. A number of people present were opposed to the plan, or were ambivalent about it. It was mentioned there is a possibility of contactless payments and giving by text in the future.

Revd Lucas asked for prayer for a temporary chair of the Finance Task Group in the absence of Graham Bell.

7. GDPR.

Problems had arisen with access to the consent requests. Those present were asked to look for emails but may need to check junk mail as well. PCC members are entitled to Microsoft Teams to access to PCC documents and minutes. Individuals sending emails to group members will probably need to send things out on a church server. Some church server addresses are available enabling emails to be sent from the church. Paul Gosling is doing a lot of extra work on this data

St Botolph's Church

protection issue. All those on the electoral roll will receive an email requesting consent to use of their data.

8. Any Other Business.

Revd A Clark mentioned that he went to a youth conference in the year in which there was a talk on 1 Peter pointing out that when there are babies around, they scream when hungry “give me milk or I’ll die”. They are totally dependent. For us, our desire for God’s world should be the same “give me God’s word or I’ll die”. The work we do at St Botolph’s is quite basic, but the young people come back and the only thing that will sustain them is the word and Jesus Christ. Not doing things on the world’s terms. Revd Clark asked for prayer that these young people will crave God’s word. The idea of a Children’s Minister is important as most people come to faith before the age of 18. What people heard as children often brings them back in later life.

Thanks were to be given to all those involved in the youth work, and prayers are needed for them. Thanks were also given for the children. It was noted that child numbers are growing at Warkton. The services there are small and traditional but more families are coming. In both churches, there is a need for more leaders to bring in more people.

The 1eighty youth group stands out. It is lively and has a great atmosphere, and a number of those attending are from non-church backgrounds. One to one bible reading is useful. Make and Play is growing, as is Creche. This year, Holiday Club took place at a different time and with a different format. There was a good response for leaders and the children engaged well with bible work.

9. Date of Next Meeting.

Revd Lucas suggested that the date for the APCM next year should be 8th April 2019.

The next PCC meeting should take place on 30th April.

The meeting ended at 21.18 after singing the hymn To God be the Glory.

St Botolph's Church

1. Rector's Report 2018

God is gracious, and He continues to bless us despite our faithlessness and human failings. May the glory be to Him alone.

Some highlights of 2018:

- In our Sunday morning sermon series, we worked our way through Paul's pastoral epistle to Titus, reminding us of the simplicity of the gospel. We followed this by beginning a journey through Exodus which we found exciting and encouraging as we considered the sovereignty of God. Taking us up to Christmas we considered what mission is all about by looking at four sections of Matthew's gospel. During the summer period we considered seven Bible characters: Josiah, Naaman, Joab, Ishmael, Rahab, Belshazzar and Naomi.
- In our evening services we began the year looking at Revelation, a joyous challenge. Thrilling and encouraging in equal measure. In the autumn we considered the book of Micah before taking some of the servant songs of Isaiah to take us up to Christmas.
- During Lent we considered the five Solas of the reformation: Sola Scriptura, Sola Christus, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide and Soli Deo Gloria. A great opportunity to get our basic doctrine refreshed.
- Over the year it has been very encouraging to see members of the congregation becoming more relaxed with praying with one another, particularly in the evening service. The prayer room in Church House continues to be used for organised prayer events as well as for private prayer, and there has been a regular team of young people using it on a Sunday morning to pray for the persecuted church. A real joy to see young people taking prayer seriously, Where they lead may the adults follow.
- In early September we again enjoyed a church weekend away at the Frontier Centre. We enjoyed great fellowship and were privileged to learn from the ministry of Adrian Reynolds. It is good to make links with leaders other churches who share our convictions about Scripture.
- Our financial challenges continue with the related challenge of personnel to fulfil all the ministries we would like. God is good, and it seems that in 2018 we again ended the year with a small surplus on the accounts. We must address the issue of finance if we are to grow in number.
- We have enjoyed visits from some of our regular mission partners, as well as other guests. This year from our dear friend Slavko Hadzic.
- We continue to pray for the future 'Hanwood Park' development in the parish, which is beginning to take shape. The diocese has been very supportive and agreed to make an appointment of a pioneer minister in due course. Hayfield Cross school continues on the new development, although it looks like it will still be some time before houses reach the school site itself. It seems the diocese were unusually ahead of the game in building the school!
- Barton Park development, also within the parish, is nearly just about complete. A village community centre has been built and opened on the development. Already we have used this for Christmas evangelism and are assessing the opportunities for future mission.

Every year I mention the team, but my repetition is not to be understood as in any way vain. It really does continue to be an enormous privilege for me to work throughout the year with our outstanding team of preachers: Andy Clark, Robert Bashford, Wallace Benn, Tony Johnson, Martin Adamson, Dave Liggins, David McClatchy, Joe Griffiths and James Tennant. We are

St Botolph's Church

truly blessed that God has given us such a gifted and able team, ready and willing to serve and each in their own way, using their God-given gifts, bringing God's word with seriousness and humility.

It is also a real joy to have a team of service leaders who bring us into God's presence with sensitivity and joy. A great strength of the Church of England is its liturgy, much of it crafted over centuries, and even millennia. Used creatively it draws us into God's presence, assures us of His undeserved grace and mercy, reminds us a timeless truth, and prepares us for the ministry of God's word. It is the skill of the service leader that ties all these threads together.

A big thank you must also go to those who have served on the PCC and its sub-groups, you are a great group of people without whom we could not operate. I am especially thankful to Ken and Peter (Wardens); Bob and Andrew (Deputy Wardens), Adrian (Honorary Warden), David (Treasurer) and Kate (Pastoral Assistant) for your tireless service.

Finally, I could not write a report without recording my thanks again to Paul who keeps us all under control. He is steady and unflappable.

And may God continue to bless us as we look forward to another year serving Him. May His name be glorified in all we do and are.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Mark Lucas - Rector

St Botolph's Church

2. St Botolph's Church Sidespersons 2018

Our church continues to be blessed by having so many people who are prepared to give their time in order that the church services and all our other activities run smoothly. The Clergy and Wardens would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who do volunteer to help out in whatever capacity however, it is a requirement that those persons who have offered to act as sidespersons are approved at the APCM.

The list below sets down those who have indicated that they are willing to carry out the role of sidesperson during 2019 and we would ask that you approve this list. .

Sidespersons at March 2019

Martin	Adamson	Eileen	Mason
		Sharon	Mason
Cayti	Bilski		
Ellie	Burch	Tina	Murphy
Lindsey	Burch		
		Tina	Noble
Toby	Clegg	Anne	Pegg
Jenna	Colson		
John	Cresswell	Neville	Read
		Beryl	Read
Gwen	Done	John	Russell
		Maureen	Russell
Geoff	Fawkes		
Jean	Fawkes	Asha	Silk
Tim	Fawkes	Karen	Snape
Sandy	Frost	Alice	Spence
Steve	Frost		
		Andrew	Thomson
Ali	Gosling		
Paul	Gosling	Elaine	Walker
		Roger	Walker
David	Heggie	Jacqui	Ward
		Simon	Wills
Carole	Jackson	David	Wright
Peter	Jackson	Flora	Wright
David	Jacobs		
Maryna	Jacobs		

3. Kettering Deanery Synod Report 2018

In the Church of England and other Anglican churches, a Deanery Synod is a meeting convened by the Rural Dean and/or the Joint Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, who is elected by the elected lay members. It comprises all clergy licensed to a benefice within the Deanery, plus the elected lay members representing each church or benefice.

While only those lay members formally elected onto the synod may vote, the Kettering Deanery Synods are open to all who wish to attend. It acts as an intermediary between the PCCs of each parish in its deanery and the Diocesan Synod. In England its lay members also elect the deanery's lay representatives to its diocese's synod and its diocese's members of the House of Laity in the General Synod.

The Kettering Deanery Synod, on which we have six lay representatives, meet three times a year and is a forum that allows the clergy and laity from across the Deanery an opportunity to meet together to learn from each other and discuss issues affecting the Church. It is somewhat disappointing that while we do have six lay representatives two have neither attended meetings nor tendered apologies when they can't attend, this even though one of the meetings was held at St Botolph's.

The first meeting was held in February at St Botolph's and apart from routine matters concentrated on reviewing what we considered the role of our deanery to be. The guest speaker, Tim Jeffery produced a document reviewing our Mission Statement and Activities and the Synod divided into groups to discuss items raised in the paper.

