



# Annual Report 2017

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## Vicar's Report

Please read the report prayerfully and thankfully. It will give you a glimpse of all that is happening, not just in St Giles but further afield. Each one of us has something unique and wonderful to contribute and we want you to feel fully involved as we move forward together and pursue the vision God has given us. May you be inspired afresh to play your part in seeing **lives being changed by the power of Jesus**.

### St Giles in 2017

You can read inside this report about how lives are being touched and changed by the power and love of God. We've seen people coming to faith this year through the Alpha Course and we've seen others whose faith has been renewed and rekindled. *There is no greater joy than seeing someone come into a new and living relationship with God through the Lord Jesus and it's a key priority for our church. We long to see people being saved!* Alpha is 'the tip of the iceberg' and we are so grateful for all of the ministry that is going on at St Giles. Please do take time to read about what is happening. There's so much for which we offer praise and thanks to God.

Last year, we were led to some verses in John 14. Jesus makes amazing statements to His disciples:-

*"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. John 14:12 NLT*



As we prayed about the outworking of this in St Giles and Northampton, we focused on the following things:-

**Hearing God's voice**  
**Discipling others**  
**Acts of kindness**  
**Praying for healing**  
**Sharing our faith**

As well as having a short teaching series on these topics, there were a whole number of events to offer everyone at St Giles the opportunity to be equipped in these 'greater things' such as *the Bible School, Leadership Summit, and the School of the Spirit*.

### Anyone who believes

This may seem to some a high bar, but Jesus said it was for anyone who believes. So we said...

*Everyone gets to play...not just the experts, not just the adults, not just the leaders and not just on Sunday.*

In 2018, we are going to keep aiming high and to continue to focus on GREATER THINGS for **anyone who believes**.

## Resource Churches



The Church of England has coined the phrase 'Resource Church' to describe churches which have the potential to encourage and resource

mission across a wider area and to plant churches in their locality. *'A city centre resource church is a church which, working closely with the local bishop, intentionally resources mission across a city, by planting and revitalising churches, developing leaders and providing other resources for mission. Its aim is to help evangelise the city and transform society.'* **CofE Research Programme**

Here at St Giles this is a new priority which builds on the work we've done down through the years such as planting new congregations, resourcing ministry in other churches, 1000 hours etc. As people offer themselves to the work and ministry of God beyond St Giles, we'll need new people to step in to resource our ministry here. *Could that be you?*

## Relationship, Word and Spirit

Everything in the Christian life flows from prayer and our relationship with God. The Father is looking for those who will worship Him, in Spirit and in truth. We are all called to be worshippers first and foremost and the great secret to fruitful living is **abiding in Jesus**. May you experience God's love, peace, joy and fulfilment as you continue to do that in the coming year.

~ Steve Kelly

## Small Groups

**T**his year has seen a lot of change but also some encouraging growth in the Home Group ministry.

Peter Scott left in the summer of 2017 and I have taken on responsibility for offering resources including weekly discussion materials as well as continuing to support Home Group Leaders.

Two new groups have started; The Open House Group led by Phil and Bee Clark and United, led now by Jon and Rachel Patching. We now have 14 Home Groups meeting across the week - both daytime and evenings.

We have encouraged a more open approach for newcomers to directly contact and join groups and this includes an updated Home Group Leaflet and Poster as well as links on the Website which are being used.

Termly support for Leaders is being developed as The Home Group Leaders Community, to encourage us to encourage each other, to share learning together and to contribute fully to the St Giles' vision by supporting our groups to grow in 5 areas: Hearing God's Voice; Discipling others; Praying for Healing; Sharing our Faith and Acts of kindness.

~ Maggie Kelly

## Bible School

**I**n 2017 we ran a six week course on the Book of Job followed by a study of the Book of Revelation. Job is a book that looks at the problem of suffering particularly in the life of the believer, while Revelation is a book that looks to the end times and the ultimate triumph of the Lamb.

Later in the year, we ran a four week course on the first twelve chapters of Paul's Letter to the Romans. This is a foundational book that has greatly influenced the church over the centuries and helps explain the basis of salvation.

