



Annual Report 2018

Welcome to St John's Community Church Annual Report for 2018!

Many thanks indeed to the host of people who have contributed to this year's Annual Report, which gives a comprehensive take on so much of our life here at St John's. It feels like it's been an incredibly 'full' 12 months – resulting in there being much to give thanks to God for, but also much to reflect on as we take stock of where we're at as a church under His guidance.

There have been numerous highlights over the past year, whether that's the fantastic time we had with our Church Weekend at Home with Nick Page, the faith-shaping trip a number of folks made to Israel, a great week at Naturally Supernatural, the Play in the Park events catering for hundreds of locals, the oh-so-festive Christmas Fayre & Christmas Lunch, or the immense New Year's Eve Party... A great mix of memories to treasure!

Alongside the monthly curries at Aashiq's & the weekly cakes at Drop Inn, we've also aimed to be well-fed spiritually, including the '5 Words' Lent Course, the 'Music Matters' midweek series, & Sunday series such as 'More Than Words', 'Meals With Jesus', & 'The Kingdom of God'. Our House Groups have also continued to develop, with a great team of leaders providing studies & pastoral care week in, week out.

There have also been some significant developments for us as a church, ranging from the sale of the Church Rooms, the appointment of Ellie Sutton as our full-time Youth Minister, to saying goodbye to Marg Mattocks as Rector for our Burntwood Chase Team. We've also begun to explore being involved with the taking on of the lease for Chase Terrace Park, & the possibilities that might offer for improving community life in our town.

With all this in mind, it's no wonder the year feels like a 'full' one! In the midst of all the activity & fun & hard work, I guess there's a risk we might, at times, lose sight of the God who is behind it all... And yet as the reports which follow are testimony to, God is *always* faithful, *always* patient, *always* generous, & I know I speak for so many of us when I say how grateful we are to God for all that he has provided us with over this past year.

And from me – well, I thank God for you all so much: for the love, encouragement, support & guidance that you give to me, both in my role, but also to me as person & to my family. It continues to be an immense privilege to be the vicar here at St John's. I wouldn't want to be doing this church 'stuff' with anyone else, or indeed anywhere else!

As you read through this report, do please use these words as a prompt for your own prayers. Let's pray, giving thanks to God for his goodness to us, but also praying that we as a church might continue to mature & grow in the way we prioritise & relate to God in our daily lives, both as individuals & as a community.

Yours in Jesus,

Revd Matt Wallace - Team Vicar - St John's Community Church, Chase Terrace and Boney Hay

St John's Community Church

Annual Report 2018

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Burntwood Chase Team Intercessory Prayer

In September 2015 the Lord started to speak to me about setting up an intercessory prayer team for the Benefice. On March 1st 2016 myself, Annette Haywood and Marg Nicholls met up to pray for all 4 churches in the Team. A few months later Julie Hall from St. Anne's joined us. We also have a group from Hammerwich church who receive our prayer points and pray alongside us under the guidance of Rev. Margaret Austin. We meet up every month and I also send a prayer diary out every 2 months enabling people from all 4 churches to pray for the Team.

It is a real privilege to bring prayer requests from all 4 churches and to get a real understanding of the problems and strengths of those who serve God there. Christ Church, St. Anne's, Hammerwich and St. John's are all very different but equally all of them are important to God and He wants each of our churches to flourish. In July we said goodbye to Marg Mattocks, our Team Rector, which has led to many more concerns for us to pray through. We pray that 2019 will see the appointment of a new Team Rector based at Christ Church and Hammerwich who will move the Team forward and join us together with God's love.

Elaine Betts

Card & Book Stall

A personal "thank you" from me for your continued support in this venture. I absolutely love this ministry and the support I get from 'The Way Truth and Life' bookshop is amazing. Nothing is ever too much trouble and are always willing for me to take/try something new. This year a total of £176.61 has been raised for our Church. Thank you for your encouragement.

Marg Nicholls

Church Warden's Report

2018 has seen many changes happening at St. John's. We welcome all our newcomers, of all ages, and say thank you to all of our congregation whether you have been with us only a few months or many years. You are all a real blessing to us. We are grateful to God for bringing in so many young families with young children, and also the many grandparents who bring their grandchildren along too. This is what makes our church so special. Forgive us for not knowing all of your names. We are doing our best but it takes time when each week we seem to have someone new. What a privilege it is to be wardens in such a vibrant, welcoming church that places Jesus at the centre of all that we do.

Our thanks go to our vicar, Matt, and his family who are such a wonderful expression of God's care and love for us. We would also like to thank the many people throughout the church who give their time and energy to make this church what it is today. There is no way we could manage without all of you. We would also like to thank our assistant wardens Nigel, Gill, Marg and Carolyne who share the responsibility of making sure each of the services run smoothly. Without them and their faithfulness life would be much more difficult for us. Over the last year there has been the usual activity in the general upkeep of the church building and also various additions due to wear and tear. Some have been due to our obligations to our insurance company's requirements and others to the sale of the church rooms. There have been various additions to electrical wiring and repairs to extraction units and emergency lighting. There has also been repairs made to the partitioning wall between the worship area and hall and testing and repairs done due to the failing of the lightning conductor system to meet the minimum requirements of the standard for resistance in the event of a lightning strike. These are in addition to overseeing the clearance of the church rooms prior to sale and the sealing of leaks around the windows in the meeting room roof and the removal of green mould/moss from the roof tiles. 2019 will see all the external windows and doors replaced with UPVC. The target date for this is August 2019.

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who have made a major contribution to the daily upkeep of the church. This often goes unseen by the majority of our church community but it is invaluable to ensure that the church and areas around the grounds are maintained to a very high standard. Our brothers and sisters seek no recognition for the work they do; it is seen as their ministry to our Lord. As wardens we thank them all as we would not be in a position to carry out our duties without their gracious contribution.

Les Careless and Elaine Betts

Deanery Synod

The Lichfield Deanery Synod held four meetings during the year and other than receiving summary reports from the Diocesan Synod and general business, each meeting discussed a main topic as follows:-

FEBRUARY – “Training Opportunities for Lay People”. The presentation was given by Lindsay Hall (Diocesan Director of Vocation), she outlined the various training programmes available in the diocese i.e. Living Faith: 1 year Bishops Certificate, Pathway to Ministry, Lay Ministry Training and Call to be Me: a quiet day to enable you to reflect what ministry God is calling you to do.

JUNE – “Experience Pentecost”. Rev. David Bishop described how by using the material produced by Life Works called You Matters, he was introducing children to Pentecost. Aimed at KS2 pupils the session is set out in 6 stations enabling the young people to experience the Holy Spirit by Waiting, Receiving, Telling, Doing, Sharing and Growing.

SEPTEMBER – “Places of Welcome”. Helen Titterton explained that the Places of Welcome project began in 2014 when Birmingham City Council and the Bishop of Birmingham recognised the need for every neighbourhood to have a place where people would be warmly welcomed, receive free refreshments, feel valued and included. A place of Welcome is based on 5 principles: PLACE, PEOPLE, PRESENCE, PROVISION, PARTICIPATION. There are over 250 places of welcome in Staffordshire of which St. Johns Church Drop In is one.

NOVEMBER – “The Future of Religious Education in Schools”. Julie Smith Head Teacher of St. Chads Primary School in Lichfield gave an enthusiastic account of how her staff, with the support of the governors work to ensure the school maintains its Christian Ethos. Using the Fruits of the Spirit as a foundation for the school’s emphasis to Love God and Each Other.