The feedback from the group discussions was that:

- All were happy with the Mission Statement, but the majority felt it was too wordy and needed condensing so that it simply stated i) who we are; and, ii) what we want to do.
- Reviewing Planned Actions. The groups considered that: i) The future of the Deanery prayer group needs to be reviewed; ii) The Bishop Stopford School chaplaincy statement needs to be broader than just the chaplaincy, it should involve whole school. iii) During the 'Thy Kingdom Come' activities those churches not in Kettering itself had not really involved/included.

The meeting was summed up as having confirmed that; we are growing God's Kingdom; we must encourage and support one another; and, we should do this by i) Prayer, ii) Sharing resources, iii) Building relationships

The second meeting was held in June at Christ the King and the main items on the agenda comprised:

- A brief talk by Paul Northup (creative director) and Rachel Wakefield (Communications, Press and Marketing Manager) of the Greenbelt organisation who gave a short history and purpose of the festival. The topic in 2018 was 'Acts of the Imagination'. It hoped to challenge both church and culture and is to increase social justice topics.
- The new mission statement as drawn up by Tim Jeffery following February's Synod was reviewed and adopted unanimously.

St Botolph's Church

- The main agenda item was sharing good news or challenges. We were encouraged to go to speak to two people from other churches to discuss their good news stories or their concerns and also relay ours. From this, much was learned about how other churches were reaching out to the community. The items were summarised on post-it notes and we were encouraged to take them away and use them to pray for the two churches involved.

The final meeting took place in October at St Mary Magdalene – Geddington and again the items other than the routine agenda topics comprised:

- A presentation by 'Chad' Chadwick, the Archdeaconry Youth Missioner on the children and youth work in the diocese. He spoke about intergenerational ministry and the importance of the expression of faith in the home. Statistics show that parents expect the church to develop their child's spirituality. There are very few in the 18 – 25 age group worshipping in the church.
- A talk by Canon Peter White, the Director of Children and Youth. Peter spoke of the Expect internship and the Echo programme. The internship is now an apprenticeship in youth work and ministry. The Church Commissioners' Strategic Development Fund has granted £1.1 million over 6 years to employ 8 youth workers apprentices. The object is to have deanery youth missioners. The challenge will be for deaneries to continue the funding when the SDF money finishes.
- These two, related topics were then followed by a brief question and answer session.
- Between June and December there had been a Diocesan Synod and a brief report was given by Rev. David Walsh. A Eucharist service is held at the beginning of the term of the newly elected Synod. This was followed by elections of the lay and clergy chairpersons. There was no lay chair elected. A question was raised by one of the Deanery Synods as to why all parishes are paying for curates when the placements are elsewhere. Steve Benoy, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands said that 'home grown' curates tend to stay in the diocese. Finally, A Daventry Deanery motion to remove the parish connection from the marriage policy was defeated.

Most people will not see the work that both the clergy and the elected lay members do for the Deanery but there is a great deal that goes on in the background, particularly supporting parishes/benefices that are struggling or are in an interregnum period. The Deanery Synod is a forum where the voice of the laity can be heard, and where points considered significant enough can be taken to the Diocesan Synod for consideration and/or being forwarded to the General Synod.

Peter Jackson

St Botolph's Church

4. St. Botolph's PCC Annual Report 2018

4.1 Terms of Reference

St Botolph's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, Revd Mark Lucas, in promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, promoting the mission of the Church, as well as pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical matters in the Parish.

The PCC also has the responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric and land of the Church, Church House, Rectory Cottage, and the land upon which stood the old Church Rooms.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended. The PCC is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission under number 1130426.

The Church Representation Rules (Rule 9(1)(b)) require "an annual report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally" to be received by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting..

4.2 Objectives, Aims and Achievements

Comments on the Church's objectives, aims and achievements for the year, and plans for the future are set out in the Report of the Churchwardens.

4.3 Membership

Members are elected by the APCM for a period of three years and can also be co-opted by the PCC. The appointment of the PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served on the PCC:

Chairman	Revd Mark Lucas
Ex-Officio members:	
Deanery Synod members:	Dan Baynes Joe Griffiths Maurice Haynes Peter Jackson Adrian Keach Julie Lucas
Churchwardens:	Ken Ansdell Peter Jackson
Associate Minister:	Revd Andy Clark
Reader:	Derek Wade
Other PCC members:	(date for re-election in brackets)
Secretary:	Veronica Loo (2019)
Treasurer:	David Wright (2021)

St Botolph's Church

Deputy wardens: Robert Edwards (2019)
Andrew Saville (2021)

Other members: Louise Adamson (2020)
Robert Cowan (2021)
Kate Curnock (2020)
David Jacobs (2021)
Jem Palmer (2020)
Robert Smith (2020)
Helen Tilney (2021)
Jane Wade (2019)

4.4 Church Attendance

The number of people on the Electoral Roll was 275. The average weekly attendance taken over a four week period in October 2018 was 157 people aged 16 and over, and 34 children aged 15 and under.

4.5 Organisation

The PCC met 6 times during the year with an average attendance of 15 members. Much of the work of the PCC was done through various groups, namely

- Standing Committee
- Fabric Task Group
- Business and Finance Task Group
- Evangelism Task Group (including More Than Gold and Women's Ministry)
- Missions Task Group
- Hanwood Park Task Group
- Health and safety
- 900+ Group set up to prepare for the 900th Anniversary of St Botolph's in 2020

and a variety of working groups, as the need arose.

4.6 Risk Management

Health and safety is the responsibility of the PCC which must review the Safeguarding Policy annually. The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Martin Adamson and the Parish Safety Officer is Robert Edwards.

4.7 Main Objectives of the Year and Major Topics of Discussion

Every PCC meeting includes reports from all of the Committees and Task Groups as well as reports on the Deanery and Diocesan Synod meetings. Topics included the following:

- Adoption of the Safeguarding Policy and Diocesan Safeguarding Audit, training in safeguarding, and compliance with GDPR
- Health and Safety
- Evangelism events, including Christmas events and those in the new village hall
- Church finance
- Church involvement in Hanwood Park and other new housing developments
- Repair of Church House, heating, and security
- Works required by the Quinquennial Report
- Tenancies of the Church House flats and lettings of Church House

St Botolph's Church

- The churchyard and grounds, including the Wellingtonia tree, and re-siting of bins
- Tower re-organisation plans
- Potential use of the former Church Rooms land
- Use of media by the Church
- Use of Microsoft Teams facility for PCC members
- Plans for the 900th Anniversary of St Botolph's
- Proposals for funding a Children and Families Worker

Meetings were chaired by Revd Mark Lucas and commenced with a bible reading and a time of prayer. All items on the agenda were discussed. Every member had the opportunity to express his or her opinion.

4.8 Financial Report

The accounts for the year to 31st December 2018 are included in the papers assembled together for this Annual Report and reference should be made to the Treasurer's "Financial Review" for an appreciation of the Church's financial position.

4.9 The Future

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control. Fresh ideas regarding the exercise of these duties are always welcome, and decisions are made after prayerful consideration. Anyone aged 16 or over and on the Electoral Roll is eligible to stand for nomination as a PCC member and is encouraged to do so.

signed on behalf of the PCC
by Revd Mark Lucas

5. St. Botolph's Accounts 2018

Registered Charity Number 1130426

St Botolph's Church

Barton Seagrave

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st December 2018

Table of Contents

F-1.	Financial Review
F-3	Independent Examiner's Report
F-4	Statement of Financial Activities (Income)
F-5	Statement of Financial Activities (Expenditure)
F-6	Summary Statement of Funds
F-7	Balance Sheet
F-8	Notes to Financial Statements

St Botolph's Church

This page has no content

St Botolph's Church

Financial Review Year ended 31st December 2018

The attached Accounts give information required of the Parochial Church Council by law as good stewards of monies received and paid.

The Financial statements are set out in pages 4-8 of this report.

We have had a challenging year in many ways, as we started the year with a budgeted shortfall of £35,088, which was to be funded from contributions from restricted funds, the general fund and match funded income.

The actual outturn for 2018 shows a surplus of £23,141, this was due to a reduction in expenditure, against the budget, of £35,008 and additional income in year of £6,287

There were several minor variances against budgeted expenditure over the year, but the large saving was in the main due to spend on property repairs being only £1,119 against a budget of £32,300. Whilst this has helped the financial situation for 2018, it only continues to defer the pressure to future years and work budgeted for still needs to be carried out and is becoming more urgent.

Receipts from donors and voluntary receipts saw a slight reduction against budgeted of £2,235. However, this was offset by higher lettings income and fees for weddings and funerals. The rental from the Church flats also increased due to full occupancy and other receipts were boosted by a one-off donation. The net impact of these movements accounted for the additional funding of £6,287.

