



TRUSTEES REPORT
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of
St Peter with Christ Church (Southborough), St Matthew (High Brooms) and St Lawrence (Bidborough)
THE SOUTHBOROUGH TEAM MINISTRY
For the period January to December 2017

The Southborough Team Ministry's Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of working alongside the Ministers Rev Chris Wicks (Team Vicar), Rev Stephen Hills (Team Vicar) and the curate (Rev Nigel Griffiths) in promoting within the Parish the whole mission of the Church, including pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical activities. It has the responsibility for the maintenance of the four church buildings – St Peter, Christ Church, St Matthew, St Lawrence in addition to St Matthew's Church Hall in High Brooms and the houses at 54 Holden Park Road, Southborough and Ivy Cottage, Franks Hollow Road, Bidborough.

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Team Rector	Vacant
Team Vicars: & Joint Chairmen	Rev Chris Wicks Rev Stephen Hills
Curate:	Rev Nigel Griffiths
Clergy – PTO:	Rev Bill MacDougal Rev Jim Stevens Rev Ray Skinner
Youth Minister:	Claire Carroll (until July 2017) /Tom Tyler (from Sept '17)
Children's Minister:	Jonathan Carroll (until July 2017) /Lois Fryett (from Sept '17)
Youth & Children's Workers:	Linnéa Voisey Gen Griffiths
Parish Administrator: Operations Manager:	Sue Shrubb Hannah Mwesigwa
Churchwardens:	Richard Stanbury – St Peter Roy Langman – St Peter Graham Syms – Christ Church Gavin Large – Christ Church David Johnson – St Matthew Michelle Shirley – St Matthew (until APCM 2017) Bridgitte Shaw – St Matthew (from APCM 2017) Graham Wilkinson – St Lawrence Robert Gibson – St Lawrence (from APCM 2017)
Diocesan Synod Representatives:	Rev Stephen Hills Graham Syms – Christ Church



Deanery Synod Representatives: Deanery Synod Representatives are elected for a period of 3 years. Elections due at the APCM in 2020. The Team Ministry has an allowance of 5 members of the Deanery Synod shared across the 4 churches. The Representatives during 2017 were:

St Peter:	Rodney Hutchinson
Christ Church:	Barbara Bourne
St Matthew's:	Mary Wilson
St Matthew's:	Vacant
St Lawrence:	Vacant

Elected Members:	St Peter:	Marion Short
	Christ Church:	Len Morland
	St Matthew:	Ian Wilson
	St Lawrence:	Gordon Mungeam

The following roles are appointed by the PCC:

Parish Treasurer: Jolyon Head

PCC Secretary: Alison Lush

Electoral Roll Officer: Lesley Clare

Parish Children's Representative: Jayne Liley (from APCM 2017)

Child Protection/Disclosure Officers: Melanie Dove – St Lawrence's Church
Karen Bull/Melanie Knight (from Aug 17) – St Peter's Church
Rita Morland – Christ Church
Gill Fuller – St Matthew's Church

Parish Safeguarding Adults' Representative: Elizabeth Hills

Banks: Lloyds TSB Bank Plc
Nat West Bank Plc
HSBC Bank Plc
Virgin Money Plc (closed July 2017)

Independent Examiner: David Stephens FCCA (appointed at APCM)

Charitable Status: The PCC is a corporate body constituted under Trust Deed dated 1st May 2002 and is registered with the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number: 1132835

Team Ministry Web-sites:	St Peter's Church:	www.stpeterssouthborough.co.uk
	Christ Church:	www.christchurchsouthborough.com
	St Matthew's Church:	www.stmattschurch.org.uk
	St Lawrence:	www.bidboroughchurch.org

Correspondence Addresses: **Christ Church and St Peter's Church**
Christ Church Office
Prospect Road
Southborough TN4 0EG



St Lawrence's Church

The Rectory
Rectory Drive
Bidborough TN3 0UL

St Matthew's Church

High Brooms Road
Tunbridge Wells TN4 9BW

Patronage Board includes: Church Pastoral Aid Society and The Mabledon Trust

District Church Councils: The specific Church representatives on the PCC together with the individual church Treasurers, Child Protection/Disclosure Officers, DCC Secretaries and elected and co-opted members attend District Church Council meetings.

Treasurers – appointed by DCC

St Peter:	Steve Bull
Christ Church:	Allan Jonnes
St Matthew:	Kate Whitehead
St Lawrence:	Rachel Jukes (Sawyer)

DCC Secretaries – appointed by DCC

St Peter:	Currently vacant
Christ Church:	Pauline Newman
St Matthew:	Hannah Mwesigwa
St Lawrence:	Emma Lawrence

Elected and Ex Officio Members of the DCC:

St Peter:	John Kersey, Steve Bull, Kate Lamont (from September 2017)
Christ Church:	Peter Hillier, Judy Stevens, Rita Morland, Louise Frost, Jonathan Taylor
St Matthew:	Suzanne Owen, Jane Richardson, Matthew Fryett
St Lawrence:	Mike Fawcett, Sarah Smith, Clare Masters, Anne Hinds, Emma Lawrence

APCM 2017

At the 2017 APCM, Churchwardens and Lay Representatives to the PCC were elected and sidespeople were appointed. The Independent Examiner was also re-appointed for 2017.

