



Annual Report 2016

Reports:	Page	Reports:	Page
Small Groups	2	Treasurer's Report	5
Focus	2	Third Age	5
Youth Work	2	Men's Ministry	6
Schools	2	Engage: Prayer	6
Children and Families	3	BE! Women at St Giles	6
Open Doors	3	Christmas Outreach	6
Students	3	Compassion ministries	7
Young Adults	4	Evangelism: Alpha	7
Music & Worship	4	Property Committee	7
Uniformed Organisations	4	Mission	8
Churchwardens' Report	5	PCC Report	8

Vicar's Report

Over the last year, we've seen and heard stories of how the love and power of God has been changing lives and changing situations. We've seen prayers answered and people being healed. We've seen people come through challenging situations with a testimony of God's faithfulness. We've seen people coming to faith in Jesus and others inspired to rededicate their lives to following Him. We've seen our church grow in number, in maturity and in their love for God.

St Giles in 2016

You can read inside this report about how lives are being touched and changed; you can read about the different ministries and activities that are happening here; you'll see that our church is vibrant and active across all the different age groups; you'll see the evidence of a family of believers who are *growing up, joining in, spreading out and giving away*.

You'll also be reminded of how, as a church, we rose together to the challenge of raising funds so that we could renew our heating system and make repairs to the roof. We were able to raise all the funds needed (and more besides!) and we contributed to God's work overseas in Brazil. *Hallelujah and thank you Lord!*

Stop, look and listen!

It's always a priority for me to ensure that we're following Jesus and doing His will rather than simply pressing ahead with our own plans. So as 2016 ended, myself and other members of staff took time aside **to stop, to look** and see what God was doing in our midst and **to listen** to His voice. We want to be led by Him rather than driven by some agenda or need!



A 'signpost' for the year ahead

We've been led to some verses in John 14 which point the way for the coming year. In this chapter, Jesus makes amazing statements to His disciples towards the end of His earthly ministry:

*"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do **the same works** I have done, and **even greater works**, because I am going to be with the Father. You can **ask for anything** in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father."* **John 14:12-14 NLT**

The followers of Jesus were being called to *do the same things they had seen Him doing*. Roger Forster summarises this as **the words, works and wonders of Jesus**. Jesus is quite literally passing on the baton. *"You've seen what I've been doing; now it's your turn!"*

Greater works

Jesus also said that they would do **greater works** than He. What could be greater? In time, **greater numbers** of people would be reached. When Jesus ascended to heaven, His followers numbered in the hundreds. Forty days later that number leaped into the thousands. By the end of Acts, the gospel had made its way to Rome. Today, an estimated 2.2 billion call themselves Christians!!

Anyone who believes

It's also **ordinary people** doing **extraordinary things** through the power of the Holy Spirit. It's a promise for **anyone who believes**. And that's where you and I come in. We believe that every single person in St Giles is called to the *greater works* which Jesus is speaking about.

So in the year ahead, we'll be considering what this means and we'll be seeking to *teach, train and equip* each other to step out boldly in the power of the Holy Spirit to do what Jesus did!

Are you ready?

As we look back on 2016, we give thanks to God for all that He has accomplished in us and through us. As we look ahead to 2017, our vision is still the same:



Please read the report prayerfully and thankfully. And let's get ready to play our part in what God is doing, here in Northampton, in the coming year. Let's be full of faith and expectant that we'll see *the works of Jesus and greater works* right here among us!

~ Steve Kelly

Small Groups

Home groups continue to provide an opportunity to meet together, share life and deepen our faith and in St Giles many people enjoy regular fellowship and support and a sense of belonging in these groups. As Focus completed another year a need for new groups became clear. We were able to create four new groups with several home group leaders taking on this role for the first time.

We (Maggie Kelly and Peter Scott) offer regular support to leaders through training and development and meeting together (usually termly). Home group leaders have been able to join in with the welcome process by attending the newcomers' lunch regularly. The Hub on a Wednesday evening (monthly at present) gathers several of our home groups and others, including newcomers, and is a great opportunity to meet people in a larger gathering.

Most groups have capacity for new members and we encourage anyone considering a home group to apply direct to the leaders. There is a large poster displayed in church detailing all the groups with contact details and photos to make it easier for those considering where to join. Maggie can also direct people to suitable groups.