Expenditure has been generally well controlled throughout the year, and if the cost of property repairs are excluded, are broadly in line with last year's expenditure levels despite areas of increasing cost such as Parish Share. then overall costs are slightly higher than last year with our increased contribution to the Parish Share. What this does mean is that certain budgets set for 2018 aren't being used for the outreach purposes for which they were set.

Whilst we are showing a surplus for 2018 of £23,141 it must be understood that the General fund continues to make a loss and for 2018 this was £7,677. This is because of the total income received in year £31,315 (14%) was classed as either "designated" or "restricted", whereas only £2,557 (1%) of total expenditure for 2018 was classed as either "designated" or "restricted".

The deficit on the General fund rose by 15% in 2018 to £60,256 whereas the "designated" and "restricted" fund balances increased by 12% in 2018 to £293,615.

In reviewing the accounts, other points come to view:

- Planned giving increased against last year's actuals by **£7,027** and were up on the planned budget for 2018 by **£4,059**.
- The income from fees for Weddings and Funerals continued to be in excess of planned budget, but expectations for 2019 are that levels will reduce.
- Major repairs to the Church and Church properties cost **£ 1,119** (2017 £11,617)
- Giving to Missions from unrestricted funds was **£ 20,145** (2017: £20,034)

At the end of 2018 the

- General Fund is in deficit by **£ 60,256** (2017: £52,579) and the
- Staffing Fund is in surplus by **£ 39,943** (2017: £26,952)

St Botolph's Church

NB: These are funded by the remaining funds as detailed on Page 6.

The year ahead sees continuing financial challenges, but the budget set for 2019 looks to balance the in-year costs against the general fund with a planned use of other designated funds. We will continue to apply tighter financial management in the hope that we will be able to bring the Church Finances into balance for 2019 and start to correct the deficit on the general fund. This will require strong financial stewardship, but at the same time ensuring that resources gifted are used a way that will bring glory to God.

It is a constant challenge to be wise stewards of the resources we have and to be bold in the cause of the Gospel. Through the continued development of new homes in our Parish we have opportunities as never before to reach out to our surrounding community.

We pray that God will provide the resources, human and financial in the years ahead.

**“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:
May we bring Glory to God in all we do, day by day, week by week.**

*David Wright (Treasurer)
21st February 2019*

St Botolph's Church

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees (PCC) of St. Botolph's Church, Barton Seagrave

This report on the Financial Statements of St Botolph's Church for the year ended 31 December 2018, which are set out on pages 1 to 7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43 (2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishop's council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act: and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met: or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Alan Deans
Kettering
Northants

5 March 2019

St Botolph's Church

Statement of Financial Affairs (Income)

Year Ended 31st December 2018

	Actual 2017	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2018	Budget for 2019			
					Restricted	Unrestricted	General	Total
Incoming Resources								
Receipts from donors								
Planned Giving (Bankers Orders)	111,960	13,750	107,238	120,988	13,752	24,000	84,248	122,000
Planned Giving (FWO)	10,931	922	8,823	9,745	921	0	9,079	10,000
Other Planned Giving (Tax Efficient)	470	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
Planned Giving (Non Gift-Aid)	1,271	216	710	926	216	0	834	1,050
Collections at Services	5,903	-	6,161	6,161	0	0	6,500	6,500
Non-Recurring/ Non Gift-Aided Income	5,464	-	80	80	0	0	0	0
Non-Recurring/ Gift Aided	1,399	-	5,422	5,422	0	0	5,500	5,500
Gift Day	3,860	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	33,591	3,050	30,550	33,601	3,050	0	31,950	35,000
	174,850	17,938	158,984	176,922	17,939	24,000	138,111	180,050
Other voluntary receipts								
Legacies	5,000	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
Warkton Contribution	655	-	634	634	0	0	850	850
One off Grants	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
Income - Rectory Walk	3,840	3,209	-	3,209	4,600	0	0	4,600
	9,495	3,209	634	3,843	4,600	0	850	5,450
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects								
Fees for weddings & funerals	9,614	-	8,109	8,109	0	0	8,500	8,500
Coffee Monies	846	229	407	636	410	0	340	750
Bookstall sales	605	-	670	670	0	0	700	700
Ch hall lettings PCC objects	9,687	-	10,658	10,658	0	0	11,000	11,000
	20,752	229	19,844	20,073	410	0	20,540	20,950
Income from investments								
Bank & building soc interest	322	-	427	427	0	0	450	450
Rent Church House Flats	10,065	-	9,942	9,942	0	0	10,000	10,000
Rectory Cottage	10,017	10,100	-	10,100	5,100	5,000	0	10,100
	20,403	10,100	10,369	20,469	5,100	5,000	10,450	20,550
Other receipts								
Other Funds Generated	0	-	10,269	10,269	0	0	5,000	5,000
Parish weekend	3,380	-	2,918	2,918	0	0	3,200	3,200
Holiday Club - income	44	-	-	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Events and Activities Income	5,311	-	2,726	2,726	0	0	3,200	3,200
Misc Income	2,949	2,396	2,244	4,640	0	0	2,500	2,500
	11,684	2,396	18,157	20,552	0	0	14,900	14,900
Total Income	237,184	33,871	207,988	241,859	28,049	29,000	184,851	241,900

St Botolph's Church

Statement of Financial Affairs (Expenditure) Year Ended 31st December 2018

	Actual 2017	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2018	Budget for 2019			
					Restricted	Unrestricted	General	Total
Fund raisers - expenses	0	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Missions	23,139	36	20,109	20,145	-	24,000	-	24,000
Activities relating to the work of the Church								
Honoraria and Bursary	1,050	-	900	900	-	-	860	860
Staff Expenses	7,358	-	7,457	7,457	-	-	4,500	4,500
Youth and Children's work	3,415	-	3,663	3,663	-	4,500	-	4,500
Outreach Expenses	3,222	-	1,535	1,535	-	-	7,500	7,500
Womens Evangelism	0	-	-	0	-	-	250	250
Upkeep of services	774	-	621	621	-	-	700	700
Audio, Powerpoint & Music	756	-	1,153	1,153	-	-	1,000	1,000
Church House Running Costs	12,184	-	11,708	11,708	5,000	-	10,900	15,900
Fees for Weddings & Funerals	5,368	-	3,759	3,759	-	-	4,250	4,250
Bookstall purchases	1,059	-	847	847	-	-	750	750
Parish weekend expenditure	2,327	-	2,334	2,334	-	-	3,000	3,000
	37,513	-	33,976	33,976	5,000	4,500	33,710	43,210
Church management and administration								
Office Salaries	13,139	-	13,680	13,680	-	-	15,312	15,312
Church Running Costs	8,264	-	6,538	6,538	7,000	-	5,900	12,900
Office and Admin Costs	10,291	3,017	10,784	13,801	-	-	14,200	14,200
Council Tax Flat 1	0	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Property Repairs	11,617	-	1,119	1,119	35,910	41,900	-	77,810
	43,311	3,017	32,121	35,138	42,910	41,900	35,412	120,222
Parish share	124,760	-	129,458	129,458	5,000	13,477	115,729	134,206
Total Payments	228,723	3,053	215,665	218,718	52,910	83,877	184,851	321,638
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	8,461	30,818	- 7,677	23,141	- 24,861	- 54,877	-	- 79,738
Total Funds Brought Forward	201,757	-	-	210,218	106,116	187,499	- 60,256	233,359
Total Funds Carried Forward	£ 210,218	£ 30,818	-£ 7,677	£ 233,359	£ 81,255	£ 132,622	-£ 60,256	£ 153,621

St Botolph's Church

Funds Movement Summary

Year Ended 31st December 2018

		Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Carried Forward
Restricted Funds					
Apprentice	Apprentice Fund	4,000	0	0	4,000
Pensions	Pension Fund	1,312	0	0	1,312
Bell	Bells and Belfry Fund	- 101	0	0	-101
Choirfees	Choir Fees Fund	606	0	497	110
Makeplay	Make and Play Fund	546	1,946	1,493	1,000
Organ	Organ Fund	126	0	0	126
Potters	Potters Place Fund	785	0	0	785
Share	Shareplan Fund	556	885	36	1,405
Propres	Property (restricted) fund	39,545	17,032	0	56,577
Staff	Staffing Fund	26,952	12,991	0	39,943
Welfare	Fellowship Fund	960	0	0	960
		£ 75,288	£ 32,854	£ 2,026	£ 106,116
Designated and Unrestricted Funds					
General	General fund	- 52,579	207,988	215,665	-60,256
Soup and Sandwich Lunch	Pilgrims Fund	305	349	0	654
Prophold	Property Holding Fund	72,695	440	0	73,134
Coffeeshop	Coffee Shop Fund	707	229	548	387
RectWDes	Rectory Walk Designated Fund	78,812	0	0	78,812
Sarajevo	Sarajevo Fund	1,800	0	479	1,321
Wolf	Michael Wolf Legacy Fund	31,589	0	0	31,589
Youth	Youth and Children's Projects	1,601	0	0	1,601
		£ 134,930	£ 209,005	£ 216,692	£ 127,243
	Total Funds	£ 210,218	£ 241,859	£ 218,718	£ 233,359