– **“Multi Academy Trusts”.** Richard Pithers (Chair of St. Bartholomew’s Multi Academy Trust) gave an informative presentation on the process and structures of Trust management. Trust members are volunteers and carry enormous responsibilities i.e. policies, curriculum and spending priorities.

Annette Haywood, Marg Nicholls, Steve Taylor.

The Drop Inn

The Drop Inn has continued to thrive in 2018 and we regularly welcome new people to our growing clientele. We were pleased to become part of the national Places of Welcome network and were the 250th Place of Welcome to be registered. Our fundraising coffee mornings for The Pathway Project, Light for Children and Macmillan Cancer Fund are well supported by the generosity of all who attend. The Trustees recognise the debt of gratitude owed to the volunteers who staff this initiative week by week throughout the year.

Please pray for all the volunteers as they seek to serve and support all who come and that the love of Jesus would shine through all that we do and say.

Lesley Stanton

Foodbank

You may well be aware that the Foodbank here in Burntwood is operated by the Churches working together (B. C. U.). Our work is co-ordinated and overseen by the Cannock and District Foodbank, which is affiliated to the Trussell Trust. In Burntwood alone, we have reflected the situation nationally, of seeing more referrals for emergency food. Last year, we assisted some 850 people of which 83% were resident in Burntwood. The main reasons for referral were benefit issues (40%) and low income (36%). This need has resulted in opening up for distribution at Emanuel Church twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes) and an overall increase in our workload of some 46%. We have welcomed the increase in volunteers from all churches willing to distribute and continue to be grateful to Linda, Margaret, Sue and others for their regular commitment in this area.

To our collection team at church, we have recruited some twelve new members who volunteer to take on the role of collecting donations from our Morrisons’ store too. Totals of 2.5 metric tonnes of food donated via Morrisons can be accounted for and some further 0.7 tonne here at church since March 2018. The overall total of 3.2 tones is exactly one month’s requirement of the whole of Cannock and District FB. Thank you for all your generous gifts of food especially at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. A new SJCC record for donations. Thank you also to all our “collection” team for their commitment.

This will be the last year that the donations left at church as an item separate from the Morrison's donations will be reported. We will attempt to let you know how much was collected during our major festivals here at church. But regular giving has declined in Church as the new "dump box" at Morrisons is far more convenient for the majority of people. Please do not be afraid to place items purchased from other stores in the box at Morrisons. However it's appropriate to retain our "donation cabinet" here in SJCC for visitor use, as we continue to highlight our role in sharing God's love by all the Churches working together here in Burntwood.

If you look for me on Facebook, you will then be able to keep abreast of developments and our changing needs for donations of food, toiletries, pet and special food "treats" at Easter and Christmas

David Stanton

Light For Children

The charity 'Light for Children' was established in 2007 after Helen Roe, then a young member of St. John's made a visit to Romania in 1997 and following several more short visits, chose to settle there in 1999 initially volunteering to work with a group of young children living in an institution in Dersca. These children were later moved to institutions in Dorohoi and Botosani in 2001. Since then Helen has steadfastly worked to make a difference and has seen the youngsters in her care grow and get help with their education and life skills so that they can go on to become adults in their own right. While carrying out this work she met and married a Romanian, Costel Cosman, and now together they continue the work of the charity in Dorohoi, Romania.

The objectives of the charity are: "The advancement of the Christian faith through the relief of need, hardship or sickness amongst children and young people, resident in or citizens of Romania, by offering social, educational, cultural, medical, emotional and spiritual support according to Christian principles."

Following is an extract from Helen's report for the AGM in January:

Medical news – *Two girls (one 14 and one 6 year old) who are fighting leukaemia are doing well. The autistic boy that we help has made remarkable progress and has kept his place in mainstream school; we will continue to help his family with medical costs. We support a lad who at 5 was put into the care system following an accident where his arm needed to be amputated below the elbow, as he has grown he has received two prosthetic arms which the charity have contributed to. We continue to support the apartment children by paying for optician appointments, glasses as required, dental work, medical tests and medication, plus the services of a speech therapist..*

Educational news – *We support young people who are able to go to university (2 of our young people have now completed their BA & Masters Degrees). This academic year we have paid for 11 children from the state run apartments to receive afternoon schooling (the government pay for morning schooling). We also pay for these children to receive text books.*

Extra-curriculum activities – *This summer we sponsored a number of the apartment children to attend a Christian camp run by an American charity called "My Brother's Keeper". At Christmas time we bought a kit for each apartment to make a Gingerbread House together, which proved a great success, especially when they realised they could eat it! 12 young children aged between 5-11 have joined the church orchestra and we took them to listen to the Botosani Philharmonic Orchestra in concert followed by Pizza as a Christmas treat.*

The Light for Children Committee ask you to continue to pray for Helen & Costel and the work they do with the children, young people and families in their care and thank God for the commitment of Helen to see this work through and unstintingly give of herself. We would also sincerely like to thank St John's Community Church for their continued support, to Helen personally, and to the charity as a whole by allowing fundraising events to take place in the church building and for the encouragement that church members give to these events.

Mary Aplin, on behalf of the Light For Children Committee

Little Friends

In July Little Friends said a fond and sad goodbye to Jane and Phil Tennant and Jan Marriott as they retired from the Group. Jane had run the group since it started approximately 24 years ago. Gemma Wallace and Lottie Backhouse became the leaders of this group and watched the numbers attending increase from 60 to 80 registered with us. It came to a point where we were turning mums desperately in need of love, support and

friendship away because we were full. Both Gemma and Lottie felt that there must have been something better we could do. We decided to explore the possibility of a second session. In January 2019 Wednesday afternoon Little Friends opened with a new team and 24 registered mums and babies. We now have approximately 30 registered families and have started advertising hoping to be able to offer this service to many more families in the area. This extra session is vital in our area as so many toddler groups have closed in recent years due to funding. The over stretched baby clinics are often unable to offer the time and support that some new mums need. We continue to offer the same quality care, time, conversations and crafts at both our Wednesday and Thursday groups. We are grateful for all the help and support our wonderful teams offer and would like to congratulate the Wednesday team for how quickly they have bonded with each other and the families who attend the group. Please prayer that more families in need of support will find and join us, that God will provide sufficient helpers to cope with the demands of the groups and we pray that the energy and enthusiasm of the teams and leaders will long continue.

Lottie Backhouse

Little Singers

This group was starting to see numbers decrease as low as 8 per week in the Autumn term of 2018. Most of the children were attending YPC as well as this group and with the impending opening of Wednesday afternoon Little Friends there were concerns about the energy levels of leaders and helpers as they would be running the extra group as well as existing ones. The difficult decision to not continue Little Singers into January 2019 was made in December 2018. All children who were in regular attendance of Little Singers were encouraged and now regularly attend YPC1 which is evident by the increase of numbers in that group. We would like to take the opportunity to thank all helpers and parents who attended Little Singers for their support and understanding during the sessions and after the difficult decision to close was made.

Lottie Backhouse

Lottie Backhouse - Children's Co-ordinator

Over the past 3 years in this role, I have been coordinating, supporting and resourcing activities for 0-11's, including the weekly children's groups of Little Friends, Little Singers, YPC#1, YPC#2 and Sunday Stars. I have also attended the playtime Conference run by Care for the Family which helped us to explore the idea of opening Little Friends for an afternoon session due to number restrictions as well as giving us resources and craft ideas to try in our groups.

All the children's groups have continued to grow seeing record numbers at all 3 of our YPC groups. The Christmas Workshops were very successful with 80 children registered to join us and 72 with us on the day. Although it was fabulous to meet with these many children in one morning it was felt that it was difficult to spend any quality time building rapport with the children on an individual level. As we look to the Easter workshops, we will cap the numbers at 60 with a waiting list so that we can see how many children show an interest. We may need to consider alternative ideas to accommodate all those who are interested. I completed a Listening Course last year and have found it very helpful in talking to parents and children. I'm currently doing a Pathway to Ministry course that is very interesting and helping me to really think about what God is calling me to. Who knows where this may lead me?

We continued to work in partnership with Burntwood Town Council and WS7 Events over the summer holidays, helping to provide some fantastic Play in the Park sessions in Chase Terrace Park for families in our community. The main aim of this is to continue to establish better links and relationships with our local community. These events helped to spark the idea of the church and the community leasing the park and improving it as a community project which I believe is progressing well.

A great big thank you to all the teams involved in the many children's activities we run, for their support, help and commitment over the past 12 months and into the future. Please pray that God will continue to guide and grow his Children's and Youth Ministry and its teams here at St Johns. *Lottie Backhouse*

Men's Breakfast

The report for 2018 is very much the same as last year with only a few meetings but all the same those that came had good fellowship and good food all seem to enjoy it even when we were doing jobs around the church. Numbers between 10 to 15 this includes men from St Anne's and some that do not go to church at all but all are made welcome. Ladies were invited to breakfast and spring clean to which only one or two came to breakfast but more came to clean so a big thank you to all

Mike Emery

Novi Most

It has been a year of change for the teams in Bosnia-Herzegovina that we have visited and worked with since 2016. The main difference being that Beki became permanent Field Director for the whole Novi Most team and Director for the north of the country, Jajce and Sarajevo. Ivica has taken on the new post of Director for Herzegovina in the south of Bosnia. This covers the teams in Mostar and Capljina. The country is large with few major routes and it makes more sense for the two to manage their respective areas. Although we did not have a team visit in the last year we continue to receive regular prayer requests and the Novi Most newsletter 'New Bridge' which is normally available in the church reception area.

Major unemployment issues in Bosnia continue to cause many problems for the young people we serve there. This has meant that there is still a huge migration of young people away from Bosnia into the rest of Europe leaving behind disenchanted communities and isolated pockets of Christians. The Novi Most teams work hard to encourage the young people with life opportunities and to encourage them in their faith journey, but it remains a big challenge with there being so few Evangelicals throughout the country. Lack of income has also meant some groups having nowhere to meet. The OC centre in Mostar is being knocked down in the summer and we pray for an alternative place for them to do their crafts, teaching and bible studies. It is hoped we may be able to take another team from St Johns within the next 12 months and we shall be able to see for ourselves the issues that the young people are facing.

It's not all bad news though. The band (right) who visited St Johns 18 months ago are all doing well. Taner (bassist) found settled work in Jajce at last, Pavel (drummer) finishes school soon and has some part time work. Nina has also found some work in Jajce but hopes to join her brother Branko (lead guitar) in Sweden where he now lives with his



wife. It was sad to see him move from Bosnia but it is good that they have settled into a new job and life there and are very well. Branko hopes to visit the UK again soon. Budo continues his drum lessons and working for the

church in Jajce with Matt (keyboard). And Alma is part way through her University course and is helping on the Sarajevo team. It is such a privilege to see that with support and encouragement they continue to grow and do well. It is tough going for those who remain in a difficult environment and they appreciate all the love, prayers and giving from St Johns they have received. If you're reading this and would like to know more or are interested in the possibility of going to work with the young people in Capljina and Mostar for a week, please have a chat with me.

Best wishes, *Matty Sutton*



Marie Hiley - Parish Administrator

It has continued to be very busy in the parish office, with the increase of administration support provided to church members. I continue to support, Matt with the day to day work involved at St John's, Lisa and J with accounting preparations and reports, Sue with gift aid and church wardens with maintenance and improvements.

During 2018 we have seen the sale of the church rooms on Ironstone Road, an increase in faculty applications for the interment of ashes in the churchyard and the introduction of new room hirers. We still operate an open, warm, office environment policy for everyone to access, providing a first port of contact for anyone in need.

Marie Hiley

Pastoral Care

As our church fellowship continues to grow so too do the pastoral needs of the many people who come through our doors. We continue to try to support the growing number of people in a variety of ways and situations. It might be through listening, guidance, encouragement or praying with someone. All are important parts of Pastoral Care Ministry.

House Groups continue to grow and flourish. Several groups have had additions to them throughout the year, as people have joined the church. It is encouraging to see so many people who attend a group regularly or who are 'attached' to a group for socials or other activities. The House Groups offer a great way for new people to get to know others and become integrated into church life.

Our House Group leaders do a fantastic job in looking after those in their groups. A massive 'Thank You' to them for their commitment week by week and the care they give to their members.

This year saw the launch of the Bereavement Help Point. The Help Point is available to anyone experiencing bereavement of any kind, whether recent or not. The sessions run every Monday afternoon, providing a relaxed confidential environment where people are able to share experiences and support each other. A regular number have attended the group since September, some for a short while, others for longer. It has been very encouraging and a privilege to be able to offer support to this initiative.

In addition to the pastoral support available at Sunday services, support for those who are unable to attend church continues to be very important. Visits, phone calls, home communions are all vital ways to help people remain in touch with the church. A number of people continue to carry out this important work for which we are very grateful. If you are available to help in our pastoral work in any way please speak to either Jane or Sharon.

Sharon Broomhall & Jane Tennant

Pathway Project

Pathway's annual report for our AGM was titled 'A tale of four weddings and not a funeral but a significant loss'. At the time of writing it we were still reeling from the shock of losing a significant contract and having to say goodbye to 14 highly valued staff. It felt like a bereavement for all of us.

It has been a difficult year but we are working hard to build Pathway back up, and to take the opportunity to re-structure the organisation and prepare for my retirement on 31 March 2019. We also managed to find roles in Pathway for five of the staff who lost their jobs in the transfer.

Throughout all of this disruption we were still delivering our services, and despite the loss they are still quite considerable. We are still running our 24 hour helpline, 2 refuges, a drop in centre, a sexual violence and abuse service, young women and girls service, peer mentors, children's services, groups, counselling, volunteers and placement schemes and Action Kids. We have started to rebuild our community outreach team but it will now be made up of staff with specialist skills. We have begun delivering this with our Alcohol and Mental Health Worker. We will build up this team as we get funding.

We had 2500 calls on the helpline during the financial year, and supported 86 women and 90 children in our refuges. We recruited 13 volunteers, had 550 attendees at groups, and delivered 13 talks to 357 attendees. We

worked with 637 people in our outreach services prior to handing that service to a new provider on 1 October 2018.

Life goes on and our key priority at this moment is to increase our fundraising and income generation work. Our Patron scheme is still open for people wishing to give a regular amount. Please talk to me if you would like to hear more about it. We also have some events planned:

- Royal Ascot Ladies Day in Tamworth on 20 June. Sorry – tickets have sold out!
- Tutbury Castle with cream tea, with Leslie Smith doing one of her historic portrayals of Nell Gwynne on 23 June. Tickets will be going on sale soon at £15 each.
- Pathway Pooch Parade – an organised walk and run (5K) for your dog (you can come along too!) More details to follow when the date is confirmed. Venue is Kingsbury Water Park.
- Burntwood Wakes stall on 29 June. Please come and support us there.
- Tamworth Carnival stall at Castle Grounds on 1 June.
- Brass band concert – date and information to follow.

We are so very grateful that as a church and as individuals you support us, both financially and with prayer and love. It is hugely important to us and we really value every message, hug and every penny raised.

This was also the year of the World Cup. As part of the Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth (BLT) Domestic Abuse Forum we decided to run a campaign. We borrowed an image that had been used previously and had free support from a local company to design and produce marketing products. Our campaign focused on women as victims because that is primarily the case with football related violence. When we put it on social media we had a lot of comments from men saying it was sexist and various other comments which it is better not to dwell on. It was horrible but in a strange way the trolls did us a huge favour by drawing so much attention to it. They pushed into the world of viral campaigns and we reached 11 million people. The campaign was aimed at raising awareness – job done!



Our campaign featured in many local newspapers and news websites but also on Marie Clare's website, Yahoo Style UK website, Glamour UK website and finally we had a whole column dedicated to our campaign in the Guardian. Thank you trolls and those who supported us with our message as you truly upped the game!



You may have noticed – how could you not! – that I was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours. Keeping it quiet for more than a month almost killed me. I have been to the Palace for the Investiture and had such a very special time. Pathway was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, which is an MBE for organisations, in 2012 so I am very proud that we have all been honoured for the magnificent work that Pathway does in providing such a unique and very specialist service.

And finally, I really am retiring on 31 March 2019 when I will cease to be CEO and the baton is passed to Hayley Baxter who has been my Operations Director for about 12 years. Of course I will always be the Founder. On 1 April I begin a new chapter when I become a volunteer and a peer mentor for Pathway. My illness in the summer proved that Pathway is strong enough to work well without me and for the sake of my health I felt that now was the time to step back. I know that Hayley will take Pathway forward with the same commitment and dedication that I have felt. Thank you to everyone who was so supportive during my illness and prayed for my recovery. I am much better but I am sure that less stress and more rest will help.

Kathy Coe, MBE

PCC Secretary's Report

Another exciting year has passed for me in the role of PCC Secretary and what an amazing exciting year it has been. Once again here is a brief summary of our meetings throughout the year.

MAY 2018: This being our first PCC Meeting for a new season, welcome and thanks were given for continued service to our PCC for the coming year and as a Committee we keep that love working together, the love of God being the key motivator and shaper of all that we are.

New appointments were made for our PCC:

Secretary	-	Mrs Margaret Nicholls
Treasurer	-	Mr Jay Haywood
Lay Chair	-	Mr Ian McKeown

Our Standing Committee formed:

Rev Matt Wallace	-	Team Vicar
Mr Ian McKeown	-	Vice Chair
Mrs Margaret Nicholls	-	Secretary
Mr Jay Haywood	-	Treasurer
Mrs Elaine Betts	-	Churchwarden
Mr Les Careless	-	Churchwarden
Miss Ellen Nicholls	-	PCC Representative

Discussions took place regarding Rev Marg Mattocks and her move to St. Nicholas and St Peters Church in Codsall and a new pattern of services within our team was handed out for PCC consideration. Encouragement was given to our Children's Co-Ordinator for her development within this role and further training given by 'Pathways to Ministry'. Various other items were discussed including Safeguarding, Church Rooms, Church Weekend and the new role of Youth Minister.

JULY 2018: Our July meeting included our Sound System, Storage within Church and our Church Weekend; recommendations for replacement of our Rural Dean, Rev Marg Mattocks, by Rt. Reverend Clive Gregory Bishop of Wolverhampton which would be announced at a later date and updates were given regarding our Chase Team and Electoral Roll additions. Discussions took place regarding our Youth Minister Role, the approval of our Safeguarding Policy, the sale of our Church Rooms and our Churchyard Faculty Approval, changes to criteria regarding midweek leaders and Training Courses offered to members of our Church.

SEPTEMBER 2018: Updates were given regarding our Sound System, Training Courses, Storage and the appointment of our new Rural Dean, Rev Janet Waterfield. Reports were given by our Churchwarden of repair work carried out; Deanery Synod Representative, Burntwood Chase Team and our Treasurer. Discussions took place regarding the Lease of Chase Terrace Park, the advertisement of our Youth Minister Role and the sale of our Church Rooms.

NOVEMBER 2018: At our November meeting feedback was received regarding our Remembrance Service and the condition of our Cenotaph. A possible grant from the War Memorial Trust would be applied for. Burntwood Chase Team and the appointment of Rector was discussed and two representatives were elected from St. John's to be part of the interview process – Mrs Annette Haywood and Mr Steve Taylor. Announcement of our Youth Minister was announced – Miss Ellie Sutton beginning 1st December, 2018. Various other discussions took place including the completion of the sale of our Church Rooms.

JANUARY 2019: Our January meeting highlighted a new Wednesday group for Little Friends starting 23rd January, 2019 with 13 Leaders in place. Our Wardens Report included discussions regarding the replacement of our Church windows and various repairs needing to be carried out. Reports were received from both our

Children's Co-Ordinator and Youth Minister for which prayers were asked. Our Treasurer gave his Financial Overview together with our Tithe Commitments. Ongoing conversations are taking place regarding Chase Terrace Park and discussions took place regarding our car parking arrangements.

MARCH 2019: It was advised the Faculty for the cleaning of our War Memorial has been approved. Correspondence regarding Safeguarding within our Church received and new Church keys together with security codes have been issued. The Parish Profile for Christchurch has been approved and Reports received from both our Children's Co-Ordinator and Youth Minister. A representative attended our meeting from Uniseal who brought a sample window for our PCC showing material, style, lock etc. A Safeguarding Course was highlighted to be completed by our PCC and our Treasurer presented his Report. It was advised a Committee has now been formed of 16 members for Friends of Chase Terrace Park.

It has been a most eventful, exciting year of which I have loved being part of. I continue with an attitude of gratitude to be part of a fantastic group of people supporting each other through every situation with God at the centre of everything discussed and undertaken. Thank you very much. *Marg Nicholls*

Planned Giving

At the start of 2018 with only a few folk using the envelope scheme for regular giving and after speaking with those involved, many agreed to change to standing order. The decision was made to cancel our 'envelope' order. It was expensive as there was a minimum order requirement and more were wasted than used. I now produce our own by standing order envelopes for five folk who wish to continue giving in this way.

At the end of 2018 there were 49 folk/families who were gift aiding their giving and two by envelope. Plus 12 folk/families who are non-tax payers also giving by standing order and three by envelope. A total of 66 regularly giving, an increase of six on last year. We also have two folk who regularly give by using the white envelope.

From 1st Jan – 31st Dec 2018 Gift Aid totalled £52219.77 and non-Gift Aid £6558.00

It is this regular giving that the church bases its budget! Without this regular income the work done both in church and the community would struggle.