~ Maggie Kelly

Midweek Discipleship

Our midweek discipleship programme was quite varied in 2016. Starting in January with the first two modules in the *Focus* course, this was followed by the *Ambassadors* course, then the *Welcome* course and finally, before the summer break, by *Fruitfulness on the Frontline*. Numbers attending were heartening, with around 40 at the central Fruitfulness meetings.

It has been particularly encouraging to see newer church members taking on responsibility in the church. Following the *Welcome* course we revised our welcome programme and drew new people into our Sunday hospitality rota. The autumn saw the launch of *The Hub*, a monthly midweek event of worship and teaching for the whole church.

In September and October, we ran a "pilot" *Bible School* for six weeks with Simon Bridgens. Meeting for two hours on a Saturday morning to look in depth at selected passages in John's Gospel and the early chapters of Genesis. Feedback was positive from those who attended, so another course is being planned for June/July 2017.

~ Peter Scott

Youth Work

This year has been a great year. We have established one more cell group, we have managed to get our mentoring program started and I am looking forward to growing that. What have been the highlights of the year? For me, personally, the highlights are seeing so many of our young people grow in their faith and their understanding of their relationship with God as well as their willingness to grow his kingdom in practical ways.

One project where this has been clear is how our young people have been vital to starting a Northampton-wide youth service. They have helped plan, lead and do a lot of the practical support for this project to run - and which has now been taken to other towns.

We had to say goodbye to a fantastic group of young people as they went off to university, but we are hearing how they are actually living their faith out in university, which is amazing.

This has been a year where we have been looking at what is core to God's ministry to the young people and we have this vision:

"To grow together as a community, who are open to God, and ready to respond to His call in Northampton and beyond".

This year we want to continue building a strong faith-based community, through discipleship and fellowship. We want to see the young people take hold - and take more of a lead in the work - by listening and responding to God's call on their lives.

~ Chris Dommett



Schools

We have continued to build good relationships with both staff and children at local schools through doing assemblies, class visits, and special services at Christingle, Christmas, Easter, Leavers services and Harvest. Our team of Josh, Jonny and myself are quite well known figures in All Saints School and Abington Park Vale Primary School (Stirling Campus).

We have seen God at work particularly through the Christmas and Easter *Experience* events when we have invited schools to bring children to sing at our Venton Centre service and

then come to St Giles to participate in *Prayer Spaces*. The children have loved coming and have been encouraged to bring their hopes and fears to a God who sees them and knows them. For some their prayers have been very moving.

This year we have also supported a *Prayer Spaces* project in Abington Park Vale Primary School. It has been good to collaborate with Sue Kirby, from Weston Favell, on this project and to explore ways in which we might develop our outreach to schools using *Prayer Spaces*.



In the year ahead we want to be sensitive and responsive to the opportunities that God is opening up to develop our outreach both as a team and through supporting individuals from our church family who work in schools.

~ Diana Rees-Jones

Children and Families

God has been so gracious to us and has blessed us in providing two new members of staff to the Children and Families team! In September, it was a joy to welcome Emma Brown and Denise Evans sharing the role of Family Support Worker. They have spent the autumn term settling in, getting to know people and thinking about how this role can develop. God has been at work, providing opportunities for us to partner with local organisations and developing our links within the local community and supporting others.

This has led to some changes in how our midweek groups operate, with Emma taking the lead at Toddle In - our midweek toddler group - which continues to be a happy and busy group. On Tuesdays, we are about to start a new monthly small group for mums who want to have some time to



meet together with God while their children are being cared for. On Wednesday mornings, at our Together English Language group both Emma and Denise support Rob as we continue to welcome people who are learning English and settling into our community. This group is really appreciated by those who come.

On Sunday mornings, we renamed our children's groups "Network" to reflect the way we connect with one other and connect with God. The children voted on names for their groups so we now have Scramblers, Searchers, Hashtaggers and Surfers! We learn more about God together through the Bible (#God Smart) and through prayer (#God Connect), sometimes sharing food and always having fun! Thank you so much for all those who support and pray for this ministry.

~ Jo Smith

Open Church

Open Church has continued in its pattern of operating twice a month on the first and third Thursdays. The team are very committed and enthusiastic, and we have been blessed to have contact with good numbers of the public who come into our building to talk, receive hospitality or find a quite space to pray and reflect.