St Botolph's Church

Balance Sheet

Year Ended 31st December 2018

		Year	Year
		31/12/2017	31/12/2018
Fixed assets			
Fixed assets	Church House / Rectory Cottage	135,000	135,000
Fixed assets	Buildings depreciation	- 62,760	- 62,760
		£ 72,240	£ 72,240
Current assets			
	Alliance & Leics Current Acc.	33,245	44,649
	Alliance & Leics Instant Res.	15,765	28,668
	Internal Orgs Bank Acs	1,447	1,154
	Central Board of Finance	100,000	100,000
	Cash in hand	107	110
	Accounts Receivable	5,666	3,459
		£ 156,230	£ 178,039
Liabilities			
	Agency Collections	5,015	4,646
	Accounts Payable	13,238	12,274
		£ 18,253	£ 16,920
Net Assets		£ 210,218	£ 233,359
Held in Funds as Follows:			
Restricted Funds			
	Apprentice Fund	4,000	4,000
	Pension Fund	1,312	1,312
	Bells and Belfry Fund	- 101	-101
	Choir Fees Fund	606	110
	Make and Play Fund	546	1,000
	Organ Fund	126	126
	Potters Place Fund	785	785
	Shareplan Fund	556	1,405
	Property (restricted) fund	39,545	56,577
	Staffing Fund	26,952	39,943
	Fellowship Fund	960	960
		£ 75,288	£ 106,116
Designated and Unrestricted Funds			
	General fund	-52,579	-60,256
	Soup and Sandwich Lunch	305	654
	Property Holding Fund	72,695	73,134
	Coffee Shop Fund	707	387
	Rectory Walk Designated Fund	78,812	78,812
	Sarajevo Fund	1,800	1,321
	Michael Wolf Legacy Fund	31,589	31,589
	Youth and Children's Projects	1,601	1,601
		£ 134,930	£ 127,243
	Total Funds	£ 210,218	£ 233,359

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 4th March 2019 and signed on it's behalf by Revd. Mark Lucas (PCC Chairman)

Notes to the Financial Statements
Year ended 31st December 2018

1. Accounting Policies

- a) The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2015. The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, using the accruals basis.
- b) Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restriction regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.
- c) Restricted Funds represent funds of the PCC which can only be used for specific purposes.
- d) Income Tax recoverable under Gift Aid is not recognised until received.
- e) The Freehold Property in use by the Church is based on a historical valuation less depreciation.

2. Fixed Assets comprise 2 Freehold properties:

- Church House
- Rectory Cottage.

The Book value of these properties does not reflect current market value.

The Property Holding Fund finances both properties.

3. Employees

- a) The average number of employees in the year was 2 (2017: 2)
- b) The total remuneration of employees amounted to **£16,222** (2017: £15,635).

4. Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Mr. Alan Deans, received no fees for his services, but a donation was given to a The Railway Children fund of £60.

5. Parish Share

2018 2017

Full amount paid: **£129,458** £124,760

6. Honoraria:

The Treasurer, Mr David Wright received **£500**. (2017 £500).

The Musical Director, Mt Graham Tilney received **£300** (2017: £300)

Donation for Audit services **£60** (2017: £50) and Gift for Music Services **£40** (2017: Nil)

6. Churchwardens' Report 2018

**“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”
Luke 12 v 48**

After another busy year in the life of the Church in 2018, and we are thankful to the Lord for His continued guidance to our clergy and congregation. We have continued to benefit from clear Bible based teaching each week from our clergy and lay preachers, as well as excellent worship led by our talented musicians.

We have had the continuation of various Church based Outreach activities with special emphasis on work with senior members of the congregation with Firm Foundations, a more study related meeting, Potters Place (now renamed Cornerstone) and Soup & Sandwich events. The ever-popular Children's Holiday Club was run as a 3 day event as an experiment in the Easter holidays, and was a success despite being of shorter duration and at a very different time of year to previous arrangements. It has been decided to repeat the format at Easter this year.

The Churchwardens, Peter and Ken, together with the Deputies Bob, Andrew, and former Warden Adrian have met regularly with the Rector to consider issues that affect us all in our church life. Along with the members of the PCC we try to reflect everyone's views in the ways that the Church and Services are run, so please approach anyone of us with your comments and we will try our best to provide a solution and answer. The Churchwardens of St Botolph's and St Edmunds now meet together with the Rector on a regular scheduled basis. It is hoped that by closer coordination we can reduce the communication problems that inevitably occur, even though our Church buildings are only 2 miles apart.

The 2018 annual parish weekend again proved a success, with a good attendance on both days where we enjoyed good teaching and worship. There are many people who deserve our thanks for providing the music, leading sessions and of course the catering refreshments. The Hog Roast again provided a tasty highlight followed by impromptu entertainment down by the bonfire. Our special thanks to Bob and Judith for being key figures in organising this event, and to Matt and Carly Simper, Tina Noble and Janine, who provided the children's programme.

The Churchwardens can and do sit in on many of the meetings held by the various task groups and, whilst reports from these groups have been included separately, it is worth highlighting a few key points relating to the running and upkeep of our church and its buildings.

- The Finance Group has a responsibility to set a balanced budget, and has done so in some previous years by including a provisional amount within its income forecast for receipts from a "Gift Day". However we did not repeat this appeal in 2018 as there has been long discussion and deliberation about trying to employ a Families worker, which will require a specific appeal to the Church membership in 2019.
- We greatly miss the availability of Graham Bell to chair our Finance Task Group, and pray for a full recovery for him, and for Claire and the family.

St Botolph's Church

- We have tried to reduce/control our costs where possible by arranging a new fixed price contract for our Gas supplies, and also having to replace our electricity supplier when the current supplier went out of business.

However some costs have increased beyond our control, and so we continue to save money where possible by using volunteer help and skills to, where possible, carry out repairs, etc, ourselves. ***If you have any DIY skills***, please feel free to lend a hand at work parties or on occasions when a repair fix is obviously needed.

- Several major repair jobs have had to be delayed due to ill health or availability of some of our stalwart helpers, so the planned replacement of the Fellowship room windows and completion of the Church House Hallway floor have been deferred to 2019, with consequent effects on the budgeted spend in 2018. Our Treasurer's report can explain this, though it means that we still have significant sums to find and spend in 2019.
- We are still awaiting a decision on felling the dangerous Wellingtonia tree in Church House garden, but the bureaucracy of Kettering Borough Council and other Authorities has to be experienced to believe it.
- Fabric Group still meets regularly to ensure that our buildings and grounds are looked after. The work of the Fabric group over the last year can be found in a separate report but it is appropriate to note some key things that have happened or are about to happen within the church buildings
 1. The Church Architect has produced some alternative options to meet the PCC's brief of what to do with the Tower area. These have been prepared for discussion at PCC, though not yet given adequate time for approval due to other pressing matters. However, the architect has also forwarded the suggestions to the Diocese for initial comments and we understand that the initial proposals have been well received. Therefore, in order to try and reduce design time still further, the architect has been requested to draw up the proposals in more detail so that formal approval for the anticipated works can be obtained. Such approval would be sought in the format of phasing the works to enable them do be undertaken as and when appropriate.
 2. New heating controls in Church have proved successful, and it is hoped that a similar system in Church house can be devised to reduce wasteful heating when controls are inadvertently left on.
 3. New motion sensitive LED lights have been installed in the Church House toilets, again to reduce waste of electricity when left on by mistake.
 4. It would be good if all members of the congregation were to try more to use our buildings as if they were their own homes, especially with regard to switching off lights, turning down thermostats and closing and locking doors and window shutters when leaving the buildings.

With continuing constraints on our Finances, the Wardens and Deputy Wardens would jointly like to thank all who have helped in the past with such practical offers of help in Garden clearance, and warmly welcome such help in the future, when needs arise.

We again wish to thank members of the congregation who regularly serve as Sides persons, in Catering, Cleaning, and roles handling money, organising rotas, etc, as well as the other tasks which are necessary to keep the activities of the Fellowship happening.