Induction and Training of Trustees

All new Trustees (PCC members) are provided with a link to the Charity Commission's publication: "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know" which provides guidance to all Trustees on what is involved in being a Charity Trustee. All new Trustees are provided with Guidance Notes covering the various meetings throughout the year and other responsibilities of PCC members plus a copy of the booklet jointly produced by the Charity Commission and The Church of England entitled "Trusteeship – An Introduction for PCC Members". There were three new Trustees during 2017: Bridgette Shaw (Churchwarden, St Matthew's), Robert Gibson (Churchwarden, St Lawrence), Mary Wilson (Deanery Synod Representative for St Matthew's).

PCC Meetings

The PCC has met six times during the year (including the APCM) with an average attendance level of 80%. In addition to physical meetings there have been decisions via email. Minutes from each of the DCC meetings are put before the PCC so there can be an awareness of the needs and



achievements of each church in the team. Minutes from the PCC meetings are distributed to all DCC members. It is at PCC level that approval is sought regarding faculties and other legal or financial matters. Members of the PCC have personal and legal liability for the activities within the Parish. In early September PCC members met with James, Bishop of Rochester, to discuss future patterns for mission and ministry.

A Standing Committee is required under Church Representation Rules and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Standing Committee consists of all Clergy, one Warden or PCC member from each Church and the Treasurer. This Committee did not meet during 2017.

Annual Church Meetings (ACMs) were held in each of our four churches within one month of the APCM. At these meetings the DCC members detailed above were elected.

District Church Council (DCC) meetings are held to deal with matters of concern to individual churches such as repairs, improvements or re-ordering. Each DCC is responsible for its own budget, income, expenses and outside giving. The DCCs, aided in some cases by Ministry/ Leadership Teams, give considerable thought to the content of services, outreach, teaching, pastoral care and future development. Although each church considers individual priorities, the needs and concerns of the other three churches within the Parish are always borne in mind.

Reporting Public Benefit

The Aims and Objectives section of the Trustees Report provides a brief summary of the activities undertaken by The Southborough Team Ministry to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit. This section of the report also provides confirmation that the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and in particular on charities for the advancement of religion, when planning our activities.

The report specifically addresses the two key principles:

1. There must be an identifiable benefit – and the Trustees have explained the activities and benefits which flow from them to the Parish community.
2. The benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public – and the Trustees have explained their commitment to enable as many people as possible to worship and become part of the Parish community.

Major Risks

The Trustees consider that major risks have been identified. Those which are not covered by insurance through EIG plc are namely Health & Safety and Safeguarding. These topics are reviewed regularly by the PCC and each of the individual DCCs. The council has complied with the duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and the council complies with Data Protection guidance.

Responsibilities of the PCC

In preparing the accounts of the PCC, the Trustees must make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, follow suitable and consistent accounting policies, follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in the accounts and must apply the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate. The PCC is also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



Administration

The PCC employs two Office Administrators: Sue Shrubbs in the Parish Office based at Christ Church, and Hannah Mwesigwa at St Matthew's. The Administrators ensure the smooth running of the Parish, assist the clergy and co-ordinate all aspects of church administration. In September Hannah was made operations manager when she took on additional responsibilities.

Clare Masters continues to provide administration at St Lawrence. Graham Syms continues to produce the Notice Sheets at Christ Church. We are very grateful for the time and effort that all these individuals put into the smooth working of the Parish and the Sunday services on a voluntary basis.

Voluntary Helpers

There are too many voluntary workers across the Parish to mention everyone but it is these people who are the backbone of Parish life and ensure each church runs smoothly and effectively and the PCC extend their thanks to all these people in all the churches. These include children and youth workers, pastoral care teams, flower arrangers, cleaners, gardeners, music groups, organists, cooks, home group leaders, providers of tea/coffee, event organisers, fund raisers, maintainers of the web-sites, contributors to church magazines plus many others.

Curates

Following the retirement of Gerald Hovenden in January 2017, Nigel Griffiths has continued his training under the supervision of Stephen Hills.

Interregnum

During 2017, in consultation with the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, a "Southborough Anglican Churches Working Group" explored the way forward for the Anglican churches in Southborough and Bidborough. It is hoped that this consultation will be completed in the spring of 2018, at which time a new incumbent will be appointed at Christ Church.