My thanks to Steve Kelly, Peter Scott and Rob Wood my fellow tutors and to Paul Cooper for his endless hours spent setting up for us.

We will be running a new course in June and July 2018.

~ Simon Bridgens

## Youth Work

**T**his has been a year of significant change in the Youth Ministry. In April, Chad

Chadwick (Archdeaconry Youth Missioner) conducted an external audit of youth ministry by means of an online survey of parents and further meetings followed with parents and young people. The survey outlined some areas of strength as well as indicating challenges that need to be addressed. Chris was in the process of formulating a response but was signed off sick from early November and on 21<sup>st</sup> November resigned from his position as Youth Minister.

The Youth Ministry is currently being very ably run by Andy Blackford, Rachel White and Tracey Carpentieri with support from the staff team, particularly Jonny and Diana. All current areas of youth ministry will be continuing, including our support of Deanery Youth Services, the Youth Band and taking a group to Soul Survivor in the summer.

The current youth activities include Zone on a Sunday evening, a Monday night girl's cell group and mixed cell

group on a Wednesday evening and a trio of older boys who meet as a cell. Four young people have been mentored.

The MLT (Ministry Leadership Team) recognise the importance of both our Children and Families and Youth Ministries and want to prioritise and invest in this area of our church life. We have begun the process of looking to recruit an experienced leader. We want to ensure they have a passion for outreach and evangelism as well as helping our children and young people to grow in faith and maturity.

We are grateful to Chris and Sheila for all the ways they have supported our young people and seen them grow in their faith over the last four years. We are also very grateful to Andy, Rachel, Tracey and other youth leaders for their investment in the lives of our young people. There have been notable signs of encouragement of seeing God at work and young people taking a lead in services, preaching and leading worship as well as through the regular zone and cell groups. We look to God praying that our Youth Ministry will flourish in 2018.

~ Diana Rees-Jones

## Christmas Outreach

**T**his year it was a privilege to join together with other churches from around Northampton to provide a mixture of Christmas carols, Christmas songs and worship songs that were played in the market square on a cold, rainy mid-December day.

It was great to have so many braving the weather in support as well as walk around the market to meet, talk and pray with people. It was wonderful to witness to our town and Rev Jonny Dade gave a short Christmas message. What an opportunity!

The previous week also saw about 75 school children attend our Christmas Experience. Unfortunately the heavy snow meant that another 50 children weren't able to attend. For the schools that did attend, they were able to go on a literal journey around the Christmas story as it was set up at different interactive

stations around the church. With a particular focus on why Jesus came to earth and what it means for us, each child was able to take something away personally for them. It was a really joyful experience to impart something of God's love for everyone in their hearts. Even some of the teachers were engaging in questions of faith! It was also brilliant to use this as an opportunity to continue to strengthen the relationships between St Giles Church and the schools that we are involved with.



~ Cameron Benoy

# Young Adults and Students Ministry

**I**n 2017 we took the decision to bring together our student and young adults ministries into one single group. There had been much informal and relational overlap between the communities for some time and it therefore seemed right to unite them under a single leadership structure and programme of events. We have maintained our three small groups (now called Life Groups), with one of these having a more explicitly student-focus.

From quite early on in the year I began a monthly gathering made up of several individuals from the community in whom I had discerned evident and emerging gifts in leadership. In time this 'Leadership Huddle' evolved into our new Young Adults & Students "Core Team" which we formally commissioned in October, with a remit to provide both practical and spiritual oversight of the wider community. The Core Team continues to flourish and is now beginning to consider how they might be called to invest in and disciple others within the community and, in turn, to develop new leaders for the future. To this end we have found that the "Live Life 123" material from Urban Saints has been really useful.

At the beginning of the new academic year, we ran our usually busy programme of welcome events for new University students, and welcomed a modest number of new people to our

community. This has been helped by an ongoing positive relationship with the Christian Union.



The Young Adults & Student community continues to meet weekly, alternating between our larger gatherings (called "Equip") and Life Groups. Into this mix we have also added monthly outreach and/or social events in a deliberate attempt to encourage the community to become more outward focussed and missional. We've also seen two young people complete the Alpha course this year and subsequently be discipled by existing members of the community, which has been very exciting to be part of.