The freewill (collection bags used at services) totalled £10898.08. This tax year (April 6th – 5th April 2019 we can claim tax back on the first £8000 an increase on previous years of £3000. But as you can see, we do 'lose out' if you use the 'bag' and are a tax payer. If you can only give occasionally and are a tax payer please do use the 'one off' white envelopes. They can be found on the unit in the foyer or on the board at the back of the hall.

I submit our tax claim twice a year, April 6th – Sept 31st and will submit our second claim Oct 1st – April 5th 2019. We've received from our first claim £6756 on our gift aid and £777.69 (GASDS) from our freewill.

If you've been a member of St John's for sometime or a relative newcomer and would like to start giving regularly, don't worry about the amount. Every £1 helps and giving is a journey, it takes time to be able to tithe. Remember giving can be altered as circumstances changed. If you would like to start giving on a regular basis forms can be found again in the foyer and hall and handed to me, Sue Southall or if you would like to know more please do speak to me on a Sunday or phone 01543 677806. All information is kept confidential.

My thanks again to those who deal with the envelopes after our services and also to Marie who helps me with the counting of the money each month. And finally, 'A Big Thank you' to all who give regularly. Without your generosity God's work couldn't be done here at St John's and in the community.

Sue Southall

Prayer

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth (2nd Cor 5:20) that we are ambassadors for Christ. This is a great analogy for our prayer life. An ambassador represents their country as a foreigner in another country, just as the church represents the heavenly country of God's kingdom as foreigners or sojourners here on earth. And just as an ambassador must be in constant touch with their home government in order to represent its desires, so must the church be in constant touch with our Lord in order to represent his desires. This is why the prayer life of the church is of such paramount importance.

And as our prayer life continues to underpin our outreach and our endeavours to care for those in need, we can once again give testimony that the Holy Spirit is moving powerfully within and through our fellowship. But it is good to remember that there is always more where God is concerned, consequently, our prayer life must not remain static, but continue to grow in vibrancy, intimacy and desire for more.

We would always encourage people to pray for and with each other and we also have a Prayer Team which continues to meet before each Sunday service and offers confidential prayer ministry during and after the service. New members are always welcome to join our prayer team, if you feel drawn towards this ministry we would love to hear from you.

Within this fellowship we also have a Deeper Healings Ministry Team which operates in tandem with our Pastoral Care Team in providing extra support for those who need more than can be given during our Sunday services. This is a form of ministry seeks the Holy Spirit's guidance for the root cause of all aspects of sickness in body, mind, soul or spirit in order for healing not simply to be applied to the manifest symptoms, but also into the root cause from which the symptoms are manifest.

A time of reflective prayer which is focuses on listening rather than speaking takes place in the lounge at 7.30am each Saturday morning, and all are welcome to simply turn up and join in.

Paul wrote to the church at Colossae and told them how Epaphras was always wrestling in prayer for them, that they may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. (*Colossians 4:12-13*) He prayed as a warrior. The word wrestling that is used in the text, mean he was battling and fighting against principalities and powers in the heavenly realms in the power of God on their behalf. This is the principal that underpins the intercessory prayer group that was for many years led by Christine. This is the only prayer group that is closed to anyone other than its members and this makes it a safe place where people can ask for prayers especially in situations that they want to be kept private in every sense, knowing that confidentiality is assured. We can testify that we have seen many wonderful answers to our prayers of intercession. For intercessory prayer requests please speak to either Val Renowden or Les Careless.

And a reminder that our prayer life should always focus not on what *we* may do for God in order that *we* may build, grow and prosper *our* church here at St. Johns, but rather on what God may do through us as *he* builds, grows and prospers *his* church here at St. Johns.

Bill Humphries

Safeguarding

This year we have continued to ensure that all our volunteers and leaders are up to date with DBS checks. Clergy and Lay Readers have completed an advanced Safeguarding training and we are in the process of ensuring that our Youth and Children's workers also complete Level 2. With the agreement of the Diocesan Children's Safeguarding Officer we have run 2 training sessions at St. John's using the online Introduction to Safeguarding CO course. In total 57 PCC members and children's work volunteers from the four churches in the Benefice attended.

Please pray for protection for our church, our leaders and all who are involved in the children's and youth groups. Especially pray for the children and young people who regularly attend our groups.

Lesley Stanton

Sunday Stars

We continue to have three Sunday Stars groups Little Stars 0-3 unsupervised group which parents stay with their children in but can listen to the service through the speakers in that room if they wish. Shooting Stars age 3-6 which has seen a steady increase in the last 12 months and averages about 14 children. Jan Moss has just joined the team to provide the group with 4 leaders so the Shooting Stars can operate on a four-week rota the same as Superstars do. Superstars has seen a massive increase in number averaging 12 most weeks. Recently we had 24 children in the group and now that the office has been rearranged to provide more space this size group can be easily accommodated. Superstars have been trialling and considering the Youth for Christ (YFC) resources and are looking into subscribing to this material soon. The children have responded well to the new Youth Worker Ellie Sutton and are forming good relations with her. They seem to be enjoying her interactive sessions on a

Sunday morning. The team seem to have gelled very well with Ellie also. Prayers for continued growth, leader and helper support as well as for the faith and relationships that are being built on a Sunday morning. A massive thank you to everyone who is committed to working and teaching the children in these groups may it long continue.

Lottie Backhouse

Worship

This year has seen a real growth in both numbers of people involved, and also engaging with the worship team here at St Johns, and we must never forget how blessed we are with all the talent and ability that God has given to everyone involved. We'd like to thank Dave Mason and Steve Earl for helping to lead services so well, which has helped spread the load of planning and doing this duty every week, and enabling other leaders to come along to church and be ministered to. It's also been great to have Sian join us on the violin, which has added such a wonderful dimension to the overall sound of the worship.

With the ongoing tweaking of the sound system, we want to thank you for your patience and understanding with regards to the recent upgrade in the amplifiers and sound desk, and a HUGE thank you to all the sound desk and visual volunteers, as they have to deal with quite a tricky balance of room acoustics and different speaker setups! I think we're all getting used to the electric drum kit sound now and how it has helped improve the overall balance of volume in both the worship area and the community hall, and would like to also thank the drummers for adapting their playing style to suit, as it's not very easy! We've also experimented using backing tracks live in the 10.30 services to see if it can help us to achieve a full band sound when we haven't got enough instrumentalists, but the jury is still out on whether we go further down that route yet, as it's technically difficult to pull off as a worship leader!

It's been really great to have some fantastic new worship songs to lead this year from artists like Bethel, Hillsong and Housefires and there are many more amazing worship songs that we haven't yet introduced that we're really excited to try, so we pray that God will continue to stir us up and lead people into His presence more and more! Once again, a massive thank you to everyone involved in the worship teams at St Johns, both for your time and general willingness to serve.

Mark & Hayley Tennant

YPC#1 & YPC#2

Both YPC groups have seen record numbers in the past 12 months and has recruited many new helpers due to the growth. YPC2 requires more helpers and prayers in this regard would be very much appreciated. YPC1 regularly sees 24 children compared to the 12 regulars 12 months ago. YPC2 often reaches numbers of 56-60 children each week. The children enjoy the sessions and often ask leaders if the group is on and what activities are available on Friday several days in advance. Children feel comfortable invite friends and family members to join the group. All attending enjoy a range of craft and kitchen crafts from decorating wooden hearts/butterflies to decorating biscuits or making pancakes. Most of the children enjoy the sports and table top games we provide as well as the music requests we run in the worship area where the children are free to dance or practice their gymnastics. We have recently introduced games into the lounge area to encourage the children to partake in games that are strategic and logical rather than just offering physical games. This seems to be working well and can be a good source for conversations with the children about their home lives.

There are some lovely friendship groups developing in this group which is always good to see. The children in YPC2 have started to build relations with our New Youth Worker Ellie Sutton which will hopefully help with a smooth transition when they go up to YPC3 at the end of Year 6. Last year to help with this transition we had a couple of transition nights where year 6 attended YPC3 and Year2 attended YPC2 which were very successful. Ellie and Lottie are hoping to run extra sessions this year with perhaps 2 after Easter and then another 2 in June so the children can get a real taste of the new groups before moving up in September.

Lottie Backhouse

YPC#2

YPC#2 has been a hive of activity on Friday nights. We often have a queue out the door at 6pm of those waiting to get in with their friends. The starter game helps to get everyone warmed up at the beginning in one group, with games like relays, charades, paper aeroplane races, dance offs and scavenger hunts. It has been great to see the team working so well together as we cover activities each week in the sports hall, the lounge, crafts and kitchen. Giving the young people a chance to hang out with their friends and choose what they want to do. We then have a 15-minute interactive talk based on a bible theme, using the Urban Saints energize resources. This term we have been looking at topics such as bullying, gossip, music, church, jealousy, worship and school. It's a great opportunity to tell the young people that they are loved and to share with them the message of Jesus.

We are so grateful to the dedicated team of leaders and young helpers who turn up and help. To Lottie, Ellie, Charlotte, Mandy, Jack, Trish, Matty, Sian, Simon, Robyn, Tash, Libby and Connor. This team enable us to run a variety of activities each week safely and well supervised.

We have had an average of 52 young people attending each week across the term so far with one week reaching a record of 66 young people. With the growing numbers, please pray for those who help and for the group to continue growing friendships and skills that help those attending to spread their kindness and love across Chase Terrace and beyond.

Gemma Wallace

YPC#3

YPC#3 has grown phenomenally over the past year, with numbers ranging from 25-40 young people each week. This has meant we have needed to begin to introduce new leaders alongside the regular team (Ellie, Matty, Trish, Steve, Charlotte and Kathy), and we have been thrilled to have Ethan Earl and Jon Biddle join us more recently. Thank you to all the team for all your hard work, which bears visible fruit in the conversations and relationships you have with the young people.

The session begins in the lounge with music and tuck, and then we do some form of activity from 8pm onwards – anything from 'murder mystery' nights, to musical chairs! – followed by free time from roughly 8.30pm onwards where there will be sport in the hall, music in the worship area, and 'chat and chill' in the lounge. Because of the huge increase in numbers, we decided from January 2019 to stop the formal 'teaching slot', as it was clear to us that this format was no longer working. This has been in favour of a more relaxed 'opt in' approach – some weeks we will have a specific topic which the young people can come and discuss with nominated leaders, and others weeks we simply reserve the lounge as a more chilled zone where the young people know they can come and chat to any of the leaders if they have any issues. This is in line with our aim as leaders to be: relational, so the young people feel like they can come to us with their problems; intentional, in that we will not shy away from speaking about our faith and the impact it has on our lives; but also organic, in that we aim to share the gospel in a way that is natural and conversational. Moving forward, the goal is to establish a separate smaller discipleship group for those who are wanting to find out more.

Although in general things are looking positive, having such a number of young people has introduced its own problems – more recently, with regards to young people who are not part of the group turning up to see their friends, whilst under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. This is a new challenge that has been presented to us as leaders, and the bottom line is that we want YPC#3 to be a safe space for all our young people – those who are younger, but also those who may be vulnerable to these sorts of social issues if they stayed on the streets. Prayers for wisdom and discernment regarding this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Outside of YPC#3, The Mess continues to go from strength to strength as a student house group for young people/adults roughly aged 16-23 (leadership team being Ellie, Anji and Jay Haywood, and Jon and Ros White). Whilst on a weekly basis we may only have anything from 4-8 people attending due to others being away at university, the group itself consists of around 16 people who we catch up with via social media and in person during their university holidays. We are taking a group of 10 from The Mess to Soul Survivor this year, and for subsequent years I will be looking into alternative festivals, such as Greenbelt.

From Easter 2019 onwards, I will be going into Holly Grove Primary School once a week to run a lunch club for year 5 and 6 students. This is with the aim of establishing relationships with these children before they move up to high school, so we have an avenue to invite them to YPC#3 subsequently. I am also currently in discussion with Leanne Sutton about offering the school the Scripture Union 'It's Your Move' sessions for year 6s, a one-off programme which helps these children with the transition up to secondary school. This is an exciting step outside of the church and into the school life of the community.

Ellie Sutton

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

1. Reference and administration details

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chase Terrace and Boney Hay, St. John
Known as: **St. John's Community Church**
Charity No: **1131458**
Secretary: Margaret Nicholls, 'Ewlyn', Buds Road, Cannock Wood, WS15 4NB

PCC Members (Trustees) Attendance 2018-19

Name	Elected	Period	Term End	05/18	07/18	09/18	11/18	01/19	03/19	%
Elaine Betts (W)	2018	1	2019	P	P	P	A	P	P	83%
Les Careless (W)	2018	1	2019	A	P	A	A	P	P	50%
Jay Haywood (T)	2016	3	2019	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Kathy Louis	2016	3	2019	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Lin Richards	2016	3	2019	P	A	A	P	A	P	50%
Steve Richards	2016	3	2019	P	A	A	P	A	P	50%
Matt Sutton	2016	3	2019	P	A	P	P	P	P	83%
Sharon Broomhall	2017	3	2020	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Annette Haywood (D)	2017	3	2020	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Marg Nicholls (D) (S)	2017	3	2020	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Nigel Procter	2017	3	2020	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Steve Taylor (D)	2017	3	2020	P	P	P	P	P	A	83%
Jane Tennant	2017	3	2020	P	P	A	P	P	A	66%
Jay Gascoigne	2018	3	2021	P	A	P	P	P	P	83%
Ian McKeown (LC)	2018	3	2021	P	A	P	P	P	P	83%
Ellen Nicholls	2018	3	2021	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Mark Tennant	2018	3	2021	P	P	P	A	A	P	66%
<i>Clergy Members:</i>										
Revd Matt Wallace	<i>Team Vicar</i>	n/a	n/a	P	P	P	P	A	P	83%
Key: P Present X Absent A Not Present (Apologies received by the Trustees) R Retired/Resigned W Churchwarden D Deanery Synod Representative T Treasurer S Secretary LC Lay Chair n/a Not Applicable										

Names and Addresses of Bankers

HSBC 20 Market Place, Cannock, WS11 1BX

Independent Examiner

Mr. Jonathan Hill, Director of Finance, Diocese of Lichfield.

Incumbent

Revd Matt Wallace (Team Vicar)

2. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. In 2009 we registered with the Charity Commissioners in accordance with the provisions of the 2006 Charities Act.

All members of the PCC are thereby "TRUSTEES" of the Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. New trustees are informed of their responsibilities, and all trustees are regularly reminded of them.