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Southborough Team Ministry's Aims and Objectives for 2017 as agreed by the PCC are set out below along with the way we measure our success in each area.

1. BRINGING PEOPLE TO FAITH

Our aim is to provide a welcoming environment to encourage new church members and to retain and develop our existing members.

Retired Clergy

Ray Skinner continues to assist with services. Ray has PTO in the Diocese.

Jim & Judy Stevens retired to Southborough and Jim has been licensed as Clergy PTO for the Parish and elsewhere and continues to assist with services at Christ Church.

Bill and Izzy MacDougal began worshipping at St Matthew's on Bill's retirement from the ministry. He received PTO and began taking an active role in ministry at St Matthew's in June 2016.

Evangelists

Our team of Evangelists continue to visit various areas of the Parish to encourage people to consider the gospel message. They arrange a number of outreach events including Easter and Christmas giveaways in the community and carol singing.

Our current Evangelists are:

Christ Church: Geoff Baker
St Matthew: Trevor Long, Dee Harper

Geoff Baker continues in his role as Area Group Leader for the Tunbridge Wells group of Evangelists (approximately 17 Evangelists).

Average Church Attendances

St Peter: 43 adults, 13 children
Christ Church: 83 adults, 20 children
St Lawrence: 77 adults, 15 children
St Matthew: 111 adults, 44 children

TOTAL: 314 adults, 92 children

This is a reduction of 27 adults and 12 children from the 2016 figures.

Readers

Christ Church: Jim Walker (Reader Emeritus), Michael Wightwick (Reader Emeritus), Colin Clarkson (Reader Emeritus)
St Lawrence: Alan Richards (PTO), Michael Lee (PTO), Clare Masters
St Matthew: Elizabeth Haughan (Reader Emeritus), Trevor Long

LLM's

Christ Church Sheila Syms, Allan Jonnes
Graham Wilkinson continued his training as a Licensed Lay Minister.



Electoral Roll

At the end of December 2017 the number of names on the Electoral Roll was 436. These figures are made up as follows:

St Peter	69
Christ Church	110
St Matthew	160
St Lawrence	97

The Electoral Roll Secretary (Lesley Clare) reports the number on the Roll at the time of the APCM and it is this number, given to the Diocese, which is used to calculate the number of representatives we have on Deanery Synod. Electoral Roll additions, deletions and rolling totals are reported at each PCC meeting.

Activities relating to Religious Instruction

Alpha courses exploring the Christian faith were again run in the Parish. A joint course with St Lawrence, St Peters and St Thomas' was run at St Thomas' Church Parish Room. Confirmation classes were also run across the Parish and a confirmation service was held at St Thomas Church on 15 October at which two people from St Peter's were confirmed.

Special Services – 2017

During 2017 there were a total of 43 Baptisms – 6 under 1 year old, 6 between the ages of 1 and 4 years, 10 between the ages of 5 and 12 years and 2 over the age of 13 years. There were 5 services for the Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child, 3 aged under 1 year and 2 for children between the ages of 1 and 4. 6 funerals were conducted in our churches with a further 26 full funeral services conducted at the Crematorium. 14 weddings took place during the year and there were 2 services for Prayer & Dedication after a civil marriage.

Overseas Mission

St Matthew's continue to have Missionary Links with Tanzania, Peru, Southern Sudan and South Africa. Christ Church support Education for Life in Kenya, Sovereign World Trust and Sam & Abby Baguma working for MAF in Chad. St Peter's are supporting a school in Nairobi, Kenya. St Lawrence and the wider community in Bidborough have links with the Church of St Matthew's, Kibaigwa in Tanzania.

Home Groups

There are over 25 Home Groups throughout the Parish numbering around 200 members. These groups meet weekly or fortnightly during the day or in the evening to enable people to worship and pray together, explore their faith, ask questions to gain a greater understanding of both the Bible and Christianity and form a closer relationship with God and each other.

Mission & Vision

As well as the DCC's, Christ Church, St Matthew's and St Peter's have various forms of Ministry Teams that meet regularly to pray and plan for mission and ministry in those churches.

All churches continue to give talks to encourage giving during the current tough financial climate.



2. REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

Traditionally, the Church has been the focal point for the community and we are fortunate in our Parish that our four Churches still maintain this focus. We recognise that we cannot just expect people to come to us but rather that we must go to them. It is our intention this year to continue to develop and enhance our existing approaches.

Diocesan Involvement

Chris Wicks serves on the Diocesan Children & Youth Working Party.

School Governors

The Parish continues to maintain good relations and a strong presence with our local schools and have Foundation Governors at Southborough CE Primary School, Bidborough CE Primary School and St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School. The clergy and lay church members regularly take assemblies.

David Johnson is the Diocesan Board of Education Governor at St Matthew's School.

The Foundation Governors during 2017 were:

St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School	Chris Wicks, David Johnson
Southborough CE Primary School	Sue Shrubbs, Kevin Clare, Nigel Griffiths, Helen Burns, Lin Hutchinson,
Bidborough CE Primary School	Rhiann Bowler, Stephen Hills, Amanda Harris

Pastoral Assistants

St Matthew: Carole Wicks, Dee Harper, Christine Riddall
St Lawrence: Claire Wells

Street Pastor Scheme

As a Parish we have supported the Tunbridge Wells Street Pastor Scheme run through Holy Trinity with Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells. Mark Taylor & Mike Fawcett from St Lawrence, Melanie Knight from St Peter's, Ronnie Paylor, Graham Hickson-Smith and Richard Foot from St Matthew's and Jim Stevens from Christ Church continue as Street Pastors. Judy Stevens from Christ Church and Jean Best from St Matthew's are active members of the weekly Prayer Pastor team.

Community Events

St Matthew's Church, St Lawrence's Church and Christ Church continue to have links with local Brownie Groups. St Matthew's also has involvement with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

St Peter's took part in the Tunbridge Wells Heritage Open Days in September.

The Harvest tradition continued with gifts received at the services being distributed to people within the Parish and Nourish. St Peter's and Christ Church both held Harvest suppers.



The annual service in support of the Tunbridge Wells Branch of SANDS (Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society) was again held at Christ Church on the first Sunday in October and attended by a number of affected parents and their families from the Tunbridge Wells area.

The "Shoebox" Christmas appeal - Operation Christmas Child run by Samaritans Purse - was again supported this year. Members from St Lawrence took a lead in managing the West Kent warehouse on the North Farm Industrial Estate Tunbridge Wells and co-ordinating the distribution of the boxes. Over 600 volunteers, many from the Southborough Team churches, helped in various ways and over 41,000 shoeboxes were processed and sent to 8 different countries. 17,000 boxes processed elsewhere were also exported.

The Christmas Fair, held at Christ Church, was well supported and again raised a substantial amount of money. Christmas services were strongly supported throughout the Parish.

Mission Gift Days were held by some of the churches to support their designated charities. Others give regularly to charities through a tithe on income.

Support continues for a number of local, national and international charities and organisations. These include Tear Fund, the Bridge Trust, CMS, CPAS, Crossteach, Youth for Christ, Life and Soul, Street Pastors, Tunbridge Wells Crisis Recovery and the New Wine Network.

We continue to be a Fairtrade Parish with regular sales of Traidcraft produce taking place after services. Christian Aid week is also well supported across the Parish.

The Churches continued to support Nourish, the foodbank in Tunbridge Wells.

Christ Church continued to run their successful Friday lunches for the elderly in the community. Both Christ Church and St Matthew's have a "Friday Café" for those dropping their children off at school.

Christ Church runs monthly "Messy Church" services which continue to be extremely popular and also a "Messy Club" every two weeks after school on Fridays. "Tea and Toys" toddler group meets on Monday mornings during term time. Christ Church also ran the HTB Parenting course which was extremely well received.

St Lawrence Church run a weekly parent and toddler group "Tots & Co" in the village hall on Friday mornings during term time. "Who Let the Dads Out" for fathers and children meets monthly on Saturday mornings. CAMEO teas take place weekly and CAMEO lunches are held on a regular basis.

Quiz nights have been held on a regular basis, including a joint one between St Peter's and St Thomas's.

Fellowship

A lot of time and effort goes into reaching out to people of all ages both within our churches and in the community and this is a very important part of ministry for all of our churches. There are Parents and Toddler Groups, Youth Events, Women's and Men's events throughout the Parish at all churches. Specific events for men include bowling nights, prayer meetings, monthly walks, movie nights, golf and Men's Breakfasts. Women's fellowship groups continue to flourish with a variety of events organised in the Parish, including Women's Breakfast Meetings, movie nights, Women's Days, prayer meetings and evening meetings with guest speakers.



Prayer

Prayer continues to play an important role in the ministry of the Parish. A number of prayer meetings and team celebrations were held during the year and individual churches have held specific prayer evenings. There are regular prayer meetings for both men and women across the Parish and healing prayer is also offered after all morning services at Christ Church, St Matthew's and St Peter's (9.30 service). Christ Church and St Peter's collect monthly prayer requests from nominated streets in their respective parishes. An hour long "meditation at the Cross" was conducted at Christ Church on Good Friday and St Lawrence Church was open for prayer and reflection on Good Friday afternoon. A joint Lent course was attended by members from St Peter's, St Lawrence and St Thomas's churches. The Churches organised joint initiatives for "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer week in the lead up to Pentecost.

Pastoral Care

The pastoral care teams at each of our churches work very hard to ensure the holistic care of individuals in need. This includes coffee mornings, marriage and parenting support, breakfast cafes, hospital visits, home visits where people are ill, suffering or unable to leave their homes, provision of cooked meals, car rota schemes, community lunches and generally being available to listen.

Youth Work

District Children's Representatives are appointed in each Church by the DCC. For 2017 these were:

St Peter:	Karen Bull and Melanie Knight (from August 2017)
Christ Church:	Rita Morland
St Matthew:	Gill Fuller
St Lawrence:	Melanie Dove

Jonathan Carroll, Youth Minister, and Claire Carroll, Children's Minister, both at St Matthew's, left in July and a farewell Church service and barbecue was held. Tom Tyler, the new Youth Minister and Lois Fryett, new Children and Families Minister, both commenced their roles in September. At Christ Church Linnéa Voisey is employed as a permanent part-time Youth Worker, and Gen Griffiths covered while Linnea was on maternity leave and now covers the Kids and Families role, again on a part-time basis. Links are being built between the Parish and the Youth workers across Tunbridge Wells.

Outreach events are organised for the youth groups throughout the year. A variety of evening youth clubs continued to be well supported attracting young people both from within and outside church families. Young people from St Lawrence and St Peter's are invited to join with Christchurch Youth Club on Friday Night and Wednesday Youth Life Group.

St Lawrence youth spent a weekend away at Fellowship Afloat and 10 young people from Christ Church spent a weekend at West Watch in December. A number of events have been held throughout the year and have been well supported and enjoyed by all who attended.

Young people from the churches were also involved in helping on team with Falcon Summer Camps and New Wine venues.

Tunbridge Wells Chaplain

As Chaplain to the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells for 2017, Rev Stephen Hills led the Tunbridge Wells Remembrance Service and also opened Tunbridge Wells Council meetings with prayer.



3. OUR BUILDINGS

Recognising that we are merely stewards of our major assets, our objective is to maintain and improve our church and ancillary buildings in such a way as future generations will be able to worship in them.

Christ Church Building Project

Work on the Christ Church was completed in March 2017 and a Grand Opening party was held on April 29th and a Thanksgiving service on 30th. The annexe has been well used.

Quinquennial Inspections

St Lawrence

The inspection was carried out in April and the church was found to be well cared for and issues identified were related to the electrical services and heating.

Items identified as requiring prompt attention were to replace broken roof tiles, clear rainwater gullies, remove vegetation and undertake an electrical test. All items have been carried out.

Faculties

St Matthews applied for a Faculty for the laying up of the banner of the Southborough and High Brooms Ladies Branch of the Royal British legion. The Faculty was granted and the banner is now in place.

St Lawrence applied for a Faculty for Project 800 for works to St Lawrence Church to build an extension for a disabled toilet and some internal reordering to create a fellowship area and improved small kitchen facilities and also improvements to the heating system.

Other General Maintenance/Repair Work and Purchases during 2017:

St Peter

- Boiler house entrance rebuilt and internal boiler house lighting updated.
- Entrance lobby repainted.
- External flood lighting updated by Southborough Council with LED light bulbs and new timer.
- Some repairs to clock and bell striker carried out.

Christ Church

- Some refurbishment of main kitchen.
- Bird spikes fixed to areas on Prospect Road side of church to deter pigeons.
- Plumbing repairs and replacement of dishwasher at 54 Holden Park Road.

St Matthew

Replacement of old analogue sound desk with a new digital one.

St Lawrence

Works identified by quinquennial inspection were carried out as detailed above.



2017 continued to provide many challenges for the Team Ministry particularly on the financial front and we are constantly aware of and grateful for God's continual guiding presence and for the support of all our congregations. We continue with our aim of preaching God's word within our communities in the knowledge of God's forgiveness for our shortcomings and we praise God for the leadership, teaching, fellowship and encouragement from Chris, Stephen and Nigel and their families.

The Southborough Team Ministry upholds the authority of the Bible and is committed to spreading the Good News into the community through the enabling work of the Holy Spirit.

Adopted by the PCC at its meeting on 26th March 2018.

Signed on behalf of the PCC: Date

Chris Wicks/Stephen Hills (Chairman)



St Lawrence Church – Churchwardens’ Report – April 2018

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Lawrence Church, Bidborough

The fabric of the church is generally in good condition.

There were two major events in 2017:

1. The launch of “Project 800” – a building project including a small church extension and internal re-ordering to mark the 800th anniversary of the formation of the parish of St Lawrence Bidborough. The main purpose of the project is to make the church building “fit for purpose” for the 21st century by the provision of a disabled toilet, replacement of heating and sound systems, and internal reordering to create a meeting space with small kitchen facilities. We give thanks for the wonderfully generous response from members of the church family and wider community who have pledged over £250,000 towards the target of £350,000. Planning permission has been granted by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, and the Chancellor of Rochester Diocese is currently looking favourable on the application and is awaiting the detailed specification of the works before giving final approval. There is still much work to be done, but we are well on the way to seeing building work starting, hopefully, in 2018.
2. The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out on April 5th, 2017 by Thomas Ford & Partners, Chartered Surveyors, London SE26. The overall conclusion of the extensive report was that “the church is well cared for and current building issues relate to the electrical services and, in particular, the heating. Most of the recommendations are relatively minor maintenance issues.” The only items in the “requiring prompt attention” category were to replace broken roof tiles, clear rainwater gullies, remove vegetation and undertake an electrical test (which has been done). Items “requiring attention within two years” were general maintenance issues, apart from to “consider renewal of heating installation” which is covered in Project 800.

Our thanks go to all those people who contribute to the running of St Lawrence Church week by week. Our special thanks go to Stephen and Elizabeth for the love and support they give to our church family and to the wider community.

Graham Wilkinson and Robert Gibson
Churchwardens – St Lawrence’s Church
March 2018



St Peters Church Southborough – Churchwardens’ Report

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Peter’s Church, Southborough

2017 proved to be a fairly uneventful year concerning the fabric and ornament of St Peters.

Various works were carried out to maintain the church which we will list as follows:

- 1 The boiler house entrance was rebuilt at a cost of £2,245 plus VAT for which we obtained a 50% grant.
- 2 Internal lighting for the boiler house was also updated.
- 3 The entrance lobby to the church suffered water damage due to a tennis ball blocking the external guttering. The lobby was repainted and fully indemnified by insurers.
- 4 Repairs to the bell striker were carried out at a very reasonable cost by a local blacksmith.
- 5 White powdery deposits were found on many of the main cross beams in the church. These were investigated and found to be a deterioration of the varnish like coating of the wood with no sign of wood rot or infestation. Consequently it was agreed to leave the situation unchanged for the present due to the substantial cost of scaffolding the church to gain access to the beams. Obviously the situation will be monitored in the future.
- 6 The external flood lighting to the frontage has frequently failed during the year. These lights are the responsibility of Southborough Council who have now installed a new timer and LED light bulbs.
- 7 We had a great deal of trouble getting the gas boiler to fire up at the beginning of the Autumn. Various parts had to be ordered and our plumber advised that the damp conditions in the boiler house did not help the situation. It is therefore recommended that the boiler should be fired up on a monthly basis throughout the Summer to keep the electrics in good order. We have been assured that whilst our boiler is old it is still generally in good condition and parts can be sourced. A new boiler would be very expensive and involve the laying of an up to date gas feeder pipe across the churchyard which would be very expensive and problematical.
- 8 Unfortunately when we stopped the clock to change back to GMT in the Autumn the chiming mechanism failed. Gillett and Johnson have subsequently managed to get the hour chime to strike but not the quarter or half. They have suggested that the mechanism is out of balance and the solution is to dismantle it and rebuild at an estimated cost of around £300 pounds. We are pleased to advise that the Southborough Society have agreed to meet the estimated cost for which we are extremely grateful.
- 9 The water pressure to the Church has been low for some time and this has now been resolved by the water authority who have flushed the pipes by the roadway and installed a new meter.
- 10 Statutory inspections of electrical fittings and fire hydrants have been carried out.

Roy Langman and Richard Stanbury
Churchwardens – St Peter’s Church
April 2018



St Matthew's Church – Churchwardens' Report – April 2018

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Matthew's Church, High Brooms

The fabric of the church is in generally good condition and only a few minor repairs have been necessary during the past year. A second new boiler has been fitted after a leak was discovered in one of the units. The timber doors on the Gordon Road frontage have been re-decorated and the overgrown plants and bushes at the east end and rear of the church have been cleared.

In October 2017, we had the banner of the Royal British Legion, Southborough and High Brooms (Ladies section) laid up at the west end of the church.

Outreach to the community continues with our parents and toddlers group 'Matt's Monkeys' on Thursdays and Breakfast Café on Fridays, both of which continue to thrive. The termly Saturday breakfast gathering for ladies known as 'Revive' continues and is well attended.

We have three teams playing in the Tunbridge Wells Churches Table Tennis League and at the end of the 2016/17 season our 'A' Team finished top of the league. Although mainly a men's activity we are pleased to have one or two ladies playing, and would welcome any newcomers.

The children's and young peoples' work continues to thrive under the leadership of Lois Fryett and Tom Tyler. Numbers continue to rise throughout the age ranges and we are trying to solve the problem of the additional leaders needed as each group expands.

Our evenings of worship and prayer called "Hungry for God" are continuing on the third Tuesday of each month. The sessions are a very good way to enjoy some relaxed worship and to spend time listening to what God has to say to us.

We are very fortunate to have so many talented musicians in the church and our grateful thanks go to all our music groups for the way they lead our worship and help us to praise God in song.

Finally, our grateful thanks are due to the growing team of people who help in one way or another, with Welcome Teams, Communion Assistants, Audio-Visual Operators, cleaners and gardeners. Most of all we thank God for the many blessings He has poured out on us during the year.

Bridgette Shaw and David Johnson
Churchwardens – St Matthew's Church
April 2018



Christ Church – Churchwardens’ Report – April 2018

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Christ Church, Southborough

The main event of 2017 was the opening of the annexe. ‘Opening rather than completion’, because there is still some ‘snagging’ to complete before the project can be signed off. We were also able to purchase 50 chairs for use there as well as steadily kitting out the place as needs arose. It is well used by both church and community alike.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of our congregation we had some money left over in our Building Project Fund and some of this was used to refurbish the main kitchen. And of course there is a list of things we would like to do the cost of which exceeds the money left in the pot – so fundraising will still continue!

We put in proposals to the DAC to remove and upgrade the dated and dangerous lighting in the main church area. These proposals, along with our proposals for a permanent moveable font, were turned down flat and so no further progress with these two matters has been made.

Issues with roosting pigeons led us to fix ‘bird spikes’ to several areas on the Prospect Road side of the church. This has been fairly effective but we still have a problem with pigeons.

Little has changed at 54 Holden Park Road apart from some plumbing repairs and replacement of the dishwasher in the kitchen. However, with the departure of the Hovendens at the end of February, oversight of the Rectory has fallen to the Christ Church churchwardens. Here there is little to report other than the fact that the diocese requires us to keep the heating on 24/7 between 1st October and 31st March! (Not as wasteful as it might seem as Nigel has his study in the Rectory.) We have been striving to get the diocese to undertake some updating but their finances are severely stretched and we have been told that only essential work will be undertaken.

There are of course many, many people we couldn’t do without; the Cleaning Team, who week in week out come in and make sure the place looks neat and tidy, and nobody ever sees them. The Sidespeople/Welcomers who do a fantastic job of greeting people, giving out notice-sheets etc. and counting the offering on a Sunday. Every Sunday someone has to make the tea and coffee after the service and so again we are grateful to those in Life Groups, CYFA and others who ‘chip in’ to perform this task. During the year Chloe Steer stepped down from several years of dedicated service on the projection system and we are very grateful for her commitment and dedication to this task.

Steve Cole continues to work hard keeping the grass cut, the hedges trim and the borders looking neat in the churchyard. And so we are very grateful for all those who work quietly in the background on these essential tasks; without all of you we couldn’t do our job as churchwardens.

Many, many thanks to all of you.

**Graham Syms & Gavin Large
Churchwardens – Christ Church
April 2018**



CHILD PROTECTION REPORT

SOUTHBOROUGH TEAM MINISTRY January – December 2017

The Child Protection team in the Parish remains committed to ensuring the protection of the children in our care. There is a dedicated Disclosure Officer for each Church who keeps track of the Children's Workers and obtains references, DBS clearances and deals with any issues of child protection within their own church. They also distribute the Parish Guidelines to all new workers and are available to answer questions about their responsibilities with regard to safeguarding.

We are members of CCPAS (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service) and every month we receive an update on child protection matters. This is sent directly to all the Disclosure Officers so they can keep fully up to date.

At the PCC Meetings all the names of the Youth and Children's leaders are updated and put before the PCC for their approval. Child protection is included on the Agenda at every PCC meeting and discussions held on any relevant changes to procedure. All new members of the PCC should have received a copy of the Parish Responsibility document.

DBS clearances are still administered through CCPAS, using the online system and the Diocese accepts portable DBS clearances for those volunteers working with children. After clarification from CCPAS and the Diocese, DBS clearance is now being done at an "enhanced - regulated" status throughout the parish unless otherwise indicated.

We regularly liaise if there is any issue, which may affect churches and all meet up at least once each academic year to discuss issues or changes to child protection procedures. A meeting was held in September 2017 where it was agreed that Safeguarding training was a priority for the year and the forms used to collect information for volunteers were reviewed and updated. Karen Bull was thanked for her work as a disclosure officer for St. Peters and Melanie Knight was welcomed onto the team.

All new volunteers continue to be given the safeguarding policy and their signature obtained to state that it has been read and understood.

I would like to thank Mary Stephens for handing over the role of Parish Children's representative. I would also like to thank the four Disclosure Officers, Mel Knight, Gill Fuller, Melanie Dove and Rita Moorland, for their continued support and dedication in ensuring all the necessary procedures are followed.

I praise God for the many willing and dedicated children's workers who commit so much of their time to this essential area of the Lord's work.

