



**St. Matthew's Church, Salford Priors
2017/2018 Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
With financial reports for the year ended
31 December 2017**

Administrative Information

St. Matthew's church is situated in the village of Salford Priors, Warwickshire. It is in the Church of England Diocese of Coventry and is part of the Heart of England Group of Parishes in the Alcester Deanery. The Group includes the parishes of Bidford on Avon, Binton, Exhall with Wixford and Temple Grafton.

The correspondence address is:

Mr Roger Huggins, Group Administrator,
Birch House, Grange Lane, Harvington, WR11 8NL

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2017 until the date of this report was approved are:

<i>Chairman</i>	Revd Peter Walker
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Mr Roger Huggins
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mr Peter Penney Mrs Fran Foster
<i>Deanery Synod Rep</i>	Vacancy
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr Andrew Dean Mr Andrew Clarke <i>Treasurer</i> Mrs Sheila Penney Mr Greg Hallett Mr Kevin Harrison Mr Tim Berkley <i>Secretary</i> Mrs S Brunson Mr Mike Davies Mrs Alex Clarke <i>Safeguarding Officer</i>

Structure, governance and management

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.

Objectives and activities

It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the parochial church council (PCC) to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

The functions of parochial church councils shall include—

- co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical ;
- the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of

England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question;

- making known and putting into effect any provision made by the diocesan synod or the deanery synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the council on any particular matter;
- giving advice to the diocesan synod and the deanery synod on any matter referred to the council ;
- raising such matters as the council consider appropriate with the diocesan synod or deanery synod.

In the exercise of its functions the parochial church council shall take into consideration any expression of opinion by any parochial church meeting.

It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Matthew's Church and Churchyard.



Rector's Report - Revd Peter Walker

If you want to walk on the water, you've got to get out of the boat!

So, ran the title of a recent book based on the Gospel accounts of Peter who got out of the boat and walked (for a time) on top of the water to Jesus. It was risky, extraordinary and exciting and it captures the sense of fun and adventure that is a life spent following Jesus. Sadly, we often sidestep this because we are more risk averse, we would rather stay in the boat! But it means we never get to experience the thrill of walking on water.

St Matthew's Salford Priors is a church at an exciting point in their life, from building to staffing to community service and engagement there are a lot of exciting things going on. Amongst other things, we are hoping for an extension with toilets, a House for duty Minister, a Family Link Worker and to support the Refugee Resettlement Project. For many years we have had substantial inherited reserves that meant we could consider lots of projects with little risk. Now we are reaching the point where most of our reserves may be allocated to achieve our dreams and it feels more risky. "What if God does not increase our income?" "What if we face new costs in the future?" "Is it wise to consider a future without more than 1 year's expenditure kept in 'the bank' for a 'rainy day'?"

To answer these questions, I believe we need to ask 2 more questions. Firstly, have we seen God provide for our (financial or other) needs in the past? I reckon we have, in the last few years we have undertaken several Stewardship Renewal programmes and received very generous pledges to cover our needs. Even though some of those people have moved on, God has not changed and He can touch other people's hearts tomorrow. Secondly, we must ask is it what Jesus wants? Peter said, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you" and on Jesus' word he stepped out of the boat. We must be about our prayers – "Lord, do you want this?"

If God has provided in the past, and if Jesus wants us to press ahead then sometimes we may find ourselves stepping out of the boat for our own adventure with Jesus in Salford Priors.

Staff

Revd Peter Walker (Rector) and Revd Michael Godfrey (Assistant Minister); Mrs Judith Meehan (Reader); Mrs Jayne Bourne, our church cleaner; Roger Huggins our volunteer Administrator who also serves as administrator for the whole Heart of England group of churches.

Church Attendance

At the Annual Meeting in April 2017 it was reported that there are 69 parishioners on the Church electoral roll, 41 of whom are not resident within the parish. The average weekly October attendance at St Matthew's was 39 which included Harvest Thanksgiving. Church attendance on a "normal" Sunday is now about 42. Both Salford Priors and Dunnington schools hold special festival services in church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and Dunnington School holds a Leavers' Service at the end of the academic year in July. On these occasions the church is filled to overflowing with children, parents, grandparents and carers.