We begin 2018 having made a new staff appointment of a "Ministry Trainee" to oversee our work with students and young adults (in partnership with FISH) and to begin to consider how we expand this ministry in light of the opening of the new University campus in September. We welcome Natalie Williams to our staff team.

~ Jonny Dade

## The Wellbeing Cafe

**T**he Wellbeing café opened in October 2017 and meets on a weekly basis, on a Monday afternoon in the church. The aim of the café is to provide a welcoming atmosphere where individuals, particularly those with mental health or social isolation issues, can enjoy social contact with others, whilst undertaking a variety of card and board games or craft activities.

There is an opportunity for quiet prayer and spiritual reflection at regular intervals during the café but this is optional and takes place in a different part of the church.

Currently we have about ten regular users of the café as well as a team of nine people. About half of the "regulars" attend the church whilst most of the others live in the local area.

We pray that the group will be a blessing for those who attend and hope that a good link with a local GP practice will be established in the near future to provide support for individuals in the local community.

~ Denise Evans

## Children and Families

*And when you pray, always give thanks. Phil 4: 6*

**T**here is much to give thanks for over the last year! We started 2017 with a wonderful appeal which led to us being able to twin all our toilets in Church and in the Centre! We give thanks for the opportunity to help those overseas!

Our Bible Study group for Mums has changed times and venues but is going and growing. We give thanks for our Mums and youngest children finding support and encouragement together.

In May we started Family Church with an aim to reach out to young families introducing them to faith and discipleship in a creative, short and interactive way. A gifted team planned and led monthly meetings in the Centre on a Sunday afternoon at 4pm, sharing tea together at the end. These sessions ran through to December, they have been appreciated by many and as a team we have learnt so much.

At the start of 2018, we have "paused" Family Church while we review our Children and Families activities and we hope to take the positives from Family Church and invest them into our Church services. We give thanks for all those who came to Family Church and for all we have learned.

In our Sunday Network groups, some of our leaders moved age groups and in Creche we started a new Bible story/craft and singing time which is being appreciated by all. We give thanks for our children and all those involved with our children's ministry!

Denise and Emma (our Family Support Workers) continue to support families and individuals. Our midweek groups Toddler In and Together continue to reach out to our local community. We give thanks for the work of our midweek groups.

~ Jo Smith



# Music & Worship

**D**uring 2017 a transition took place between Jonny Dade and myself as Jonny gradually stepped down from doing an amazing job at heading up this ministry, and I responded to the call to step up and serve, and I am very grateful to both Steve and Jonny for their encouragement and guidance as I've taken on this role. I praise God for His goodness and provision in the music and worship here at St Giles!

The Worship Group Leaders meet termly to seek God's heart for our worship, and to support one another, keep one another accountable as well as sharing learning experiences and spurring one another on to grow in this ministry. We had a fab whole team BBQ together in the summer – something that is becoming an annual event – thanks to the hospitality of the Beale Family. Josh Thorne who was inspirational to the Youth Band has now moved on, but Nathan Williams and Rachel Patching have been a real blessing in stepping up and heading up the band. Anna Dade, whom it has also been a joy to have leading us, has stepped down in preparation for the new chapter she and Jonny are entering. We have been joined by Jez Bennett whose passion for all-age worship shines through, as he headed up the worship at Family Church (now Play and Praise) once a month, as well as his excellent organ playing in church particularly over Christmastime. We were also joined by Cameron Benoy and Tim Smith with their musical gifts and heart for worship, so there's more to come, and along with Phil Beale, Jon Patching, Jonny and myself, we have quite a team of worship leaders as we head into the new year. And although I have been commissioned to head-up this ministry, I know that it is God who leads us as we seek to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth, with the whole of our lives, not just when we sing on Sundays.

2018 looks to be an exciting year to come with 'Worship, Word and Spirit' as our focus. Also, on a practical note, we're getting a new PA system, plus we have our next whole-team training event in March.

My vision moving forward is that we will seek to use this ministry of music and song to draw us deeper into God's presence, made possible through Jesus' death and resurrection, to bring adoration, thanksgiving, sacrifice and service to Him, so that.... *'we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit'*.  
2 Cor 3:18

~ Elizabeth Allenby

# Uniformed Organisations

## Scout Group

**A**fter a year of changes, our new leadership teams are settling in well and the Scout Group continues to thrive!

The Beaver section (6-8 year olds) is growing and our youngest members continue to have fun when they meet on a Thursday evening. Highlights for this year have included building camp fires and making s'mores at Overstone, a "space themed" sleepover at the Church Centre and a joint Christmas party with the Cubs and Scouts.

The Cubs (8-10.5 year olds) also meet on Thursday evenings. They have learnt to sew badges onto their uniform, make cups of tea and iron their neckers! They went to Cub Camp in the summer at Overstone and also enjoyed the sleepover at the Centre with the Beavers!

Our new Scout Section leaders, Simon, Josh and Clive are settling in well and have planned a wide range of activities which have led to our Scouts earning lots of badges during the last term. As well as meeting on Wednesday evenings in the Centre, Scouts (10.5–14 year olds) have taken part in some conservation work at Overstone, completed a cycle ride and learnt about Divali. With a Scout camp planned for the summer, there is a need for a female leader in this section.

If you would like to join our Scout Group as a young person or offer to volunteer and join in the fun, please contact either Jo Smith or David Lidbetter or email [stgiles.scouts@googlemail.com](mailto:stgiles.scouts@googlemail.com)

~ David Lidbetter and Jo Smith

## Girlguiding

**G**irlguiding at St. Giles has been a fun packed year! We have held Winnie the Pooh, space and pirate evenings. We went roller skating, climbed at the Pinnacle Climbing wall (Tawny Owl renewed her Promise). A teddy bear picnic in a wet Salcey Forest - girls can get muddy!!

Guides have done 'Go for It!' where they were challenged on a theme, sailed at Hollowell sailing club (three girls renewed their Promise). The Big Gig (pop concert) is always an adventure. A team represented us at the County event of Ready, Steady, Cook. The challenge to cook on an open fire with certain ingredients - thankfully no food poisoning and some great stories.

All sections took on the Midlands Region challenge and raised £380.83 for MacMillan Cancer Charity from our sponsored walk and filling smartie tubes.

Two guides were selected by the County to attend at international (fun packed) camp. Two Brownies with Brown Owl had a great time at the Midlands Brownie camp in Staffordshire. Each section has learnt about Guiding being a Worldwide Association.

The biggest highlight was joining the County Twycross Zoo sleepover! What an opportunity to see the white leopard watching us, watching him! Later, Tony's Reptile Show visited the centre and the girls got to hold some weird and wonderful reptiles (nervously, at first). Rainbows had a sleepover at our local campsite whilst the Guides were at camp. Rainbows had a great time cooking (food crops up a lot) They had good fun at the Division Rainbow Roundabout day. They have climbed, swam and learnt about Rainbows all around the world and came to Twycross where they got their own room unlike the other groups.

We finished the year with a trip to the Deco to see Peter Pan. One Brownie was chosen to join in the song, on stage! Numbers remain the same but we gained two leaders in January.

~ 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. 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.

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 in a variety of roles. We are thankful for all who give sacrificially of their time and talents to enable and develop the ministry of St Giles.

We also want to thank the team of deputy wardens for their support and their hard work week in and week out in ensuring that the services run smoothly.



~ Duncan Halliday and David Lidbetter

## Treasurer's Report

Our 2017 Budget anticipated a total deficit of expenditure over income of £48K based on undertaking further improvements to building and infrastructure. Our operating budget showed an estimated deficit of £12K. Regular income for the year was almost exactly on budget but we were fortunate to receive a legacy and also a grant from the Diocese. Not all the building and infrastructure activities were able to be completed and, therefore, there is an anticipated £19K surplus on our overall income and spend for 2017.

We have continued 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 2017 will be available to view in the office and in church from the end of March 2018.

With income not expected to rise substantially, our Budget for 2018 shows an anticipated deficit to our operating budget of £23.5K. We continue to look to God to supply our needs (Phil 4v19). The PCC has agreed to continue with improvements to buildings and infrastructure and, subject to availability of funds, we plan to carry out some or all of the following in 2018:

- Quinquennial works
- Upgrade to video system
- Staging and church interior refurbishment
- Centre refurbishments
- Upgrade to centre kitchen

Again, funding for this activity will come from our reserves or from grants.

~ Derek Bish

## Third Age

Here at St Giles we have a broad and active ministry seeking to reach out to seniors. In a culture that sometimes overlooks many old people we seek to show them that each is cherished and loved by God.

We have fantastic teams that involve people with all sorts of gifts from playing the organ, driving buses, planning and leading services, serving teas and clearing up, to talking and praying with people one to one. So whether it's through Hymns of Praise, Venton Centre services, Way Café, Holiday@Home, Senior Fellowship, services in care homes, Thursday Communion and Lunch Club, and pastoral visits in home or hospital, we seek to encourage and support people and model God's love.

Our heart is to continue to grow our outreach and look to God for the new things He is leading us into. This coming year with the refurbishment of the Parish Centre we have the opportunity to change the way we have run Holiday@Home. We have also recognised that the Way Café, held monthly on Saturdays has not attracted many people with dementia

which was what it was set up to do. So this coming year we are bringing these two ministries together as Saturdays for Seniors which will meet monthly on a Saturday morning and include a full day of activities four times a year.

Another area we'd like to grow in is to reach out to the lonely



and isolated by setting up tea parties hosted in people's homes and running tea-time Alpha for Seniors.

We need people who would be willing to offer lifts to enable people to come to all of these events as well as hosts. Please consider joining us as we explore the exciting new things God has in store.

~ Diana Rees-Jones

# Men's Ministry

**T**he popular format of meeting around food has been enjoyed by the men at St Giles' during 2017 - mainly in the form of a monthly breakfast with a visiting speaker. This provides a relaxed environment to appreciate friendships, invite friends and to be encouraged and challenged in our faith whilst enjoying the best value breakfast in Northampton.

In the varied spring and summer talks we heard about witnessing, worship, armed forces, relationships and the Reformation. The autumn programme concentrated on mental health and well-being with brilliant practical talks from our Archdeacon, Vicar, Curate, a GP and two Clinical Psychologists (there must be a joke there somewhere!)

The breakfast talks have been getting us trained up, relevant 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 continue to encourage one another to join together in prayer partnerships/triplets.

A team took part in a 5 A-Side football tournament and we provided chefs for the famous summer BBQ.

Some of the St Giles' guys helped in the organisation of MoMENTum 2 Men's Conference in April and many joined with the 200 guys from Northamptonshire. We are involved in the planning and organisation of MoMENTum 3.



January – a walk followed by...yes a pub lunch.

~ Roger Hampson

We are building good links with other men's groups in churches around the town and county. 2018 has already started well with a Man Walkie-Talkie in

## Engage: Prayer

**T**he engage team, with help from other creative folk, designed and organised another 24/7 prayer room in the St Giles Church Centre last May to coincide with the two Archbishop's 'Your kingdom come' prayer Initiative. The theme this time was 'Greater Things'.

Members of the team were also invited to set up prayer stations for Churches Together in Northampton at Pentecost.



~ Bob and Alison Steele

## BE! Women at St Giles

**A**s a Be! Team we have taken time out at the start of this year to talk and pray together. Our vision is to reach out to a broad spectrum of women both inside and outside the church to enable women to meet God with one another and to have fun!

We have had a number of different events this year to do that. At a pizza evening in March, Cathy Summerside talked about the challenges of managing finances. In July on our retreat day in Moulton, Jane Follett led some great reflections on God the potter. It was an opportunity to think and pray as we got our hands dirty. In November we had an evening with wine and cheese when Becky Harcourt, from New Wine, shared

her own story of daring to 'step out of the boat' under the title of her book *Walking on Water*. Lots of ladies came, many from other churches. It was a great evening.

Through the year we have continued to hold our Be! At the Pub evenings where sometimes just a handful of people and sometimes a larger group have enjoyed the opportunity to relax and get to know each other better.