St Botolph's Church

From reading the church group reports, you will gather that running St Botolph's is a 7 days a week operation. Many folk are involved in its various aspects, paddling furiously while trying to appear serene as swans. It is always good to have new people join those "paddling" so that new ideas and concepts can be brought to the table. Therefore, if you feel touched by the Lord in wanting to offer to help in any small way, please do not hesitate to step forward and ask. We all need to paddle, and not just be passengers.

We have been given much in our salvation from sin, Jesus expects much in grateful return.

Church Wardens Ken Ansdell & Peter Jackson

7. Finance Group Report 2018

At the start of the year the finance group was led by Graham Bell. Unfortunately, Graham was taken ill during the year and, as many of you will know, his illness is serious and long term. We pray for his recovery and, by God's mercy, look forward to his return to us.

The details of the finances for St Botolph's church are contained in section 5 "St Botolph's Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018" of this report.

The report shows that the church has ended the year with a surplus of £23,141, however, we need to bear in mind that this is due, in no small part, to the number of property repairs that have again been deferred and must still be completed. The need to complete these repairs is reflected in the budget for 2019. We have a duty to maintain all the buildings in our care and we must be able to fund current and future repairs.

We must also recognise that, whilst the accounts show a surplus, the deficit on the general fund continues to increase. This is because, of the total income received in the year £31,315 (14%), was classed as either designated or restricted, whereas only £2,557 (1%) of total expenditure for 2018 was from designated or restricted funds. The general fund deficit increased by 15% in 2018 to £60,256, whereas the designated and restricted fund surplus balances increased by 12% in 2018 to £293,615.

For several years, despite building works being deferred to manage overspending, we have ended the year showing a deficit of income over expenditure. The finance group has, at the end of each year shown the position to the PCC and to the APCM within its annual report, and advised that the deficit can be covered from reserves.

However, the continued increase in the deficit on the general fund cannot be allowed to continue, in part because it is now becoming more urgent to undertake much of the building work that has been deferred over the years. Therefore, in setting the budget for 2019 the finance group has begun to take steps to ensure that expenditure is accurately allocated to the appropriate fund, and thereby release the pressure on the general fund. In order to commence this process, it is necessary to transfer funds from some of the appropriate reserves to cover expenditure already incurred, and allocate it to the general fund.

For example, it was necessary a few years ago to re-roof Rectory Cottage at a cost of around £8,000. This expenditure was allocated to the general fund initially, but should in fact have been allocated to the property fund. It is proposed that we now rectify this position by reallocating funds from the property fund to the general fund to cover this cost previously incurred.

The Finance Group has reviewed the accounts and identified some expenditure previously allocated to the general fund that should instead have been drawn down from reserves. This is sufficient to enable us to begin the 2019 financial year with a zero opening balance on the general fund. The proposed transfers do still maintain enough funds to enable us to precede with the urgent building works and also leave a healthy balance within the reserves. Please be assured that this is all legitimate book keeping and no money is being removed from the system, nor is restricted money being spent outside its stated purpose.

St Botolph's Church

I apologise if this all sounds a bit negative, especially when, as a Church, we are blessed with the many talents and gifts that are freely given by the congregation at St Botolph's. However, in order to make sure that, as good stewards we make the best use of the resources we have, we need to ensure that all the funds available to us are being used for their intended purpose, and within the set financial constraints.

The Finance Group is now working with new software to manage our accounts. We intend to complete a full overhaul of our recording system to ensure all items are posted correctly on entry. In this way we anticipate that such retrospective adjustments will not be required in the future.

8. Annual Fabric Report 2018

The Church remains blessed to have the buildings to use, to enable worship and serve God. Due to their age, they inevitably require a lot of regular maintenance and repairs, in addition to any improvements to the fabric to meet future needs. The minimisation of cost is always a priority where possible, by undertaking work ourselves and to this end a grateful thanks to all in the church who have given of their time and offered their skills this year. It is much valued and appreciated. Also, thanks to the members of the Fabric Task Group for their hard work over the year.

A special note of thanks to Graham Farrier, who stood down as chair at the last APCM, for all his hard work whilst a member of the group and as chair.

In the year the task group welcomed Tim Acland. He has already proved to be a valuable member in taking on the task of organising a contractor to service and maintain the boilers in the church and church house. He also has taken on the task to organise a survey of church house heating in an attempt to identify a more economic and efficient system.

A number of tasks have been embarked upon but are subject to approval by the relevant authority, whether this be listed building consent, a faculty or a tree preservation order.

Completion of the access through the hallway of Church House to the Fellowship Room still awaits formal approval to install a permanent floor. However, the temporary floor laid last summer can remain for as long as required but plans are to be submitted to KBC.

The Church Architect has been engaged to manage the appointment of a contractor to carry out the Quinquennial Work on the church building. He has identified a number of elements of work that need to be undertaken. Most are minor, including repairs to stonework, repointing, lead flashing, and roof repairs. These are typical of a church of this age. This will form part of the program of works for the coming year.

The wellingtonia in Church House gardens continues to drop branches. KBC have refused to allow the tree to be removed so an appeal was sent to the Environment Appeals Team. A decision is awaited.

The DAC has been sent a list of proposals for the tower area, and their comments are awaited, as follows:

- The removal of the existing fittings in the vestry area (but retaining the existing Jacobean screen as part of a new partition with some necessary alterations being made.
- The inclusion of a new wheelchair toilet facility in the current vestry space.
- The forming of a new refreshment making facility in the area where the old organ was located together with new cupboards.
- The removal of any pews still retained in the church which will then be adapted to form "frontals" for any kitchen units where the back of the unit may be seen and also timber worktops being formed from the seats of the pews.
- A new fully glazed screen to be inserted between the side chapel and the tower area. This would contain as little framing as possible so as to appear totally open.

St Botolph's Church

- The reordering of the seating within the Chancel and Naves along the lines of the revised seating plan previously seen by the PCC.

These proposals are subject to DAC and congregation/PCC approval and funding. The desire is to get the key element completed in readiness for 900+ (the Church anniversary year in 2020).

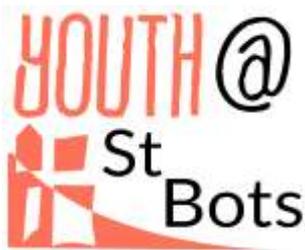
The area for the bin store within the kitchen garden of Church House has been cleared and work to hard pave the area will be carried out in the coming year.

Other work has included

- continuing to undertake maintenance within the churchyard,
- clearing the land of the former church room, and deciding how to use and manage this land in the future,
- continued maintenance of Church House and Rectory Cottage, undertaking a room usage appraisal in Church House

Fabric Group

9. Children's & Youth Ministry 2018



St Bots Children's & Youth Ministry
aims to be Good News for Children
and Young people
(in Barton Seagrave & beyond)



We want...

- to help children and young people:
 - o come to know and love Jesus as Saviour & Lord
 - o grow to maturity in their faith
 - o become active, serving members of the church
- to equip children and young people to:
 - o be lifelong followers of Jesus
 - o effectively share their faith with their friends and family
 - o live 'in the world' but not be 'of the world'
- In all these things to work in partnership with parents and carers
- the children's and youth ministry groups to be the highlight of the young people's week

God has been faithful in the children's and youth ministry over the past year and we are thankful to him for the children and young people we have the privilege of serving each week and for all the leaders & helpers who so faithfully serve among them. We recognise that most people who make a commitment to Jesus do so before the age of 18 so this ministry is strategically vital. In serving our children and young people well and faithfully we are investing for eternity.

9.1 Make & Play

Make & Play is our Tuesday morning group for preschool children and babies and their parents, grandparents or carers.

All of us involved in make and play would like to thank Helen Clayton for her marvellous leadership over the past few years. Her enthusiasm and endless mine of ideas are sorely missed by all. We are

St Botolph's Church

doing our best to carry on her valuable work however our great team could do with some new members both behind the scene and upfront or to help with refreshments.

Make and play continues to be a major outreach for the Church. Over 2017/18 we averaged 57 people, mostly from outside the Church family, each week. We sing songs, tell Bible stories, have prayer time and do Bible related craft.

Please pray for us and consider joining our happy team. For further details please ask any of us.

Jean Rouse, Barbara Bashford, Liz Harper, Fay Rowland, Kim Phan, Pippa Evans, Brenda King, Diana Griffiths

9.2 JAM Club (0-11 years)

We continue to thank God for the children who come along to JAM Club. Currently there are three groups on a Sunday Morning. Creche (0-3 years old), Bubbles (3 years old - school year 1) and Extreme (school years 2-6).

We have great leaders who help to run these groups. We are very grateful for all they do to help our children get to know Jesus better.

9.3 Crèche

It's been a busy year at St Botolph's Crèche and we welcome a number of new families that have recently joined us. It is both a joy and privilege serving God by supporting our young families and we hope our welcoming ethos of love and care helps lay a foundation for their faith and trust in God. We introduce Jesus to our little ones through short bible stories, songs and short prayers and hope to encourage their grow in Christ. We believe in the importance of nurturing the Christian faith right from the early stages of life. I am thankful for the provision of a good team volunteers that support this ministry.

Helen Laughton

9.4 Bubbles

It has been another glorious year for the Bubbles team, getting to know the children and their families has been a real blessing. We have enjoyed many Bible stories starting off the year with creation, Isaac, Jacob and Esau as well as many other Old Testament characters. We have since moved on to the amazing things Jesus did and how he is with us today.

In the summer a number of our children moved up to Extreme and our numbers dropped significantly however in recent weeks we have grown and we now have around 7 children who regularly attend and looking at crèche we have many more to welcome in the future!

We would like to pay special thanks to Tina Noble who was the inspirational and devoted leader of Bubbles for many years. Tina worked tirelessly for the team, encouraging and supporting both helpers and children. We miss her very much but pray she will continue to feel part of the Bubbles family.

If anyone would like to know more about what we do, please speak to Pippa, Helen or any of the Bubbles team.

Pippa Evans & Helen Tilney

9.5 Extreme

The Extreme group continues to thrive. We would normally have between 10 and 15 children coming each week. We have wide age range in the group, but the children are brilliant at working together and helping each other. The children are very enthusiastic and most have a good knowledge of the bible

St Botolph's Church

and a developing faith. As a group we are continuing to use the Click resources from the Good Book Company. The material gives a good coverage of learning between the Old and New Testament, and a lovely variety of activities for the children, from drama, to quizzes, to craft activities, and games. Every session is based around a bible passage and the children enjoy opening their bibles and reading the passage, discussing the meaning and then responding to the message, both through their activities and through prayer.

Nicola Farrier



The name 'Eighty' comes from Mark 1:15 which is the first thing Jesus says in Marks Gospel. He calls us to repentance which can be described as 'doing a 180'. Eighty is a lovely group of young people who meet on Sunday mornings during the 9:15am service and on Thursday evenings. (School years 7-9)

Since September we have seen really good growth in numbers on Thursday evenings with some of our younger members inviting friends who in turn invited their friends. This has been really exciting to see and we pray that these new members would continue to come and see who Jesus is for themselves. Over the last year we have Thought about 'the beginning and the End' topping and tailing the bible. Also we have looked at the Brave Queen Esther, thought about the 'Best Present Ever' and how the first church was given 'Mission Impossible' in the book of Acts.

There is always an excited buzz at Eighty and they certainly seem to have plenty of energy and enthusiasm. On Thursday evenings we play crazy games (NERF and hide and seek in the dark are particular favourites!), eat tuck but most of all have fun learning what God has to teach us from the Bible. There is time for discussion, chance to ask questions and really get to grips with getting to know God better. As a group Eighty seem to enjoy meeting together. Ask a Eighty member if you want to know more!

Eighty on Sunday mornings has been continuing to work really well this year. The numbers can vary greatly week by week but toast, Hot chocolate and any other food seems to be a great incentive. The advantage of a smaller group is that it gives more space for discussion. Those who come on Sunday mornings seem to be really grappling with their faith which is encouraging to see.

I am so grateful that we have a great team of leaders who serve faithfully and work so hard each week.



Link meets each Wednesday evening during term time. (School years 10-13)

We are a small but happy group. We spend time each week hanging out, getting to know each other better and the young people seem to enjoy spending time together. More importantly we spend time growing to know God better through his word. This year we have thought about 'God's love story' from Hosea and 1 John, 'The future Now' from Philippians and what it means to have meaning to life in Ecclesiastes.

Over the last year we have also enjoyed our yearly trip to the 'Sorted' conference in London, bonfire and fireworks, our famous Link Christmas Meal and a great weekend away at Gaines Christian Youth Centre which included kayaking, a murder mystery and combat archery.

We would love to see the group grow in number but also for the young people to grow in their faith and own it for themselves and take seriously what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We long to see the young people moving on at the end of their time with us at Link keep living for Jesus at Uni or in the workplace.

St Botolph's Church

We give thanks for the small but committed team of leaders who serve our young people so faithfully.

Schools

We have had a growing number of opportunities in schools over the last year. Andy takes regular assemblies at Hayfield Cross school. Both Mark and Andy have also been able to take assemblies and a few lessons in Barton school. Andy also had an opportunities to take an assembly at Isebrook SEN for the first time and has also taken occasional assemblies in Isham school.

We also have had a few visits to the Church building over the year from various schools as part of their curriculum learning. These are always great fun and a good opportunity for further contact.

Opportunities for regular assemblies have continued at Bishop school. Andy has continued his more formal role mentoring the chaplain, and helping to advise the senior management on the spiritual aspect of school life. There are a number of active groups of Christian young people meeting to pray and look at the bible together each week during lunchtimes which is very exciting to see.

This Christmas we were very excited to be approached by Latimer school and asked if we could host and lead some carol services for their year 7 & 8 students. This was a great opportunity and seemed to be well received. We now need to pray for further opportunities.

We would love to further develop and make the most of our links with schools as they offer great opportunities for the gospel.



Eighteen30s is a prayer and Bible study group for millennials (ages 18 to late thirties). Meeting on Mondays, in our own homes, with a meal.

This year we finished our in-depth study on the book of Revelation. In the past 3 months we have been reading through Ecclesiastes. At present we are unsure what is next for the group.

We are delighted to welcome more babies within the group; Some of our couples are having children and are admirably keen to keep praying and studying with Eighteen30's.

While we have met a number of new people in the past year, we have still been unable to meet at a time which is sufficient for everybody to meet together. We remain thankful for all of good christian people we have met, and we continue to pray for them. As always, we look forward to seeing that more people join us, so that we can build up and encourage one another in this generation.

David McClatchey
Andy Clark (Associate Minister)

10. Safeguarding Report 2018

Safeguarding practice continues to develop at national and local level. A new online training programme is available on the diocese website

<https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/training/training>

and we are encouraging as many church members as possible to complete the Basic Awareness module (C0). PCC members and leaders of any aspect of our young people/children's work are now required to complete the second unit (C1).

St Botolph's Church

All those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults are required to undertake a DBS check. We have applied for over 30 checks this year as we keep our records up-to-date and introduce new people to our team.

However, all the checks and paperwork are no good without the continued vigilance and commitment to best practice. Above all, we continue to pray that in all things God will guide us and ensure that the children and young people in our care remain safe.

Thanks to everyone for their cooperation and support.

Martin Adamson.

11. Missions Task Group Report 2018

The Missions Task Group has the role of supporting and encouraging St Botolph's mission partners, of raising within the fellowship the profile of overseas and UK missions and of distributing the money allocated to it by the PCC in as fair and honourable a way as possible. During 2018, this role was continued.

The Missions budget has for many years been divided into 6 "pots". One of these pots has been designated for each of Crosslinks {work in Africa}, Overseas Missionary Fellowship International (OMF) {work in the Far East}, Transform Europe Now (TEN) {work in Central and Eastern Europe}, Church's Ministry among Jewish People (CMJ) {work in Israel} and a fifth pot divided equally between Scripture Union (SU) {work in England and Wales} and Rock UK, Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough {work in UK, but especially locally}.

"Pot 6", which is a little larger than the other five pots, is set aside for smaller and one-off donations, and for the sponsorship of people from St Botolph's who are undertaking ministry training of one sort or another. In 2018, Pot 6 was used to support Joe Noble (Gaines Centre), Derek and Jane Waller (CMS, Madagascar), Jovana Hadzic (Sarajevo University, reading Psychology, prior to training as a Christian Counsellor). In addition, one-off gifts were sent to Paul Fitzpatrick (former member of St Botolph's, now training for the Anglican Ministry), Christian Institute, Release International and CAP.

Links with our mission partners were maintained – Andrew and Sarah Perrett (OMF), Slavko Hadzic (TEN), Pedro and Annu Santos (CMJ), Terry Clutterham (SU), Richard Sewell (Rock UK) and Nerena Neathercoat (Crosslinks).

During 2018, St Botolph's had a visit from Slavko Hadzic (Bosnia & Herzegovina) and Richard Sewell gave a presentation about the work of Rock UK.

The Missionary SharePlan 2018 was designated for our Rock UK partner, Richard Sewell. As a result of the generosity of the SharePlan supporters, we were able to make a love-gift of £885.25 to him, for use on a Rock UK project close to his heart.

Once again the St Botolph's Fellowship excelled itself in its support for TEN's Harvest for the Hungry project, and sent a magnificent £4528.50 to TEN to help their partners provide desperately needed food parcels for destitute families.

The Missions Task Group thanks the PCC and the St Botolph's Fellowship for their willing support of the work with overseas and home missions.

Derek Wade

12. Evangelism Report 2018

The Evangelism group has continued to meet regularly spending a lot of time in prayer and discussion, about how to reach out into our community and village. We had the pleasure of Tony Johnson leading one meeting, towards the end of 2018. We had all been inspired and encouraged to read ‘The Art of Neighbouring’ by Jay Patak & Dave Runyon (and I encourage you to go onto Amazon and get a 2nd hand copy – the content is simply brilliant, accessible and easy to action!) It looks at practical ways how we can each fulfil the Scripture instructing us to ‘Love our neighbour’, to ‘be salt and light’, and to ‘go and preach the gospel’. The group is considering how to communicate the ideas and suggestions within the book with the whole church family.

The active sub committees of the Evangelism taskgroup, which include More than Gold and both a Ladies and Mens’ Evangelism group, have been busy putting on events and breakfasts, including the brilliant sports quiz evening in October, and the ladies’ Christmas craft event, which sold out within 48 hours, I believe, with guest speaker Eleanor Jeynes coming from Christ the King.

A smaller scale kids’ Christmas craft event was held in the Barton Seagrave Village Hall (BSVH), where Mark presented a Christmas message in the main hall, housing the craft fair.

The evangelism group is keen to increase contact with the Village Hall. We have booked 20th April for an Easter event, with a view to a regular monthly Saturday event/seekers ‘service’, to engage with those who may not feel able to step through the church doors yet, but with a view to bringing them into a relationship with Jesus and into our church family.

As I write this report, planning is still very much in progress. We desire this to be a shared vision at St Botolph’s, with our church family closely involved with the prayer and preparation.

All prayer is part of evangelism. This included a week of prayer in May 2018, when the church was brilliantly transformed into several creative and engaging prayer stations for the ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ initiative, praying for our community to come to know Jesus.

We pray and wait with expectation this year...(1 John 5:14)

Victoria Hutchinson

13. More than Gold Report 2018

‘More Than Gold’, a sub-group of the Evangelism Core Group, has tried over the last seven years to develop the area of sports ministry at St Botolph’s. A shared interest in sport can be a great way to form and develop friendships, hopefully at some point leading to opportunities to share our faith.

We have continued to organise opportunities for church members to invite non-church friends, neighbours and work colleagues to sporting events. But we have also looked at ways we can support church members who are participating in sports clubs and activities, from Abseiling to Zumba classes, and from Park Run to parking themselves in front of the TV during the Six Nations, to be ‘salt and light’ in the world and not miss opportunities to share their faith. If you fit into this category (and a huge number of you do, because the statistics tell us so!), please be encouraged to share what you do in the sporting arena, with a member of the MTG team, so we can pray for you and/or with you. There may be someone in your table tennis club who you want to share your faith with but you don’t know where to start. There may be someone in your football team who knows you are a Christian and can’t help having a dig every now and then, and you’re not sure how to respond. Perhaps you’ve never thought about your sporting interest as your mission field before and would love some ideas on how to get started. And, we’d love to hear from you if you have examples of how God has already used you to share something of Him, on your own sporting ‘frontline’.

St Botolph's Church

2018 saw three main events organised by the MTG team. Our sixth sports quiz was held at Wicksteed Park in October, again presented by Christians in Sport and attended by many non-church guests. Also in October, we took a coach load to Twickenham to watch Northampton Saints take on (and lose to!) Leicester Tigers. This followed a similar trip to rugby headquarters in April to see Bath take on (and lose to!!) the Tigers. Many of you took the opportunity to invite non-church friends and colleagues to enjoy some top-class sport together, and in doing so have encouraged us to continue to organise further excursions in the future.

We are very excited to be welcoming ex-Premier League footballer, Linvoy Primus, MBE, in May, to share his football memories and the story of how his life was transformed, following his journey to faith in Jesus. As a church, we have been working to develop relationships with the new Barton Seagrave Village Hall and we are delighted that they have allowed us to host this event there. Wouldn't it be amazing to have a capacity crowd (around 200), with you and the friends and colleagues you want to share your faith with, enjoying a spectacular and memorable evening together.

Finally, you will notice from the list of names below that we could definitely benefit from redressing the gender imbalance of MTG, especially since Heather has left us. So, if you would like to be a part of the church's sports ministry team, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you. More Than Gold is for everyone involved in sport – it is not a men's group!

Please contact any of the More Than Gold team with ideas, prayer requests or for further information regarding any of the above:

Martin Adamson, Jon Burrows, Andy Clark, Bob Edwards, Chris Hutchinson, David Jacobs, Nick Johnson, Jem Palmer & David Wright.

14. Lay Pastoral Ministers' Report 2018

As a Lay Pastoral Minister, I support the provision of pastoral care under the direction of the Rector. Pastoral care is provided by many teams and individuals across the church family, through home groups, youth and children's work, visiting, and a wide range of events to bring people together to provide friendship, support and spiritual encouragement. These events include Coffee Shop, Cornerstone, Soup and Sandwich, Firm Foundations, Knit and Natter and Afternoon Tea Services.

I attend the Monday staff meeting with the clergy to pray for the wider ministry of St Botolph's, the week ahead and church family members in any kind of need. During a typical week I will go on to visit people in their home or in hospital, lead the Women's Bible Study Group on a Wednesday, contact families about baptism as and when required and be available for the prayer ministry rota on a Sunday evening. Twice a month I help to run a Knit and Natter group in Church House. Once a year, the staff team have an 'away day' at Launde Abbey to give space to listen to God, discern His way forwards and pray for one another. We have enjoyed the encouragement of Wallace Benn and Robert Bashford on these occasions. In September 2018, I was relicensed by the Bishop at Peterborough Cathedral to continue in this role for the next five years. This included a day of workshops and teaching on aspects of pastoral care and an opportunity to meet up with LPMs working in other parishes. Each year, the Diocese also provides other training events for people in lay ministry.

13.1 Visiting team

Currently, the visiting team has four members: Alice Spence, Nancy Williams, Gloria Smith and Kate Curnock. We aim to keep in contact with members of the church family who are ill or no longer able to get to church services. We are grateful to other members of the church family who visit and support people regularly, provide lifts and keep us updated about particular needs. Please contact one of us if you know of someone who would appreciate a visit.

St Botolph's Church

13.2 Baptism Preparation

I have visited a number of families to prepare them for baptisms at St Botolph's and St Edmund's. This involves presenting the gospel message, exploring the meaning of baptism and helping parents to understand the significance of the commitment they make on behalf of their child. It is an opportunity for some to hear about Jesus directly from the Bible for the first time. Please pray that such families will continue to bring their children to church and grow in their faith.

13.3 Marriage Preparation

Each year, a marriage preparation day course is offered to those intending to marry at St Botolph's or St Edmund's, although occasionally it has been attended by couples marrying elsewhere. Hosted by Philippa and Martin Simper and Roger and Rosemary Pedley, the course uses material from Care for the Family called Marriage by Design, which consists of a DVD and accompanying booklets, with questions which are considered privately by each couple rather than discussed as a group. A member of the clergy attends an additional session to talk with the couples about their marriage vows and the couples are invited to continue attending services at St Botolph's. Two courses were run last year and others are expected during 2019. We give thanks and pray that an increasing number of couples will attend.

(Report from Martin and Philippa Simper; Roger and Rosemary Pedley)

13.4 Women's Ministry

During term-time, there are two weekly Bible study and prayer groups for women, on a Monday and Wednesday. A Knit and Natter group is held twice a month and the Women's Ministry Team organises events with a Christian speaker throughout the year, such as the Christmas Craft evening and Ladies' Breakfasts.

13.5 Refresh

Led by Kirsty Clark and Rachel Samways, Refresh is mainly for mothers of pre-school or school age children. They meet weekly in the Link Room in Church House from 9.30am – 11.00am on a Monday morning during term time, for Bible study, prayer and pastoral support.

In the past year, the group has welcomed several new members, some through people inviting their friends from outside St Botolph's, and with three new babies, the crèche helpers have been busy. We are very grateful to Cynthia Duckworth, Ali Gosling, Jane Griffiths and Sally Farrer for helping to care for the children so that mums can focus on the Bible studies. One encouragement has been seeing different members have a go at leading studies and gain confidence in explaining God's word. The group has also held several social events with husbands.

Overall, we have had a very positive year of learning more about Jesus together and encouraging one another to share our faith with friends and family.

Kirsty Clark

13.6 Wednesday Women's Bible Study Group

We meet from 9.30am – 11.00am at 12 Poplars Farm Road. The first half hour is for catching up with one another over a cup of tea or coffee before starting our prayer time or Bible study at 10.00am. We have followed the same topics as the evening home groups with the addition of extra material at different times of year. With over ten regular members, we have supported one another practically and spiritually through various difficult circumstances and it has been a joy and an encouragement to share our journeys together. We have had several ladies join us in the past year and always welcome anyone who would like to take part.

St Botolph's Church

13.7 Knit and Natter

There are now two Knit and Natter groups meeting each month: one on the third Tuesday of the month from 7.30pm – 9.00pm in Church House, and since January, a daytime group from 11.00am to 12 noon on the second Thursday of the month in the Garden Room, the hour before Soup and Sandwiches. Attendance at the evening sessions has been very encouraging, with people inviting friends, and we have continued to support the Christian organisation, Breadline, with Rachel Samways as our link person. Several members of the group have donated knitted items for people in Moldova. One particularly memorable evening was when Ilona Bickle brought in her spinning wheel and gave us a demonstration of how to prepare and spin wool.

The Thursday morning Knit and Natter session is beginning to take off and has the advantage of being just before Soup and Sandwiches, so we can all enjoy lunch together afterwards. All are welcome, with or without something to knit.

Please see the Evangelism Task Group report for further information on both men's and women's ministry.

Kate Curnock

15. Music Report 2018

Musically we have operated at three distinct services, 9.15am, 11.00am and 6.30pm So the music at each service has a different character, recognising the skills and abilities of the individuals who provide the music.

At 9.15am Graham heads up the team from the keyboard and he is supported by several instrumentalists including, importantly, bass and drums. Sarah Burrows also plays to give Graham an occasional break. Singing is led by a faithful group of singers, who, if there were more, would be able to rotate the leadership more than is possible at the present. If anyone reading this report would like to be involved in this singing ministry please speak to Graham and he will be pleased to welcome you. Practice for the service is held in church starting at 7.30pm on the Friday prior when there is the opportunity to learn new material which is then introduced into the Sunday services. As a Church, we are immensely grateful to have such a talented musician as Graham whose keyboard skills enable us to introduce songs which those with lesser skills would have difficulty in leading so competently.

Sadly we do not have any sung leadership at our 11.00am service. We had to abandon our choir due to lack of support early in 2018 and so the opportunity to introduce new songs is no longer an option which is a disappointment. Fortunately, for those who do enjoy new songs, the opportunity exists at both the 9.15am and 6.30pm services. We continue to rely on, mainly, Judy Cowan and Carol Keach to play the keyboard at 11.00am supported by Joe Cornwell. Carol and Judy have been stalwart members of our musical team for more years than they would care to remember (!), and we are most grateful for their faithfulness and skill. Both have also occasionally helped out by playing for services at Warkton when they have been unable to provide a player from their own ranks. It would be our hope and prayer that the time will come when we will be able to resurrect a singing leadership at this service.

We have been most grateful to Andy who has headed up the music at the 6.30pm service for a number of years, but he has been helped this year by newcomers to our church, Mark and Natasha Goundry. We are fortunate that such a committed couple with undoubted musical gifts have joined us and been willing to take a music leadership role.

At Christmas time, particularly at the Christingle Service, we have been delighted to have music led by our younger members. So, too, at Holiday Club which is always a time of enthusiastic singing, frequently accompanied by energetic actions!

A small number of faithful singers have also led monthly Songs of Praise services at Country View and St. Anne's Nursing Homes which have been warmly welcomed by the residents.

St Botolph's Church

We give particular thanks to all those who have led our music over this past year. Singing is a most important part of our worship and we strive to provide song and music which is honouring and worshipful - paying particular attention to the words of the songs, and by generally trying to choose songs which fit the theme of each service

Please continue to pray for protection for all who offer music at our church and pray for a development in the skills necessary to continue this means of expressing our joy in knowing Christ.

Adrian and Carol Keach - Co Music Directors

16. Home Bible Study Groups 2018

In the first half of 2018, Home Groups used a series entitled "These truths alone," which focused on the great "alone" doctrines that were rediscovered at the time of the Reformation ("By Scripture alone," "In Christ alone," "By grace alone," "Through faith alone" and "Glory to God alone"). As October 2017 marked the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, this series was well-timed. It also challenged us with practical applications.

Since the summer we have begun a series on the first half of John's Gospel, which is providing refreshing opportunities to look closely at the words and works of the Lord Jesus.

Many thanks to fellow Home Group leaders for the time and effort they put into preparing and leading the studies. And thanks too to those who welcome group-members into their homes.

We are always delighted to welcome new Home Group members, so please let me know if you would like more information. We currently have 10 evening groups, meeting fortnightly, and 1 day-time group for ladies meeting each week.

Robert Bashford

17. Prayer for Israel Report 2018

The Prayer for Israel Group meets on the 2nd Friday of each month in the Panelled Room in Church House. We start at 7.30pm and aim to be finished by 9.30pm. There are usually 5 to 10 people who meet, majority of which attend St Botolph's/St Edmunds church/Christ the King.

We meet to pray for fellowship and update on our link missionaries. Some of the topics which we pray for are as follows:

- Pedro and Anu Santos and family
- Missionaries with CMJ and PFI
- A member of our group who is working in Israel with Holocaust survivors
- For the Jews to see Jesus as their Messiah
- For the reconciliation of Jews and Arabs in Christ
- For spiritual growth, encouragement and safety of Christians, Arab Christians and Messianic believers
- The Political situation

On a practical level we collect clothes twice a year and send them out to Israel. They are gratefully received by the many, mainly Russian immigrants coming to Israel every month.

We welcome new members and visitors – for further information call: 01536 724814 (Debby Palmer)

Reni White & Debby Palmer

18. Cornerstone Report 2018

You may have noticed 'Potter's Place' is now called 'Cornerstone'. This is part of a programme to revitalise the group and to make it more accessible to a wider group of people. It is with sadness that we have to report the loss of a number of old friends during the last year however we have had the joy of welcoming some new people to the group. We would like to express our thanks to Mark and the Rev Graham Bell for faithfully leading our Communion Service. Following the Communion Service we have a lovely two course meal provided by our excellent cook teams. Over the last year we have had some very interesting speakers ranging from a fascinating talk on Deene House by Kelly the House Administrator to Polly Feely and her presentation on 1950's music, we had a great singalong! Toby Clegg gave us a very intimate history of Barton Seagrave based on his own family who ran the Post Office for a hundred years. That was last year. We now in the middle of an exciting new programme for 2019 and we always welcome new members or helpers.

Cornerstone Team

19. Coffee Shop Report 2018

The Coffee shop has formed a link between the Church and our community giving us the opportunity to share friendship, as well as news of our Church activities.

We make no charge but invite donations to cover the cost. As a result we have been able to fund several improvements in both the church building and Church House. In 2018 we funded the Church House porch light, and also cleaned the stained chairs in the church building. We also sent a donation to support Paul Fitzpatrick, and a charity stall raised money for brain tumour research.

So a special thank you to all our supporters, and of course, to our team of willing helpers.

The Coffee Shop team

20. Bellringing Report 2018

We continue to be able to ring all 8 bells every week for both services, and we hope you enjoy the sound as you arrive at church. We have one new recruit and practices continue on a Monday evening (7.30pm to 9.00pm followed by tea, coffee and biscuits or cake!) and anyone is welcome to come and see us. If you are coming please ring me first on 07855 405005 if possible and we look forward to seeing you. We have also taught one recruit for St. Peter and Paul as they have no one at the moment trained to teach.

We are very grateful to the visitors who come each week to help us at practice and progress is being made a little faster. One person rang a quarter peal, an achievement landmark.

We have had two visiting bands of ringers during the year and they are always welcome. There have been seven full peals rung during the year and I hope it may be more next year.

Derek Sibson

21. Flower Report 2018

The flower rota has worked well this year with only a few spaces to be filled with all of us working together to decorate the Church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Make & Play always make a special display on Mothering Sunday and the Guides at Christmas.

I would like to thank everybody involved for their willingness to be on the flower rota to decorate our Church in times of celebration for joyful and sad occasions where flower's often say the words we can't. If anyone would like to join us on the rota in this pleasant task please let me know (a vase of flowers is all that is needed)

Sandy Frost