The team report that they have had a series of conversations with individuals about Jesus and the Gospel message and have been able to pray with and minister to many people, including those going through difficult situations. The team have been able to direct many of our guests to other church ministries such as *Toddle In* or to invite them to Sunday or midweek worship services

On the annual Heritage Day we saw scores of people (around 70) come to the church building. It was amazing to be



able to connect with so many.

During the Advent season we opened the building for three consecutive days and served mulled punch and mince pies. We saw good numbers each day, and were able to have series of wonderful conversations.

By far the most common remark is, "I've walked passed this building so many times. I had no idea what it was like inside. I didn't even think you were open!"

We hope that our new church signage will go some way to correcting this misconception!

The team is keen to open the building more frequently – but we still need more volunteers!

~ Jonny Dade

Student Ministry

2016 saw the end of the first full academic year of student ministry at St Giles, and the beginning of the second year.

By the summer, we had a reasonably well-established mid-week student small group, which met near Park Campus.

The priority for "year 2" was to see the student group becoming increasingly "peer-led" in line with our priorities of growing and developing leaders and making disciples.

By mid-September we had formed and commissioned the "Student Core Team" – comprised of three "emerging leaders" from the wider group. From the beginning of the new academic term, the new core team took on the task of running and leading the weekly small group with some oversight from the leadership team. We now gather these young leaders monthly for "Leadership Development Huddles" aimed at coaching and equipping them to lead their peers.

Over September and October we ran a *welcome* programme for new students, which included a three-day campus outreach, "taxi-runs" to and from the halls of residence, Sunday lunches and social events. Over the month around eleven new students we'd connected with came to a Sunday service. Of these, six have become *regular* members, bringing our total community to around twelve committed members with a "fringe community" of around seven.

In November we launched "Sunday Supper" – a weekly social event to gather youth, students and young adults together prior to each evening service. We also ran a *hospitality* programme linking new members up with host-families in the wider church.



~ Jonny Dade

Young Adults

During the first half of the year, a number of long-standing members of the leadership team felt that the time was right to stand down from their roles. We want to thank and honour Rachel and Jon Patching and Ruth Johnson for their faithful service to this group over many years.

In addition, circumstances beyond our control dictated that our Wednesday evening group (previously named *Academy*) relocated from the town centre coffee house into the church centre.

With all these changes, the time seemed right to reflect upon our sense of identity as a group and to discern where the Lord was leading us going forward.

In the spring we held a "Vision Day" out of which we discerned a number of key priorities, including rethinking our small groups, creating more space for Spirit-led ministry and being more intentionally "outward-focussed".

Latterly, the explicit focus of our main gatherings and small groups has been on "being equipped as disciples of Jesus". In line with our priority of "growing leaders" we have been affording more opportunities for people to "have a go", with the aim that every member has an opportunity to lead in some way. In addition to our weekly gatherings, some have gathered into "Huddles" for deeper accountability and discipleship.

In 2016 we've seen 15 new people join the community including two coming to faith in Jesus and getting baptised. Typically, we see between 20 and 25 at our main gatherings and we now have three small groups.

~ Jonny Dade

Music & Worship

This year we gave thanks to Ruth Hampson after many years of faithfully leading our worship and music teams.

Josh Thorne has been further developing the youth band and Elizabeth Allenby continues to nurture the wonderful children's music group, who this year led several of our Christmas services.

Many of our existing worship leaders are actively investing in and growing "emerging leaders" for the future.

We held a "whole team social" aimed at deepening friendships within the community. Additionally we ran the first of our "worship teams training events" – equipping us theologically and practically and encouraging greater openness in being led by the Spirit.

We introduced the *Easy Worship* projection software and improved our IT facilities, both of which should enable greater flexibility in corporate worship.

~ Jonny Dade

Uniformed Organisations

Scout Group

For the St Giles Scout Group, it has been a year of change.

After many years of dedicated involvement with and leading of the group, Tim and Gill Walker decided it was time to step back and move onto new things. We are grateful to God for the Walker family and their commitment to the group.