This coming year we are looking to reach out particularly to young mums through Toddle In as we invite Louise Pentland to talk about surviving and thriving with little ones. We are hoping for sunshine in May for an Afternoon Tea and then look forward to Pam Stocker leading our day away at Launde Abbey in June. Do come and join us.

~ Diana Rees-Jones

## Schools

**I**t has been a joy and delight to be involved in a whole range of activities in local schools, whether that be in leading Collective Worship, taking RE lessons and visiting classes, or taking special services in school for Christingle, Christmas, Easter, Leavers' Services and Harvest. Jonny, Cameron and I have all been involved in regular activities.

We have continued to build our relationship in particular with All Saints School and Abington Vale School (Stirling Campus).

Again this year our Christmas and Easter Experience in St Giles have been very well received by both staff and children. It has also been great to once again link these events with our ministry in the Age UK Venton Centre. The older people there love watching the children sing. Cameron has planned and led the 'prayer space' stations in church and again the children have responded well.

In the year ahead we want to be sensitive and responsive to the opportunities God may open up for us. We recognise the strategic importance of work in schools and wherever we can we want to partner with them in making God known. Our partnership with All Saints School has been particularly fruitful and was recently commended as being a good example on the Diocesan training program for curates.

~ Diana Rees-Jones



## Prayer & Healing

This year has been a significant year for us as a team as we were recommissioned in October and given a new name – The Pastoral Prayer Team. We have gained new members this year and now total eighteen. We continue to pray for people during or after the morning service and sometimes at the evening service. Some of the team are available to pray during the week for those who need further prayer ministry. I have attended a Young Adults meeting to explain the role of the Pastoral Prayer Team and to encourage them in their prayer ministry for one another. Members of the team have attended a number of training events during the year to develop our ministry. ~ Denise Bridgens

## Compassion ministries

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. Our financial giving is an important part of our support for these ministries.

Many people in St Giles are involved personally in meeting the needs of people in both our town and our local communities. For some this is a regular, ongoing commitment, usually as part of a team or group. 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.

In 2017, we joined with other churches in the 1000 hours project as part of **Loving Northampton**. In the end, 3000 hours of action were recorded across the town. We plan to get involved again in 2018. We are partnering with an organisation called **Livability** to help to shape and develop our compassion ministries in the year ahead.



~ Steve Kelly

## Evangelism: Alpha

We have again seen God at work changing lives through the Alpha this year at St Giles. We were delighted to see the growth in the number of guests attending Alpha this year. The January course started small, but the September course was very well attended. For the September course we worked hard on the advertising, plugging it in every service in the run up to the launch party. We also worked hard to make sure that all guests were able to connect into an area of church life after completing Alpha. It was wonderful to witness two of the guests being baptised.

At the end of the September course we had a Celebration evening giving the guests a chance to share how they experienced the course. Here is some of what they shared;

*'Alpha has been one of the most fulfilling things in my life.'*

*'Alpha has been about accepting that God does love me.'*

*'Prayer has now become an important part of my life, as has reading my Bible.'*

*'I now feel complete and deeply rooted in my Christian faith.'*

~ Tim Smith

## Property Committee

2017 was a year for continuing maintenance and improvements within our Church buildings.

The Treloar room has been completely refurbished, thanks to Phil & Bee Clark's house group for the work that they undertook (see photo). This has enabled some reorganisation of the staff office facilities, with the Treloar room now being a much more comfortable and usable meeting room.

We have subsequently sought proposals for refurbishing the main Hughes Hall and entrance area, which

we hope to action in 2018.

Ongoing maintenance has continued both in the main church and in the parish centre. We commenced at the end of the year an upgrade of our IT and telephone infrastructure within the parish centre which will provide building-wide wi-fi coverage and a more flexible telephone system.

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 continued to undertake routine jobs around the church and to Jon Patching for dealing with various repairs.



~ Duncan Halliday

# Mission

## Home Mission

**H**ome mission has seen slight changes in 2017. 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, Crime to Christ, FISH, Church on the Heath, Manna House, Eve, Street/School Pastors, Safe Families, Fusion and the Simeon Trustees. We have given toiletries to Eve at Christmas and started to support Baby Basics with items at Mothering Sunday, providing Moses baskets packed with useful items for new mothers in need.