Jayne Liley
Parish Children's Representative - March 2018



DEANERY SYNOD REPORT January – December 2017

In 2017 Tunbridge Wells Deanery Synod met 3 times under the joint chairmanship of Canon Jim Stewart, Area Dean and Graham Syms, Lay Chair

The first meeting of the year in March was hosted by Christ Church, Southborough. In the business section of the meeting there were reports from the February General Synod and the last Diocesan Synod.

Some of the topics covers by General Synod had included: noting the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and giving thanks for the rich spiritual blessings that it had brought to the Church of England,; considering but rejecting a proposal to removing the calling of Banns; making provision for clergy to hold office over the age of 70 (but not over 75) ; a motion requesting Parliament to reduce substantially from £100 (every 20 seconds) the money wagered at Fixed Odds betting terminals to a maximum of £2 per game; a debate taking note of Marriage and Same Sex relationships was narrowly rejected ; a farewell tribute to the Bishop of London.

The Diocesan Synod report covered the Diocesan Strategic Framework; a report from the Chair of the Board of Finance and adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts 2015; a report on the current financial position and the actions taken to reduce expenditure; Synod had taken note of the Bishop's Council's developing plans for a new ministry strategy which would be explained at the next meeting of synod; authorisation of the Diocesan Board of Finance budget for 2017.

Angela Painter, CEO talked about Burrswood as a centre for Health and Wellbeing. Clare Boxall, Strategic Framework Manager for the diocese, talked to our meeting about the Toolkit resource to help everyone in the diocese explore three questions: What may the Holy Spirit be saying to us about our area? What do we currently spend our money and resources on? What do we need to change about who we are and what we do?

Allan Jonnes then gave a presentation entitled **Reflections on Parish Financial Practices -'How do we discern what is appropriate?'** He finds that faith and financial training create challenges from time to time requiring him to balance Trust in God and the use of his God given talents. His talk covered a number of areas: – What do you want from your Treasurer? How do your views on parish finances inform those in the parish? 'Engaged'? – The vision and the finances. The aim should be a TRIO (the responsibility is ours) attitude in our congregations which means a careful look at how the vision and finances are communicated to the congregation. 'Engaged'? – Stewardship of the resources we are given. 'Engaged' – financial reporting. Nothing puts off members of a PCC or congregation quicker when talking about finances than overly detailed/complex accounts.

As has become the practice the summer synod meeting was a meal served in the King Charles Church Hall when over 40 synod members enjoyed supper sitting at tables with members of other parishes and sharing experiences of their church life. The newly appointed Finance Director for the Diocese the Revd Richard Williams attended and spoke briefly outlining his initial thoughts and plans.

The third and final meeting of the year in November was held in St Philips Church. A report on the last General Synod meeting highlighted some of the items that had been considered. These included A Still Small Voice of Calm; House of Bishops' presentation on human sexuality: conversion therapy: welcoming transgender people; Presence and Engagement (what it means to



be a Christian in today's complex communities); election review group and advisory ballot; the cost of applying for citizenship.

A report on the October Diocesan Synod was given, which included a presentation on the strategic framework and Bishop James gave some details of "Called Together" which was to be on 4th November. Bishop Given from the Diocese of Kondoia was welcomed. He brought greetings from Kondoia and inspired all with what he had to say. There were presentations on Homes for Good Initiative and from the Children's Society. A presentation from Sevenoaks Deanery Synod outlined the background to two questions they have formulated about climate change. The 2018 budget was presented. Judith Armit, chairman of the Board of Finance and Richard Williams, Director of Finance both spoke giving more detail. The news was mixed – things were not as bad as they could have been, but it will take longer than had been hoped for the deficit in income to be resolved. Richard Williams is doing a lot of research and working with other dioceses. A disturbing feature is that wealthier parishes give less proportionately than poorer parishes. Each parish will get an indicative sum for their parish offer to the diocese. Approval was given to authorise an expenditure not exceeding £12,500,000.

The Houses of Clergy and Laity met separately to each elect three members to the standing committee and for the house of Laity to elect the Lay Chair. The House of Clergy elected Revds Caroline Glass, Stephen Hills and Laurence Powell. In the House of Laity Graham Syms was re-elected as Lay Chair and the three committee members remained as Martin Atkinson, Tony Bourne and Norma Buck.

We then had a talk entitled: '**The Reformations and their legacy 500 years on**' by the Revd Dr Joel Love marking the 500th anniversary of the publication of the 95 Theses of Martin Luther. He began by giving an account of the various movements all over Europe in the years preceding 1517 before discussing the subsequent years and the legacy. The talk concluded with thoughts about the significance of the reformations for contemporary ecumenical thinking.

At the time of writing this report Tunbridge Wells Deanery awaits the appointment of an Area Dean. The Revd Canon Jim Stewart stood down from the role at the end of 2017 and his successor is not yet announced. Bishop James will be visiting the Deanery at the end of September 2018 and various events will be planned for the week.

Graham Syms
Lay Chair
Tunbridge Wells Deanery