PCC—Tim Berkley

During the year, the team particularly continued to work upon finding a solution to the provision of an extension to the church to provide toilets and meeting facilities under the leadership of Peter Penney. This led to a successful planning consent being received and the year has concluded with the preparation of tender documents being issued to price the work involved. Alongside this, the PCC finalized the plans for re-ordering of the South Aisle and that work was completed with removal of pews, renovated flooring and a new dais. A new audiovisual system was also installed within the same period as a significant upgrade.

Aside from this regular agenda item, the PCC considered the following:

- Regular oversight of the accounts and budget
- Approval of various Governors for Dunnington and Salford Priors schools
- Plans for the appointment of a new Family Link Worker to work in collaboration with Salford Priors School (now Academy) and to provide support for youth activities at St Matthew's.
- Plans for the appointment of additional Clergy support following the departure of Rev Ruth Walker to a new role
- The Fun Day for the church and village and the Week of Kindness
- Consideration for supporting welcoming a Refugee family to the area
- Launch of a refresh of the 8EQ survey and results
- How to improve the distribution of the Parish Magazine

The shortest meeting last 55 minutes, the longest meeting was 1hr and 50 mins. We appreciated the many individuals across the congregation that have given their talents during this year to progressing the above issues in many different ways. As I step away from this role, I would like to confirm my personal recognition to each of the members of the council. The discussions at the PCC meetings are always constructive and good quality, aimed at searching for the right decisions that will support the work that God is leading St Matts to do within the community around us. Many of the members devote a significant amount of their time and energy to that purpose and I would like to commend you all.

Ministry Team - Tim Jacques

The past year has seen the birth of some exciting initiatives for the Ministry Team. We are looking forward to recruiting a Family Link Worker at Saint Matthew's in the

near future, which will be the culmination of many months of planning and preparation in conjunction with the Together for Change charity. Similarly, we are excited to be involved with the newly formed Hearts and Homes charity and its plans for refugee resettlement within the parish.

September saw the third Saint Matthew's Week of Kindness and Family Fun Day, with a host of local teddy bears again making an intrepid descent from the church tower. We have decided this year to separate the two events. The 2018 Week of Kindness will start on Saturday 9th June; the Family Fun Day will be Saturday 22nd September. Please put the dates in your diary.

We believe that God is blessing our outreach to families in the village, and we are keen to build on the changes we have made to Family Services and to increase our Sunday School offering. JAM (Jesus and Me) is excellent, and it would be wonderful if it could meet more frequently, and if we could offer a separate group for the older children.

We are slightly smaller in number that this time last year, Peter Penney and Ali Berkley having stepped down. We thank them for their many contributions to the team.

Finally, we remain very grateful to all those who have supported us this year, both practically and in prayer. Please continue to pray for us, and for our church and its outreach to our village and more widely.

Bell Ringers—Mike Davies

In previous reports I have mentioned that we were a small band of ringers who sometimes found it difficult to ring because we were such a small band of regulars, and unfortunately it has come to the point that we can no longer field a band to ring for Sunday services.

We also felt that we could no longer ring regularly for weddings, but fortunately, Sandra Parker from Bidford has agreed to help in this area and field a band of ringers for weddings at St. Matthews.

The bells at St. Matthews are still very popular with outside ringers and are rung regularly by arrangement.

Fabric Report—Churchwardens (Peter Penney & Fran Foster)

2017 saw the completion of many changes to the internal appearance and functionality of the church building.

Firstly, between January and April, the removal of the pews from the south aisle took place, together with the introduction of lightweight stackable chairs and the purchase of tables. Along with the upgrade of the servery in the Church Room this provided the church with a much needed space for not only new forms of worship but also a flexible area for social and crèche facilities. These changes were accompanied by the construction of a raised platform across the width of the building, providing more space for the music group and opportunities for drama presentations.

Secondly, we upgraded the south aisle with a scene-setting LED lighting system.

Thirdly, the autumn saw the installation of a new audio and visual system with the worship liturgy, songs, hymns and readings being projected onto screens in the nave and south aisle. This has resulted in a considerable cost-saving in the weekly production of printed service booklets.

Despite the fact that our church is open during daylight hours we have not

experienced losses that some churches experience. Unfortunately, we suffered the consequences of theft of about a third of the lead from the south aisle roof just as the re-ordering work was nearing completion. Fortunately this was discovered and was temporarily repaired prior to rainfall. We quickly obtained Diocesan approval to have the lead replaced along with the installation of a roof alarm system. As we did not have such a security system in place, the church insurers only covered us for about half of the final cost of the lead replacement.