Recognising this big change, they are easing the transition by helping in an advisory role and in training the new teams. Beavers and Scouts have new leadership teams whilst the Cub leaders remain the same. Over the past year the children have enjoyed an exciting programme of activities, including 'Family Camp' in the summer with watersports at Willen Lakes and ice-skating this winter. Cubs celebrated their 100th anniversary this year with a massive party at Riverside Hub and lots of outdoor fun and craft activities at the Overstone Scout site.

If anyone would like to get involved, we currently have some vacancies in Beavers for boys and girls aged 6-8 years old. They meet on Thursday evenings at the church centre between 6-7pm. Please contact jo@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk for further information.

~ David Lidbetter and Jo Smith

Girlguiding

On a Tuesday night we have 40 girls aged from 5 to 17 come to have fun, learn and develop into young women.

The Brownies, Guides and Senior Section had two evenings on 'Think Resilience', considering mental health issues. They also had two evenings on 'Free Being Me' looking at how each girl sees themselves and how the media uses young women. We did 'Guiding around the World'; three Guides, with myself, spent a week in Switzerland and visited one of our World Centres. This was a great week; the weather, hotel, food and company were amazing. Rainbows have been around the world with their Rainbow Roundabout.

Brownies and Guides had seeds from Kew Royal Botanic Gardens and sent photos of themselves planting and then seeing the seeds grow!

We celebrated the Senior Section being 100 years and we celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday. Girls came dressed as princesses and wore a crown. We enjoyed cucumber sandwiches, cake and lemonade. Parlour games were played.

Rainbows had a sleepover in the centre for a night and slept! Six Brownies and myself had a lovely four nights in Jersey with another unit. Guides had a weekend away.

The Senior Section learnt how to change a car tyre and what to look for under the bonnet! They also had evenings cooking and chilling out watching a film. We have been swimming and to *Boost*, where six brownies made their promise on the trampoline! We visited Mounts Fire Station; very exciting as they were called out - it made the evening for the girls!

Guides went to the Big Gig, a pop concert just for guides at Wembley. We did crafts for Mothering Sunday and Father's Day. We had our last meeting for the year at the panto at the Deco and very much enjoyed it. Girls joined in County and Division events, meeting with other units throughout the county.

The leadership team work well together to put a wide and varied programme around the five essentials for the girls and have as much fun as the girls.

~ Helen Hayward, Leader



Churchwardens' Report

The position of churchwarden is as an officer of the diocese responsible directly to the bishop although elected by the church members. This year has seen a change of personnel with Paul Cooper stepping down from the role and 'handing on the baton' to David Lidbetter. We are very grateful for the significant contribution made by Paul during his time in office.

It is our duty to provide support to the vicar in every way possible and it has been a joy during the past year to continue to do all we can to encourage Steve, the staff team and other ministry leaders in our fellowship.

We have continued to meet with Steve regularly and we've supported the impetus to push on with projects involving our property and equipment to ensure it is fit for purpose. We have been greatly encouraged by the response of the church

fellowship to the financial challenges surrounding these projects and to God for His provision and guidance.

In the role which we have been entrusted by the church we will always listen to any suggestions or concerns you may have. We are always glad to hear from anyone who can offer time to join the many church members who serve so faithfully week in and week out. Our sincere thanks go to all who give sacrificially of their time and talents to enable and develop the ministry of St Giles.

It only remains for us to thank all of the deputy wardens for their support and hard work during the year.

~ Duncan Halliday and David Lidbetter



Treasurer's Report

Our 2016 Budget anticipated a deficit of expenditure over income of £11K on our budget. In fact, regular income was up by £7K and our regular expenditure decreased by £7K. Therefore, there was a £3K surplus on our normal operating budget.

2016 was, however, an exceptional year with £162K spent on roof repairs and the heating replacement. By the grace of God and your generosity, over £92K was raised by the campaign last Spring. Through past diligence, St Giles has been able to build some good reserves and it was agreed that the remainder would be funded from these. Allowing for grants and other income, the final overall deficit for 2016 was £53K.

We continue to aim to be faithful to God by giving 10% of our income to World Wide Missions (including our mission partners) and 5% to Home Missions. Copies of the audited

accounts for 2016 will be available to view in the office and in church from March 2017.