The PCC is the decision making body of St John's Community Church and in accordance with the requirements of church law it has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church property and grounds of St. John's Community Church at High Street, Chase Terrace, the Churchyard on Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace, and, until December 2018, the Church Rooms at 39 Ironstone Road, Chase Terrace. At the present time some of the PCC's duties and functions in respect to the maintenance of the Churchyard have been

assumed by Lichfield District Council; however we still have a duty to ensure that memorials are safe and that the Churchyard is in good order.

Since 2000 there has been a Mandated Ministry Team to work alongside the incumbent. In July 2011 the Diocese initiated a new structure to recognise shared leadership in a parish: The Mission and Ministry Covenant. At its meeting in July 2011 the PCC passed the following resolution: *This PCC affirms our commitment to shared ministry and resolves to accept the Bishop's invitation to enter into a Covenant under the terms of the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Covenant scheme.* At the same meeting the PCC approved an extended Ministry Team based upon the structure identified in our Organisation Review process and delegated this team to *“develop mission and ministry in this parish.”* The new team assumed responsibility in September 2011, with various personnel changes as appointed by the PCC over subsequent years.

As of 5th March 2016, the benefice of Burntwood, Chasetown, Hammerwich and Chase and Boney Hay was established, known as the Burntwood Chase Team. Christ Church, St Anne's, St John the Baptist and St John's Community Church have subsequently been working closely together as a Team Ministry. Until her resignation in September 2018, the benefice was under the leadership of the Team Rector, Revd Marg Mattocks. The post of Rector is currently in vacancy. All clergy and readers have been licensed to the whole benefice.

As Team Vicar with responsibility for the parish of Chase Terrace and Boney Hay, Revd Matt Wallace works in partnership the churchwardens, Mr Leslie Careless and Mrs Elaine Betts, Mr William Humphries, Dr Ian McKeown (Licensed Readers), the Trustees and the Ministry Team. Other voluntary leaders also cooperate with the incumbent to exercise responsibility in many different ways as they work together to carry forward the mission of the church.

St. John's Community Church has a Church Office, and administration is carried out by a part-time paid Parish Administrator and other volunteer helpers. The Trustees are committed to encouraging all members of the church to play an active part in its life. All appointments of staff employed to work for any ministry associated with St. John's Community Church are confirmed by the Trustees, and they have ultimate responsibility for all financial matters. Volunteer and paid staff who work with children or vulnerable adults are required to complete a Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check. The PCC have final responsibility for oversight of Safeguarding.

3. Objectives and Activities

The object of the PCC of St John's Community Church is to fulfil the functions as laid down in law, namely to co-operate with the Incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - (PCC [Powers] Measure 1956)

Our aims have been set out in the policy document entitled *“The Way Ahead”* and agreed by the Annual Parochial Church meeting in April 2000. The values contained in this document represent the ethos of this charity - **Worship, The Bible, Prayer, Serving, Relationships and Evangelism**. We regularly review our activities, evaluate our performance and determine our priorities in the light of these shared values and commitments. Our mission statement is *“To love God and other people in the name of Jesus, and to live each day in the power of his Holy Spirit.”*

Those who are employed by the Trustees (either in a paid or voluntary capacity) are expected to work in accordance with the values of this charity and be supportive of its aims.

Statement on Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

The trustees believes that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chase Terrace and Boney Hay, St. John, it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:-

Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers: and Promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

In accordance with the requirements of the Diocese of Lichfield, the PCC formulates a Mission Action Plan (MAP) to indicate some specific activities and objectives for the ensuing year(s). The MAP has been reviewed and agreed by the Trustees. The MAP is submitted to the Diocese, and responded to by an appropriate officer or representative. The MAP for 2017-2022 is below:

Mission Action Plan 2017-2022

Vision:

Our aim is to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind & strength, & love our neighbours as ourselves. Our vision is to build on existing work in establishing St John's Community Church as a **hub for the whole community**: a place & people of welcome, hospitality, meeting, worship, prayer, pastoral care, discipleship & mission. **Mission is our shared responsibility** - the role of the church is to enable, equip & encourage that mission, through the power & inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship:

- **Identify, train & empower leaders** - encourage involvement in church services, pastoral care, mission, small groups; including commissioned, licensed, employed & ordained roles.
- Develop a model of **outreach & discipleship** through midweek groups & clusters - e.g. Alpha, Beta, Small Groups. Prioritise leadership development & provide material for **House Groups**, in particular developing a more effective model for 20's/30s discipleship & pastoral care
- Develop & establish regular **evening services** for discipleship, prayer, worship
- Develop **prayer life** of church - regularity, styles, opportunities etc.
- Work on raising profile & priority of **financial giving**

Building:

- Install new **AV system & lighting** in church
- Extend & re-fit **church kitchen**
- Establish a **welcome/information point** to connect people to the life of the church

Community:

- Build on **hospitality, socials, meals, fun times** - create opportunities for people to **share stories**, develop support & deepen friendships.
- Strengthen involvement & develop mutual support in our role as part of the **Burntwood Chase Team**
- Develop **community links & partnerships** with Burntwood Town Council (particularly Play in the Parks), schools, scouts, website links etc.

5. Achievements and Performance

There were 155 members on the Church Electoral Roll at December 2018. Just over half of our members live in the parish, with a minority living outside the ecclesiastical parish boundary. Every member does not attend every Sunday due to family and work commitments. For 2018, our Average Sunday Attendance figures (calculated according to Diocese of Lichfield requirements) were 133 adults (134 adults in 2017; 128

adults in 2016; 103 in 2015; 93 in 2014) and 29 young people under the age of 16 (25 in 2017; 23 in 2016; 17 in 2015; 16 in 2014). These figures do not represent the total number of people attending during the week, as many visitors and attendees are not counted in the official returns. The higher attendances on special occasions are an indication of our strong relationships among the people of the community we are called to serve.

The Diocese of Lichfield also require another measure to indicate our impact on the life of the local community and asked us to compile figures for 'Worshipping Community'. A member of the Worshipping Community is someone who attends an activity that includes at least an element of worship. On this measure our Worshipping Community figures are as follows:

Adult	(18+)	325
Young People	(0-10)	205
	(11-18)	55

These figures give a good indication of the extent of our weekly contact with people in the parish. Our Christmas Eve/Christmas Day services enjoyed an attendance of over 400 people, with well over 2000 people in attendance for various services during the month of December.

On Remembrance Day attendances were even higher than the previous year, with around 550 people present in church for the morning service. These figures give a useful measure of our connection with the life of the community we serve.

Special occasions are only one measure of the connection of this church with the town as a whole, and there are many contributions made by our members to civic and community life. Members of this church serve as school governors at local primary schools in the parish; act as trustees of other charities, and contribute to community life in many ways.

We are committed to worship in ways that are accessible to and relevant for the whole community and we value each of the styles of worship that we offer to meet the differing needs of those we seek to serve.

Members of this congregation support the Cannock and District Foodbank, and this initiative continues to be generously supported by church members via our weekly collections of food. As a church we also offer financial, practical and prayer support to 'Pathway Project' - a charity which works with victims of domestic abuse; 'Light for Children' - a charity which works with disadvantaged young people in Romania; 'Novi Most', a charity which builds bridges between disparate youth in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and various other charities including The Youth Net, Link For Life, and United Christian Broadcasters (UCB).

In terms of the year itself, in January 2018 the main topic under consideration by the PCC concerned the future shape of the church's youth work. After long and difficult discussions, the PCC concluded that the existing job description and 12 hour/week contract for the post of Youth Coordinator was no longer suitable or sufficient for what the PCC felt our aims should be in terms of youth work at St John's. As a result, the decision was taken to make the current role of Youth Coordinator redundant, thus ending Jay Gascoigne's employment.