In the course of carrying out the repairs to the roof it was found that the adjoining parapet gutter supporting woodwork had seriously decayed, so we had this replaced in November, together with its lead lining.

In mid-summer, after lengthy negotiations with the Diocese and local authority, we were granted Planning Permission and a Faculty for creating an extension to the south east corner of the church. This will comprise flexible meeting spaces with a small servery and toilet facilities. This longed-for facility is being prepared for tender with the result expected by mid-March.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all who help in the running of the church, week in and week out. Roger Huggins, our indispensable administrator; Mike Davies who opens and locks the church every day, Andy Woodhouse, who keeps the churchyard wheel barrow ready for use; Kevin Harrison who keeps the church clock running on time, and Jane Bourne our conscientious cleaning lady.

Worship Music Group (written by Roger Huggins)

This year has seen some significant changes to our Music Group with Paul Crocombe stepping down and Kay Latham moving away. We are very grateful to Amy James, Jordan Hallett and Julie Singlehurst who continue to lead our worship week by week and, together with Sheila Penney, provide choices of suitable choice of hymns and songs for our Sunday mornings. We also welcome back Debbie Hickman as a keyboard player following their recent return to the village.

Cup Cake Café - Debi Harrison

Another successful year.

The café is often full to the brim with people of all ages, and always a lovely atmosphere. We have many regulars who really appreciate the time and effort we put in to the café. We have managed to keep our charges down again this year due to the generosity of the team and our supporters, and our total donations to date (since June 2010) have now topped £4,000!

For our Christmas Cupcake Café we decided to raise money for Caring Hands in the Vale rather than the usual Crisis for Christmas homeless charity. Caring Hands is a charity that supports local people.

Cupcake Café have again supported the local youth club, the village fete and St. Matthew's Fun Day this year by providing refreshments and donating the profits to those organisations.

Sadly, we had to cancel two meetings recently, one due to the bad weather, the other due to the lack of helpers. We are always on the lookout for more helpers and cake bakers, so please join us if you can.

Community Group - Stephen Foster

The group meets every Thursday at the Salford Priors Memorial Hall. The first meeting of the Group was in June 2009 and Community Group meetings (as we now call them) have taken place each and every week, with a few breaks for holidays, ever since. The Group numbers have increased again to 8 regular attendees. This has been just through word of mouth, as it is 8 years since any outreach visits took place in the village. The Group have built relationships where they support and encourage one another and it provides a sense of belonging and identity. Members are journeying together weekly in search of truth and meaning in a society where meaning seems hard to find. This is another “fresh expression” of church. It works towards establishing a new community or congregation including those who have never been involved in church (un-churched) or once were, but left for whatever reason (de-churched), and is a fresh expression of church in the making. Some of the Group now attend services at St. Matthews and others attend Tewkesbury Abbey on a regular basis.

Youth Work:

‘JAM’ - Fran Foster

JAM meets once per month in the Rainbow room on the second Sunday of the month. We have approximately 6 to 8 regular attendees who are all under the age of 6 plus a couple of older children too who help the younger ones and for whom we try to provide some more age suitable material. We also have a few Mums and Dads who sit in to help. We cover stories from both the Old and the New Testament and over the past few months have learned about The Creation, Noah and the big flood, Moses in the bulrushes, Jesus healing a deaf person and the story of the Good Samaritan. On Mothering Sunday we had a larger number of children across a wide age range from the youngest at 3 years old up to the oldest at 13 years. We are looking forward to having a children and families’ worker at St Matthew’s in the near future to enable us to help us to extend our work with the older children.

“Fresh Expression” - Stephen Foster

This is a monthly event for the youth of Salford Priors called Fresh Expression. The event is aimed at building relationships with the youth of the village. Typically, there are approximately 15 to 20 young people who attend regularly. The event now utilises the Cinema system (built in projector, large screen) to show the latest pop music videos. Games include giant chess, table football and air hockey. There is a chill out zone with bean bags and dimmed lighting and we provide free food and drink. The event has now been running for four and a half years and progress is being made. As with all outreach, success is achieved only in the long haul. It will be in God’s timing through the work of the Holy Spirit. