

CHRIST CHURCH PORTSDOWN



Year Book 2017

A look back at events at Christ Church

Published April 2018



Introduction

This year book gives us the opportunity to look back at the activities of our church for the year 2017. No summary like this can ever be complete, but it does provide snapshots of our life together. A companion document, the Annual Report, contains more formal information and the church accounts.

Vicar's Report

2017 was an unusual year for me. There have been times when my focus has been diverted by other priorities, and I was pleased to have a good team of colleagues.

Mark James, our Curate, was ordained Priest in July, and he and Sandra Morgan, our Reader both played an important part in ministry at Christ Church. We have also been supported by Sandy Phillips, now retired from active church ministry, and Tyrone Hillary, who both have the Bishop's Permission to Officiate in the Diocese.

During the year we began to consider how we implemented the lessons learnt from the Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG) course attended by Sandra, Mark and myself in 2016. We ran six sessions for the whole church and three for the PCC only, applying biblical teaching on church growth to our own situation, and making plans for growth.

As a result of this we ran an Alpha course in the Autumn (under Mark's leadership) and have spent time looking at how we improve our communication and support for families coming to baptism. Further work is needed in these areas. LYCIG emphasises the need for us to pray for growth in our church, and I invite you all to do just that. The PCC will revisit LYCIG during 2018.

Alongside my existing responsibilities, Bishop Christopher asked me to spend six months (1st June – 30th November) as Interim Minister in the parish of Warblington-with-Emsworth. Whilst it was a joy to be able to support another parish, it inevitably had an impact on my ministry at Christ Church. However, Max Cross, Curate at Sheet, was seconded to Christ Church for the same period and we enjoyed having Max with us. I was also grateful to Sandra and Mark for their extra ministry during this time.

In June Richard, Diana, Jonathan and Angus Hutchins left us as Richard took up the post of Curate at Liss. They are all greatly missed. Sarah Collins continued her training for ordained ministry at Trinity College, Bristol.

We continue to explore how best to work alongside our cluster partners in the parishes of Crookhorn and Purbrook. In April we enjoyed a shared weekend away with members of the Church of the Good Shepherd and members of St John's and Christ Church make up our Open the Book schools team.

Also in 2017 we lost several key members of our church through death, including David Salmond, Daphne Bevis, Ronald Tweed, Rita Drake, Anja Downie, Peter Gill and Tom Gibney. Some were very long-term members of Christ Church. All are greatly missed.

There is still much to do here and I encourage you to pray that we may grow together using the words of the LYCIG prayer.

*God of mission,
who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Revd Andy Wilson

Churchwardens' Report

After the excitement of finally getting the toilets and the new porch installed, the past year has been a period of relative quiet on the building front and a chance to look at where we want to go next in terms of a future project. However, before we can even think about anything new developing we have to deal with existing problems.

The leak in the church roof needs addressing, a quote has been accepted by the PCC but before we can go ahead we need faculty approval and this takes time. To alleviate future problems of water ingress to the roof, a contract has been placed for the gutters etc. to be cleared twice a year of leaves and other accumulated rubbish. At the same time, while the contractors are on the roof, they will carry out an inspection of the roof thus identifying problems before they get to the stage where it requires major work and expense.

The state of the vestry ceiling needs addressing and sorting out however this is specialised job as the materials used must be in keeping with the original building. The break in to the church last year has also caused problems. These are taking time to resolve as we look at fitting a security system to monitor the entrances to the building. A system has been approved by the PCC.

The state of the drive continues to occupy our thinking and it is becoming increasingly clear that this must be dealt with sooner rather than later. Our hold up is finance (the church roof, as previously mentioned, has first call). We have had an anonymous donation towards repairing the drive which is a step forward (but we still need a substantial amount to make the whole drive more usable, safe and attractive). It will happen!

It has been noticed that internally the church windows need cleaning. We don't know when they were last done (not in our memory as we recall), but again it's not just a case of getting up there with a bucket of water and a chamois - it's a specialist job. We are also considering how best to address some minor leaks from the radiators (i.e. without a complete overhaul of the system). At some time in the distant future, when the good Lord stops finding us built in building problems, we will address this. On the whole the fabric of the church, existing problems notwithstanding, is in good shape and with careful stewardship will continue to be so for future generations.

The trees in the churchyard are an item of concern. When they are in full leaf the church cannot be seen from the road and the whole front of the churchyard is in constant shade. Most of the trees have preservation orders on them but to fully identify which ones an official from the council visited us and told us which trees we can take out, which ones we can prune and which ones we have to leave alone. Events, re the allocation of funds to more urgent projects, has meant that the sorting out of the trees has had to be put on hold but this will be remedied in the future.

We are very near to running out of burial space in the churchyard and the time is rapidly approaching when it will be finally closed to burials unless we can acquire more land from the MOD. This is being investigated but it will be a slow process. One other option is the removal of the substantial spoil heap at the bottom of the site, but a quote to remove it some time back was prohibitively high and getting someone to do it at an affordable price is proving difficult.

Under the guidance of the vicar and the ministry team, the spiritual life of our church continues to move forward. The content of our services, and the range of them on offer, is constantly under review (and where possible alternative liturgies are being used to make them more relevant to the congregation). Unfortunately, over the past year we have seen many of our congregation going to be with the Lord. While they are irreplaceable, it's good to see a number of new families have joined and, hopefully, in the future they will take on some of the various positions in the church.

The three churches in the cluster continue to closely work together and we shall see the benefits of this remain in the future. All in all, our church life is in a healthy condition but we can all still do more to make it even healthier and relevant for our future congregation to inherit. This can only be done through prayer and the continuing inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Stephen and I would like to thank you for your prayerful support and encouragement this past year, God Bless you all.

Dave Fowler and Stephen Anderson

Church Cleaning Team

Church cleaning takes place on a Saturday morning from 9.00 – 10.00.am. If you are handy with a duster and have some time to spare please do come along. If the above time is not convenient, or if you find yourself in church outside of the above times, there is a cleaning book in the cupboard. Just kindly leave us a note of what you have done so that we do not duplicate efforts.

Jo Duckett

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod covered a number of topics this year.

The Venerable Dr Joanne Grenfell, Archdeacon of Portsdown, and Revd Canon Dr Anthony Rustell, Head of Mission, Discipleship and Ministry presented the Diocesan Strategy, "Live/Pray/Serve". Seemingly depressing statistics were given but Joanne emphasised that all is not gloom. The general decline in church attendance is in line with population decline,

not because people are “fed up with the vicar”! And the Portsmouth Diocese is not very different from other Dioceses. The decline must be addressed through the new strategy. Four key areas enabling growth are: Making disciples, Growing churches, Learning for life (and individual’s growth, and through education) and Transforming society.

A presentation about Modern Slavery was given by Revd. Edwina Fennemore from St Alban's, Havant. 'We See You' is the Diocese's three-year project (within the Clewer Initiative) that aims to detect modern slavery in our communities and provide support and care. The Clewer Initiative is committed to work alongside the Diocese, building its capacity to respond to modern slavery. Edwina urged us to increase awareness of modern slavery, to look at what is going on around us, and to think what we as individuals and parishes can do.

Mrs Angela Herring, Havant Deanery IDWAL Representative gave an update on IDWAL.

An update on the Children's Society was presented by Jessica Meale who is their Relationships Manager for the South of England. The Society was started 130 years ago by Edward Rudolf, a Sunday School teacher who found some children he taught begging on the street. As a result he founded the Charity to combat child poverty.

We were challenged to recognise the needs of those in our local community and be prepared to act to bring about change when necessary.

Andy Minchin and Ruth Fowler, Deanery Synod Representatives

Electoral Roll

At the end of 2017 the Roll stood at 110 (126 in 2016), with 57 living within the parish and 53 living outside the parish boundaries. Once more, over 50% of members live in the parish.

Graham Olway

Flower Stewards

Ros Molloy and Jenny Whiteside lead a small group of experienced flower arrangers who oversee the yearly flower rota. This comprises of many parishioners providing flowers in memory of loved ones departed or to celebrate anniversaries during the year. In addition we are fortunate to have a number of loyal helpers who come and assist in arranging flowers at weddings and the Christian church festivals. We would love more helpers who would be most welcome.

Ros Molloy and Jenny Whiteside

Friday Friends

This past 12 months has seen Friday Friends continuing to enjoy friendship, tea and of course, cake or biscuits along with good conversation and what activities we have been up too.

This last year we introduced crumpets as part of our get together. This has gone down a treat especially on those cold winter days when our group still got together. It warmed us up nicely.

We also decided to arrange a thank you, with crumpets and tea to all our friends in the church community who help out behind the scenes. Unfortunately we were not able to invite everyone who quietly helps out but we do hope to offer up an invitation again later on in the year. This was very well received and attended with a jolly good time had by 30 people.

Our summer outing for an afternoon cream tea, we attended Blendworth Furnishing Café who provided us with 'straight out of the oven' scones, lovely and hot and lashings of melted butter, clotted cream and jam! This was, of course, well received with much commentary about them being home baked.

We look forward to the coming year with good friends and maybe new friends. We attend each first and third Friday of the month 1430 – 1530 hrs in the Church Hall.

Tracey Harvey

Gift Aid

How can you help your church financially without it costing you any more money?

Well, you can gift aid your donations to the church. Many of you do so already and, for that, we as a church are very grateful. If you are a UK taxpayer, we claim back the tax from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC), enhancing your gift to the church by £2.50 for every £10.00, at no additional cost to yourself. You do not have to commit to a regular payment, although doing so does help us as a church to plan our expenditure.

I know that some of you do not gift aid your donations because you feel that you do not pay enough tax to cover this (particularly if you have retired from work), or maybe you do not pay tax but you have a partner who does. If you feel that this may apply to you, please contact me and I will be able to advise you confidentially as to how you may still be able to help, **without it costing you anything**. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, please contact me for details of how gift aiding can actually be a financial benefit to yourself.

Since 6 April 2013, HMRC has enhanced the Gift Aid scheme for churches by accepting claims on "loose cash" in the collections. This is known as the Gift Aid on Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). However, this is subject to certain restrictions, including a maximum annual amount, and the existence of a significant number of regular gift aiders.

The claims on donations made in 2017 have generated rebates from HMRC amounting to £11,680.08. This is a significant element of income for our church. As it is all "free money", I urge you to sign up to our gift aid scheme if you have not already done so. Please contact me for more details about gift aiding and/or our regular payment schemes.

Your continued support for additional income for the Building Development Fund (BDF) is highly appreciated. Please be assured that the proportion of the rebate received in respect of the BDF income is indeed allocated to the BDF; in 2017 it totalled **£929.58**.

Our church is an active participant of the new Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This scheme improves the efficiency of the gift aid claims and, if you have not already done so, I encourage you to consider joining by transferring your existing commitment to a direct debit or, if you do not yet have a current commitment, by setting one up. Full details of the

scheme, including the benefits both to our church and to yourself, can be obtained from our Treasurer, Jacqui Wilson.

The gift aid income in 2017 of £11,680.08 was comprised of the following elements:

- £5,371.33 via the PGS (includes £487.50 allocated to BDF) – **this is now 46% of our gift aid income, thank you.**
- £1,320.00 from Bank Standing Orders (includes £292.50 allocated to BDF)
- £3,567.49 from our Envelope Schemes (includes Gift Day, and £25.00 allocated to BDF)
- £1,421.26 from GASDS (includes £125.08 allocated to the BDF)

Roger Banks, Gift Aid Administrator

Christ Church Portsdown Good Neighbours



Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others – 1 Peter 4:10

Good Neighbours, now in our 8th year, are a group of 28 volunteers who give neighbourly help to people of any age in the parish and surrounding areas, who do not have friends or relatives nearby to support them. Much of our work continues to involve helping people to attend hospital, GP or other health related appointments and social activities; other core services are shopping; visiting; sitting for carers; befriending and occasionally helping with pets; minor repairs/DIY; small gardening jobs and other tasks on request.

In the last year we introduced a Daily Call service for those who may be anxious about living alone, perhaps with poor health or mobility. This task has proved to be very valuable to the few people we call every day. This new service forms a substantial proportion of the total number of almost 1500 acts of kindness our volunteers completed last year! All of our services are available 7 days a week from 8am-8pm and are free.

We also continue to offer the very popular monthly Neighbourhood Lunch. We have an additional 4 Associate Volunteers who help the lunch team provide an excellent home-cooked meal for about 45 people each month (see separate report). Last year we were able to provide two additional Social Events for our clients and wider local community – they enjoyed a Strawberry Tea in the early Summer and the popular “Carols and Cake” after Christmas Dinner in December.

Our client list changes and is updated regularly; we currently have 43 clients (the majority from outside church membership). All of our clients have been very appreciative of the support our volunteers have been able to give and this has been reflected in the generous donations we have received over the last year. Once again this year our work has been self-funding with some surplus funds given to Christ Church. Thanks to the willingness and enthusiasm of our volunteers, the scheme has had another successful if challenging year in reaching out to show God’s love to so many people in this area.

As our work develops we are always looking to welcome new volunteers to join to the team.

The Good Neighbours Helpline is: 07842 367490

Email: good.neighbours@christchurchportsdown.org

Sheila Gill – Chair CCP Good Neighbours

Hall Management

The members of the management committee have worked hard once again in 2017 to maintain and improve the hall, not only contacting tradespeople and being around to let them in, but also undertaking minor repairs themselves which has saved the church money. We are also grateful to Mark James who gave up much of his time to help get the main hall floor repaired.

During the year we have had gas heaters repaired as well as annual servicing of all gas appliances and fire extinguishers, a bees' nest removed and drains unblocked. The committee have repaired leaking toilets, a loose baby change platform, internal door knobs and replaced fluorescent light tubes at height to name just a few of the ongoing jobs! The largest spends were on repairs to the floor of the main hall and a new carpet for the area outside the kitchen which together totalled over £2,000.

The hall is well-used with many regular groups (there is very little spare capacity on weekday evenings), plus one-off hires (usually children's parties), the fees for which cover all the expenses of the hall and contribute to the income of the church.

If church members wish to hire any of the facilities they receive a 10% discount for being on the Electoral Roll! And of course the hall is an invaluable resource for the Summer Festival, Advent Fayre and other church social events. The excess of income over expenditure during the year was just over £5,000.

Jacqui Wilson, Hall Manager

Homegroups

In 2017, we started the year with 5 home groups that met on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday on the first and third weeks of each month. This changed in September 17 when the Monday evening Group (led by Dave Fowler) and Wednesday evening group (led by Pauline Letters) amalgamated

- Monday evening (led by Dave Fowler hosted by Diana Hutchins)
- Tuesday evening (led by Rev Mark James in the Church)
- Wednesday afternoon (led by Jacqui Wilson hosted by Molly Ayling)
- Wednesday evening (led by Sandra Morgan hosted by John and Jean Partridge)
- Wednesday evening (Led by Pauline Letters, hosted by Dave Cherrington)

During Lent another group was formed on Monday mornings for 5 weeks. This was the second year that this group had come together for Lent. This group met in the church hall led by Sandra Morgan.

Approximately 30 church members attended these groups although the number varied from week to week

During the past year, all the groups have followed the same course. In January and February and June and July the home groups were suspended so that the whole church could meet together on alternated Wednesdays to explore ways of leading the church into growth (LYCIG).

This was very well attended and those involved enjoyed lively discussions and getting involved moving the church forward.

During Lent the home groups followed a York Course entitled 'Receiving Christ' The five sessions covered receiving Christ: As children of God, In the stranger and the needy, In Holy Communion, through prayer and fellowship and finally 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' (Colossians 1.27)

The course CD brought the opinions and thoughts of leading Christian thinkers into the discussions groups. Listening to the CD worked alongside the course booklet. The contributors were Bishop Nick Baines, Margaret Sentamu, Revd Dr Ken Howcroft and Theodora Hawkley.

For two meetings in April and May, the groups studied Pauls letter to Titus and from September to December, Paul letters to the Thessalonians.

Sandra Morgan

Lighthouse

Lighthouse provides simple craft activities for young children to introduce them to the stories of the Bible and help them to know God.

Lighthouse is usually available at the 10.30 service in the family area in the south aisle and is open to any children in church.

This year, when possible, Lighthouse has some weeks been extended to include more active sessions in the church hall called 'Godly Play'. These have enabled us to explore more fully the miracles and parables of Jesus using games and stories. At Harvest time we used pumpkins to search for a heart -shaped light.

We looked everywhere until we realised it was in church all the time! (Only knowing Jesus can fill our hearts with Light).

Jackie Quinn

Mission Support

Over £7,500 plus services, goods and produce were distributed to charities and individuals during 2017 as well as prayer and practical support.

Details of the missions supported can be found in the Annual Report.

Revd Andy Wilson

Mothers' Union Portsdown Branch

We have 26 members in our branch, 4 of whom are indoor members. Very sadly, we lost Rita, Daphne and Margery, but Linda Banks, Linda Cleeve and June Finch were admitted to the branch during a service in September, when I was commissioned as leader.

We had 3 church services and we had varied topics at our meetings, including School Pastors, Hampshire Wildlife, Trading Standards and Home Safety and a Lent talk entitled 'The Hands that touched the Cross'. Jenny Whiteside gave a demonstration of lovely Christmas flower decorations for the home.

We organised the Lent lunches and we thank everyone who helped and also those who came and supported us. £220 was sent to A.I.F.A. and a similar amount went to Tear Fund. 57 people attended our Christmas party when we had a tea, carols, readings, prayers and a quiz. We hosted a cream tea in May and the £94.00 raised from the raffle was given to the Mothers' Union Summer Appeal. We give wash bags to Q.A. Hospital. We were able to nominate a parish family for an A.I.F.A. holiday. We send 1st anniversary baptism cards and wedding cards to couples marrying at Christ Church.

We join for other branches in the Deanery for services and social activities.

Ros Molloy

Music Group

The music group continues to provide a lead for the worship at three 10.30 services and the evening informal service every month. We try to choose songs reflecting the theme of the current service. Always including the traditional with the modern. We try to bring in new pieces gradually to the congregation.

We are still few in number and will welcome anyone who would like to play or sing, whatever their ability.

Personally, I would like to thank all in the group for their valued and continued support. Also I would encourage anyone to approach us if they would like a certain piece played or any other comments. The music is for all in praise of God.

Stuart Davies

Neighbourhood Lunches

The lunches are usually held on the fourth Friday of each month unless the dates clash with the church calendar. The number of guests has fluctuated this year as we have lost a number of people through death and ill health necessitating them to move into sheltered accommodation. However, we are pleased to have reached out to several new clients from the community.

The charge of £4 per meal has proved sufficient to cover all costs and we have been able to buy some essential equipment for the kitchen and to donate a substantial sum of money to the church.

There have been a few changes to the dedicated team of volunteers. Rita Drake is sorely missed from the kitchen and, sadly, Margaret Baggs is no longer able to help owing to ill health. We are delighted to welcome Tracey Harvey to the team. Roy West continues to be an entertaining and sociable host and keeps the finances and guest lists in order.

The Christmas lunch was again combined with 'Carols and Cake' and invitations were offered to the Friday Friends group and to all Good Neighbours clients.

Each lunch is a joyous occasion of love and fellowship for the team and our guests.

Linda Hoole

Open Church

In my last year's report I cynically said that I would wait to see if the statements made at the sessions on leading your church into growth would materialise. They didn't, it was a case of the church should be open more but it should be somebody else who should do it. On this issue, over the years, I have seen so many 'pie crust promises' ones that are easily made and easily broken. I don't know why I start out hopeful, albeit with cynicism, when I hear these promises being made but I do, however I forget human nature!

The church continues to be open two mornings a week in the winter and three mornings a week in the summer when the Rusty Cutters are working on a Wednesday morning. Linda Banks does a Monday morning, albeit on her own, but I feel sure that she would like some company. Ruth and I continue to open up the church on a Friday morning and additionally on a Wednesday morning, lots of the week left for the church to be open.

Our coffee morning on the 2nd Friday of the month continues to be well supported by our core of generous regulars, and it's a pleasure to greet those of you who drop in when you can. At the moment the coffee morning is the one regular fund-raising event for the building fund, and although the amounts raised aren't huge they keep the building fund ticking over.

Every year, on a regular basis, I ask you to consider thinking about you playing your part in keeping the church open, this year I won't, suffice to say we do need to open the church more, it's achievable, we just need people to do it.

Dave Fowler

Open the Book

Open the Book is a Bible Society initiative, to take age appropriate Bible stories into local schools, has now been running for over 5 years. The team has increased in number to eight members. The team rehearse a story each month which is then performed in Purbrook Infant School with the help of several children.

We enjoy the fellowship whilst rehearsing and recognise what a privilege it is to take Gods word to these young children who really look forward to our visits.

With each performance the dressing, up and the props have become more elaborate this year, which helps to bring the stories alive.

The Bible stories performed in 2017 were:

January	The Boy in the Temple
February	Jesus is Baptised
March	Jesus' Special Friends (Jesus' disciples)
April	An Important Meal (The Last Supper)
May	The Storm on the Lake
June	Time to get up. (Jairus' daughter)

July	The Good Shepherd.
September	Samuel the Kingmaker
October	The Two Kings (Saul and David)
November	(No Assembly because the children were taking part in a special event)
December	Christmas Journeys (Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds, Wise men and the star)

Sandra Morgan

PCC Report

The PCC met 10 times in 2017 with an average attendance of 81% (76% in 2016). The topics covered by the PCC each month are summarised in the Portsdown Post and a full set of approved minutes from the last meeting are displayed at the rear of the church.

Throughout the year the PCC received numerous letters of thanks from various charities and beneficiaries of the goodwill and donations made by the congregation and supporters of Christ Church.

With the leadership of the Vicar, the PCC has sustained the essential business of the Church while also pursuing the initiative of 'Leading Your Church Into Growth' (LYCIG) as well as promoting the Alpha Course, Baptism and Communication as three initial areas of focus for Christ Church.

Graham Olway MBE, PCC Secretary

Christ Church Portsdown
Pastoral Care



Christ Church Visitors (Pastoral Care)

The pastoral visiting team have experienced a period of consolidation this year. The twelve members of the visiting team continue to offer visits to anyone who feels that they may benefit from a listening ear on an individual basis.

This past year the team were pleased to welcome Sandy Philips and one of her colleagues from the Rosemary Foundation. They gave advice to help the team with the difficult area of visiting the critically ill or those close to end of life.

I'd like to pass on my sincere thanks to all of the visiting team.

Karina Golledge

Portsdown Post

The magazine is exclusive to our Portsdown Christ Church history. It has always been produced in house and, although reduced in numbers, is still going strong.

We still resist commercial advertising; the magazine is mainly financed through charging a modest 40p per copy which is distributed throughout the parish and beyond. It is also available free of charge through our church website.

During 2017 we purchased a new printer copier which has made the production of the magazine far easier, with the addition of colour printing, collating and stapling. This means we can produce booklets and posters in house ourselves, it also only requires one person to

produce Portsdown Post.

Thank you to all the people who tirelessly deliver the Portsdown Post to homes in the parish, to Ros Molloy for co-ordinating the deliveries. Also a big thankyou to Margaret & Martin Baggs who have been able to stand down from all the years that they collated and folded the pages by hand.

Thanks also to Matt Doe, our webmaster, who transfers the electronic version onto our church website to reach an even wider amount of readers.

Ruth Fowler, Editor of Portsdown Post

Prayer Group

We consider that prayer is central to everything that we do at Christ Church.

Once a month, on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm a small group meets to pray for the life of our church. This meeting is hosted by June Ames and everybody is welcome and yes, it's OK if you don't say anything.

Why not come and join us?

Revd Andy Wilson

Rusty Cutters

We meet twice a week on a Wednesday and Friday morning between March and November, to keep the church yard and driveway looking neat and tidy.

Anyone who would like to join us (no qualifications needed) would be made very welcome. Coffee and biscuits are provided so please give it a try and join this happy group of workers.

Ruth Fowler

Sidespersons

There are currently 8 members of our congregation who have volunteered to carry out the duty of sidesperson at our regular Sunday services and at additional services during Christmas and Easter. This number has fallen during the year for various reasons. There are however 2 members who 'double hat' at the 8am Service and fulfil the sidespersons duty while also carrying out the deputy wardens' role. We are keen to recruit some new members to the team!

The duty involves assisting the Duty Wardens by welcoming the congregation and visitors as they enter the church and giving out Pew Sheets and Service Booklets as required. They also assist with the taking of the collection and help to tidy up the church after each service.

Going forward we are looking to focus on and develop the welcoming aspect of the role, as this is seen as the most important element and fits with our various LYCIG initiatives to ensure that both members and visitors to the church are not only welcomed but also looked after during their visit. Having the new porch has made it easier to welcome people as they arrive.

Two sidespersons are required at each 10.30 Service and one sidesperson assists the Duty Warden at the 8am Service. New volunteers are always welcome and if you are interested in becoming a sidesperson please speak to the Church Wardens.

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered as sidesperson during the year.

Stephen Anderson

Traidcraft

We are trying, as a Church to make a difference and help to fight poverty through trade. This is why we have a Fair trade table in Church. Thank you to all who have supported this aim during the past year; this support is very much appreciated.

Once again this year the Real Easter Eggs and Real Advent Calendars have been popular with sales increasing this year.

Items for sale include tea bags (standard and decaffeinated), pineapple pots, toilet rolls (good quality), kitchen rolls, facial tissues and rubber gloves and some cleaning products.

Please next time you are in the Church have a look. If there are other goods or products you would like to see on sale I would be happy to order them on request. If you purchase any goods there is a cash box for the money on the table.

Thank you again to all who have supported this venture in the past year and we look forward to your continuing support.

Linda Banks

Who Let The Dads Out?

Our 'Who Let The Dads Out' group has been meeting together for just over 4 years (4th birthday was in January 2017). Gathering together on the third Saturday of each month we meet between 9 and 11am in the Church Hall.

We regularly have between 5-8 dads attend each month with 15 on the current contact list that have attended within the last 6 months. We have a few new dads that have joined the group since the start of the year.

The dads also meet every few months for social outings outside of WLTD to build stronger friendships which has been a key part to the group's ongoing success and interest. We are now starting to see a small number of the dads that have been part of the group for a number of years attend less due to other commitments and having other older children to look after which prevents them from attending. Over the coming months we will be looking at new ways to gather more interest and increase the numbers.

If you haven't heard of Who Let The Dads Out? It's a growing movement that resources churches to reach out to dads, father figures and their children. We believe that to 'turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers' (Malachi 4:6, NIV 1984) is a powerful way 'to make ready a people prepared for the Lord' (Luke 1:17).

We want to see churches creating spaces where dads, father figures and their children can have fun together, and is founded on the Christian principle of wanting to demonstrate

God's love to communities. WLTD? Involves play and craft with the children, and time for the dads to meet other dads going through the same pressures of modern fatherhood and share stories and discuss current affairs over hot drinks and bacon rolls. We want to provide a space for dads to spend time independently with their children.

Robin and Mark have been running the group for the last year.

Robin Humphris