In February, the prospect of selling the Church Rooms continued to be discussed and considered. Curry Club returned with another night at Aashiq's restaurant, whilst House Groups embarked on a Lent Course, '5 Words', based around five different Hebrew words from the Bible. Children's Coordinator Lottie Backhouse embarked on a Listening Course.

In March, a new fridge/freezer for the church kitchen was purchased. School visits from Holly Grove and Chase Terrace took place, whilst our Good Friday Workshop had a record number of children attending. We also concluded our 'More Than Words' Sunday series, exploring ways in which the context of familiar Bible passages gives us fresh understanding.

April saw just shy of 200 attending our worship on Easter Sunday, and a number of the congregation joining Revd Matt Wallace on an educational trip to Israel. New appointments to the PCC were made at the APCM, whilst news was given of Revd Marg Mattocks appointment as Rector of Codsall, meaning that the post of Rector of the Burntwood Chase Team would be vacant from September. Matt Sutton, a member of the congregation, began to explore the possibility of ordained ministry with the DDO.

In May, the church came together for a month of midweek meetings called 'Music Matters', in which we explored the links between music and faith, whilst on Sundays we focussed on a series called 'Meals with Jesus'.

June saw a highlight of our year with our 'Church Weekend at Home', with speaker Nick Page and children's work with Pulse Ministries, along with a quiz night and curry evening at Aashiq's. The Drop Inn became part of the 'Places of Welcome' network, & we explored the possibility of starting a Bereavement Help Point in partnership with St Giles & Cruse. Also, David Sims was ordained at Lichfield Cathedral before taking up a post as curate in Wellington.

In their July meeting, the PCC agreed to advertise for the new appointment of a full-time Youth Minister, with interviews envisaged to take place in October. In addition, discussions regarding the sale of the Church Rooms had now progressed sufficiently to enable the PCC to engage Towler Shaw Roberts agents for the sale, with an asking price to be set in the region of £95,000.00, with FBC Manby Bowdler acting as our Solicitors.

During July and August, a good number of the church enjoyed the World Cup matches at The Victoria pub. Burntwood Scout Group once again helped to clear the grounds of old growth, and a church picnic was held on Cannock Chase. Around 40 church folks attended Naturally Supernatural conference in Stafford, and 'Play in the Park' events took place in Chase Terrace Park, at which the church provided free drinks, craft activities, and fed over 1000 people with a free BBQ.

In September, our Sunday series unpacked the concept of the Kingdom of God, whilst Matt Wallace aired the possibility of exploring taking on the lease for Chase Terrace Park after initial discussions with local councillor Sue Woodward. This exploration was approved by the PCC at their September meeting, whilst the PCC also approved the purchase and installation of replacement amps and speakers within the church at a cost of £2,338. The Church Rooms were sold, subject to contract, for a sum of £112,500, with proceeds to be held by the Lichfield Diocesan Trust. Lottie Backhouse & Kathy Louis embarked on a Pathways to Ministry course, whilst Parish Administrator Marie Hiley began a 9 month 'Skilled Pastoral Carer' course through St John's, Nottingham. Advertisements were placed for the role of Youth Minister. Also, due to the growth of our children's ministry, the hours of our Children's Coordinator were extended from 12 to 15 a week. Meanwhile, a good crowd of both church and church-connected people enjoyed a meal at Gio's Italian restaurant.

In October, we celebrated Harvest, enjoyed another Curry Club night at Aashiq's, and engaged with Prisons Sunday. After interviews for the Youth Minister role, the PCC were delighted to confirm Ellie Sutton to the full-time post, to start on 1st December.

In November, around 500 people attended our Remembrance Sunday services in church and for the Act of Remembrance outside. The poor condition of the surface of the war memorial was noted, however, and the PCC undertook to explore the possibility of professional cleaning, which would need to take account of its Grade II listed status. A Town Meeting for February 2019 was confirmed in order to discuss the possibility of taking of the lease for Chase Terrace Park.

In December, the Christmas Fayre was held in church, with many hundreds of people attending, whilst the church was packed out for various Christmas schools, scouts and civic services as well as the Christmas Workshops. Our Carol Service was attended by record numbers, and for the fourth year running, we held a Christmas Day Lunch in church for local people from the community who would otherwise be on their own, serving Christmas dinner to over 60 people. Along with various public donations of food and gifts,

Bradshaw Brothers kindly donated 2 turkey crowns for the meal. A week later on New Year's Eve, we held a fantastic party in church to see the New Year in with a quiz and 'Silent Disco', with 180 people in attendance.

We maintain our commitment to train and equip members for ministry. David Sims completed his training as an ordinand at Trinity College, Bristol, with St John's acting as his sending church, and we were delighted to support him at his ordination in June. Becks Louis completed her second year with YFC, as part of their dance group 'Stance', and moved on to start a placement with Kick: London. Along with training courses for Lottie Backhouse, Kathy Louis and Marie Hiley, Matt Sutton continues to explore a calling to ordained ministry with regular meetings with the DDO.

Our Sunday services continue to develop, mixing worship, teaching, prayer and fellowship. In 2018, our Sunday Series have included *More Than Words*, *Meals With Jesus*, and *The Kingdom of God*. Our ministries among children, families and the elderly, through *Little Friends*, *Little Singers*, YPC clubs, *Sunday Stars*, *The Drop Inn* and *Chase View*, have enabled us to make a positive contribution to the lives of many families in this area. Bereaved families also continue to receive pastoral visits following funerals, whilst our *House Groups*, *Prayer Groups* and *Men's Breakfasts* continue to be well attended and offer support, encouragement, learning and discipleship opportunities.

The Drop Inn has continued throughout 2018 and has grown steadily in numbers over the course of the year. The ministry aims to extend a welcome to local residents by offering a welcoming environment and a listening ear while visitors can enjoy tea/coffee and homemade cake. The Trustees recognise the debt of gratitude owed to the volunteers who staff this initiative week by week throughout the year.

The church building continues to be a community resource, with numerous user groups hiring the facilities on a regular basis, including the WI, Burntwood Chase Heritage and Slimming World, along with various training, dance and Zumba groups.

2018 has been a year of change and growth, particularly with the continued development of the *Burntwood Chase Team* and the Team's adjustment to Revd Marg Mattocks leaving her post as Rector of Burntwood Chase Team and Minister of Christ Church. We have seen continued numerical growth at both Sunday services and midweek groups, and there is much to be excited about as this next year unfolds.

The full PCC met 6 times during the period shown. There has been an average level of attendance of **78%**. Committees and smaller meetings of various Ministry Team members met between PCC meetings, and minutes of their deliberations were received and discussed by the full PCC where necessary.

Through the faithfulness of our members and with responsible management of resources, the Parish Share for 2018 has been paid in full. The Trustees have maintained the financial stability of the church, and there has been a rise in both planned gift-aided and non-gift aided giving. There are still considerable financial challenges to face if we are to sustain and grow our ministries in this community and we recognise the need for careful planning, monitoring of expenditure and cash flow forecasting.

The trustees know that the year ahead will bring with it fresh challenges, but have trust that God will enable us do all that he calls us do.

Revd Matt Wallace
Team Vicar and Chair of the PCC