Our Budget for 2017 shows anticipated deficit to our normal operating budget of £13K. We continue to look to God to supply our needs (Phil 4 v19). Additionally, the PCC has agreed to continue with improvements to building and infrastructure and we plan to carry out some or all of the following in 2017:

- ⇒ Sound equipment £12K
- ⇒ Quinquennial repairs £10K
- ⇒ Centre improvements £11K

Funding for this activity will again come from our reserves or from grants.

~ Derek Bish

Third Age

Our Third Age ministry at St Giles is broad; it encompasses many different groups led by fantastic teams and individuals. Whether it's through the Hymns of Praise service, the services led in the Venton Centre, the monthly Way Café, Holiday at Home, Senior Fellowship, services in care homes, Thursday Communion and Lunch Club or pastoral support we show people through our love and



care, through words and actions that God's love can change their lives.

Several memories stick in my mind from this past year:

- ⇒ after a fabulous Hymns of Praise service seeing three generations of the Poole family sitting down together over tea served by the scouts, cubs and beavers;
- ⇒ at Way Café seeing the guests enjoying dancing with partners to familiar tunes Helen Thorman was playing;
- ⇒ then I think of some precious times visiting Barbara Williams at a time when she could no longer come to our services, praying with her and being aware of God's presence.

We have seen God at work and lives being changed by that glimpse of a God who loves and cherishes each one, especially the vulnerable and lonely.

We are sharing with churches across the Diocese in a day called 'Gift of Years' which seeks to encourage, challenge and support churches in sharing good ideas and good, safe practice. We want to be open to the new things God wants to do among us and through us.

~ Diana Rees-Jones

Men's Ministry

During 2016, the men at St Giles have continued to meet around food - mainly in the form of a monthly breakfast with a visiting speaker. This provides a forum for encouragement in our faith, a chance to share together in fellowship and build friendships, to hear about and support what God is doing elsewhere in this country and around the world and an opportunity to invite friends to a welcoming atmosphere and hearty breakfast.

The breakfast talks have been aimed at getting us trained up and outward looking so we can identify opportunities to play our part in lives being changed by the power of Jesus one person at a time.

We have also continued the food theme with a curry night and a BBQ for the whole church to enjoy on a glorious summer afternoon in the churchyard.

The inaugural MoMENTum men's conference in February last year, which some St Giles men helped organise and many attended, was a great encouragement attracted with over 200

guys. We are involved in the planning and organisation of the next MoMENTum conference in April 2017.



We have built links with other men's groups in churches around the town and county and are seeking to develop these relationships to provide mutual encouragement in our faith and outreach.

We continue to encourage one another to join together in prayer partnerships / triplets.

2017 has already started well with a Man Walkie-Talkie in January – a walk followed by... yes, a pub lunch.

~ Roger Hampson

Engage: Prayer

The Engage team exists to plan and run whole church prayer events. These are aimed at enabling and encouraging all of us to find ways to develop our prayer lives, both together and as individuals. This past year our main focus has been in inputting into Prayer Central (our church's prayer event), the 24/7 prayer room and in organizing days of prayer and fasting.

We also ran prayer stations for the Noise in May.

As with previous prayer rooms it was encouraging to see the 24/7 time slots signed up for so quickly and to receive feedback from many about how their prayer life had been encouraged.

~ Bob and Alison Steele



BE! Women at St Giles

As we started 2016, we felt God leading us into focusing on prayer. In March, almost 50 women enjoyed pizza together as Diana opened us up into looking at ways to pray. On our retreat day at Launde in June, Alison Christian led us in exploring further into praying both on our own and with one another. This was a special time for many of us. It was great that we filled all the spaces easily and even had a waiting list! At our autumn event in November, we welcomed Hannah Jeffery to speak with the title *Busyness, Interruption and Making Space for God*. Over a relaxed meal we had time to share with one another about this, ending with a time of stillness as Hannah led us in reflection and meditation.

As a backdrop to these events, once a month women are invited to come and

join in an informal time at a local pub. This is an opportunity for newcomers to meet people and for others of us to get to know one another better and be intentional about our commitment to join in and belong together.

Numbers vary from almost 50 at organised events to sometimes just a handful at the pub. While we share a common identity as women, we all have different needs. Not everything suits everyone. But God calls all of us into a deepening relationship with Him and BE! exists to offer women opportunities for that. As each of us moves forward into all that God calls us to, we need to find times to slow down and be with Him, and to share with one another. That pretty much describes what the BE! women's ministry is about!

Christmas Outreach

In December, we joined with other churches from Northampton to play Christmas carols and worship songs in the town centre on the Saturdays in the run-up to Christmas. This event was at the invitation of Northampton County Council, who provided the staging and sound facilities, and was coordinated by churches in Northampton.

St Giles provided two bands made up of youth, students and adults and played on two Saturdays in December. Many from the church came to support the bands, to sing, and to talk and pray with passers-by who stood to listen.

This was a great opportunity to engage with our town and to witness to the amazing Christmas story of God coming to earth as a child: Jesus. Both bands did a brilliant job performing some fabulous renditions of carols and contemporary songs, and it was great to join with other churches to bless our town.

~ Josh Thorne



Prayer & Healing

The team are committed to offering a listening ear and prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit at our Sunday services. We also gather from time to time to wait on God and pray and cover our church and its leaders on special occasions. Needs can be shared with team members via 'the prayer chain' by contacting Serena or the church office. Matters shared for prayer are always kept in confidence.

In 2017 we will be relaunching the team as **'the Pastoral Prayer Team'** and will be recruiting and training new members.

~ Steve Kelly

Compassion ministries

Many people in St Giles have a passion to reach out to meet the needs of people in both our town and our local communities. For some this is a regular, ongoing commitment. For others, it might be more impromptu such as reaching out to a homeless or vulnerable person or getting involved in a social action project.

Our church vision encapsulates the importance of treating every single person we meet with dignity and respect. We know that God loves them personally so we have a responsibility to listen and to respond *one person at a time*.

In 2016, the St Giles co-ordinators of different ministries have met to support

each other, seek advice and to pray about how to best channel our support to these very needy situations. We have also recruited Emma Brown and Denise Evans as our *Family Support Workers* to support and help families in need.

Many of the ministries and agencies we are involved with share a common aim, namely to draw people together from different churches to *show God's compassion* to people who need the love of Jesus. Those we are currently linked up with are listed in the Home Mission report. This is an exciting part of our church's ministry and mission which is bound to continue to develop in 2017!

~ Steve Kelly

Evangelism: Alpha

We have again seen God at work changing lives through the Alpha Course this year. There were 12 guests on the January evening course (including one church member) and 17 in September (including four church members). On Tuesday mornings there was just one in January and three in September. Some of those who completed Alpha have drifted away and others have joined small groups and are pressing on in their discipleship.

There has been a change in the Alpha team with Vikki Beale, Maggie Marr and Jacqui Hunter stepping back and new people joining the team. We are hugely grateful to the army of people who make puddings. One of the guests at a recent launch night



remarked, "They go to a lot of trouble don't they?"

Alpha have brought out a new film of the talks which has been very well received by guests and team alike. It is filmed 'documentary style' in various locations and includes a variety of people sharing their stories.

In the year ahead we would love to see more people brought to Alpha. We stood down three leaders and helpers this January as we only have five guests doing the course. We are exploring all ways of encouraging people to come but the best way is to receive a personal invitation from a friend. That is something we can all play our part in.

~ Diana Rees-Jones

Property Committee

2016 was a year for undertaking some significant projects within the church building.

In the early part of the year we carried out re-roofing and repair works to the north aisle and vestry roof which had been suffering from severe leaks for some time. The work was undertaken with reasonably minimal disruption, thanks to Rob laying out and clearing chairs to this area each week.

This project was followed by the installation of a new heating system. The Faculty (formal permission required to undertake works within a church) took far longer to obtain than

was expected, pushing the start of the works very close to the new heating season. The installation was undertaken again with a minimal disturbance to the use of the church. The end result appears to be well received with folk occasionally commenting that it is too warm.

Day to day running and maintenance of the church centre have continued to be well looked after by Rob and Serena supported by faithful volunteers led by Keith and Mike.

We are grateful to Dave Hunter and team who have

carried out routine jobs around the church and to Jon Patching for dealing with various repairs.

~ Duncan Halliday



Mission

Home Mission

Home mission has seen slight changes in 2016. We continue to support people and organisations in prayer, by practical help and financially.

Financially we give regularly to The Bible Society, Christians in Sport, CPAS, The Evangelical Alliance, C2C, FISH, Church on the Heath, Manna House, Eve, Street/School Pastors, Fusion and Simeon Trustees. We have given toiletries and chocolates to Eve at Mothering Sunday and Christmas.

We have been supporting Berrywood Church in prayer.

2016 saw the end of our involvement in Street Church which changed and moved venue. Our regular giving to the Hope Centre also ended with a final donation at Christmas towards their Christmas meal.

The Noise was lower key this year as there was less response from members of the congregation and no viable projects from C2C or Eve. It was combined with the *Summer Do*, so there was pampering at the Grosvenor Centre and the church was open to welcome people for cake, coffee, games and stalls.

We had no ministers in training in 2016.

As 2016 ended we have taken up support of Safe Families for Children, working to help families who need a little extra support to cope with and establish family life. Several members of the congregation have got involved as volunteers over the year. We are also looking to support the Stepping Stones Northampton project helping to provide housing for homeless and disadvantaged people. We will also be exploring contacts with our new Family Support Workers.

A small surplus in the budget led us to be able to give additionally to the Christingle donation to the Children's Society, start supporting Safe Families for Children, provide craft materials for Eve and some patio furniture for the Good Loaf project ladies and to give some additional support to FISH.

~ Carol Halliday

World Mission

Mission Partners

We continued to support our six mission partners: Ruth and Izaias de Assis with Proclamation church in Brazil; Alf and Hilary Cooper in Chile where Alf became an assistant bishop with oversight of church planting; Vera Zhuravleva in Russia faced new restrictions on Christian witness; Ann Fursdon in Chad responded to a need for mental health care, as well as continuing to build relationships; and in Thailand Gill Vriend continued with healing ministries and Peter worked with a church project which was wound up in December. At home Anna and Jonathan Holmberg continued their work with Muslims from their agency's UK main office. Two of our teenagers spent a month in Brazil. We are not aware of immediate plans for any of our partners to retire, but looking ahead would welcome the possibility of supporting in mission overseas someone who is currently part of our congregation. We also supported the persecuted church by prayer and giving.

We enjoyed visits from Vera, Ann, Ruth, Izaias and Jonathan and a longer stay by the Vriend family in order to rebuild and widen their contact base. We continued to feature articles and prayer requests in Mission in Touch, had a slot at most Prayer

Central meetings and maintained a display in church until this was moved for heating installation.

Lent Project

We did not run the normal Lent Project but an appeal functioned as a title of the stewardship appeal for work in the church. Due to personal circumstances we could not hold the World of Difference Fair, but hope to be able to in 2017.

Other activity

Of our budget for the year: £29,840, plus £4.5K end of year extra. £27,210 given to partner support.

Organisation	Event	Amount
Tear Fund	Good Friday lunch	£400
Scripture Union Bauble Books	Shared Christmas card	£140
Proclamation Church building project	Tithe of Stewardship appeal	£9,000

Organisation	Amount
Barnabas Fund-persecuted church	£1320
Vriends for fare to Nepal, de-brief	£500
Vera - Christmas presents for children	£250
Tear Fund	£1000
To each of our partners' supporting agencies	£700

WMG members

WMG group members: Simon and Denise Bridgens, Lois Clark, Judith Cooper, Dave Smith, Serena Yong - replaced in November by Jacqueline Wienkamp - and myself.

~ Liz Kitwood

PCC Report

The PCC met six times during 2016, average attendance of 23 voting members. Issues discussed and dealt with at these meetings included:

- ⇒ Our vision as a church.
- ⇒ Youth vision.
- ⇒ Infrastructure projects: signage and branding; church building; churchyard; church centre; IT facilities, including our website.
- ⇒ Risk management register/policy.
- ⇒ Appointment of Family Support Worker.
- ⇒ Role of the Exec Committee.
- ⇒ World mission policy.
- ⇒ Safeguarding policy.
- ⇒ Finance, budget and appointment of new treasurer.
- ⇒ Regular reports were received from the following committees: Exec; Property; Personnel; World Mission; Home Mission. Also from the vicar and Deanery Synod reps.

There was also a leadership summit held in March.

The most recent PCC minutes are always displayed on the notice board in church.