2017 saw the end of our involvement in Berrywood Church as they became part of the St. Luke's and St. Francis group of churches in Duston.

In 2017 we saw Josh Thorne move to Oxford and come under our "Ministers in training" heading.

A small surplus in the budget led us to be able to give additionally to the Christingle donation, to the Children's Society, to provide craft materials for Eve and give further support to the Manna House for their counselling service. We gave a donation to each of the following: The Christian Motorcyclists Association (providing Bibles to Bikers); to Renew Wellbeing (the organisation who helped us set up the Wellbeing café) and another to allow Baby Basics buy Moses baskets. We also gave a small donation to the Salvation Army for their Christmas project providing meals for the lonely and are exploring links with them now they have their shop/café in Abington Street. ~ Carol Halliday

## World Mission

### Mission Partners

**W**e continued to support our six mission partners: Alf and Hilary Cooper in Chile as Alf prepares to hand over leadership of La Trinidad church while continuing as assistant bishop; Ann Fursdon in Chad and Vera Zhuravleva in Russia. Ruth and Izaias de Assis continue with Proclamation Church in Brazil, while Jonathan (18) came to England to work with YFC for a year; and in Thailand Gill Vriend led various ministries and Peter used his financial and business skills in several contexts. Dave (18) started at Bath University. At home Anna and Jonathan Holmberg continued their support of outreach to Muslims, but for personal reasons Anna took a break in the autumn. Tom Skinner, one of our Young adults left in October for a four month medical placement in Kyrgyzstan. We also supported the persecuted church by prayer and giving, and Tear Fund.

Alf and Hilary spent a weekend with us, Anna, Jonathan and family came for a day. The Vriend family spent several weeks here, and a love offering of £2200 was taken up for a family mission trip to Greece. Ann, on extended home leave, spent a month here engaging with a wide range of people.

Our Lent Project featured two projects supporting refugees, mainly Syrian: the provision of fruit and veg in Jordan through

former colleagues of Jonathan and Anna, and to contribute to the great demand for Bibles both among refugees and in Syria.

Steve Kelly attended an autumn meeting at which we reviewed our activity and considered future possibilities. A questionnaire will seek information about current interest among church members. A period of mission focus is envisaged for the autumn.

The World of Difference Fair was most successful with increased attendance and takings of £5485 for the various charities represented. Our grateful thanks to Judy Cooper for her excellent management of this event over the years.

An updated Mission policy was signed off in March. WMG group members have not changed: Simon and Denise Bridgens, Lois Clark, Judy Cooper, Dave Smith, Jacqueline Wienkamp, and myself. Of our budget for the year: £35,260, £28,740 was given to partner support, a slight increase over the year before, and £550 for short term mission trips.

~ Liz Kitwood

Organisation		Amount
Barnabas Fund-persecuted church		£1320
Vera - Christmas presents for children/community		£250
Tear Fund		£1000
Mission Ver School		£400
De Assis personal needs		£500
End of year gifts agency/partner (each)		£370
Organisation	Event	Amount
Tear Fund	Good Friday lunch	£450
Heart for Kids, China	Shared Christmas card	£140
Bible Society Arab World ministry	Lent Project (half each of sum raised)	£7620

## PCC Report

The PCC met six times during 2017, with average attendance of 22 voting members. Issues discussed and dealt with at these meetings included:

- ⇒ World Mission/Home Mission policy.
- ⇒ Mix/Demographic in our Congregation, in Leadership and on committees.
- ⇒ Evangelism and Growth; Being a Resource Church.
- ⇒ Buildings and Churchyard.
- ⇒ Safeguarding.
- ⇒ Finance and budget.
- ⇒ Regular reports were received from the following committees: Exec, Property, Personnel, World Mission, Home Mission. Also from the Vicar and Deanery Synod reps.

A leadership summit was held on 14/05/17.

The most recent PCC minutes are displayed on the notice board in church. ~ Renée Dixon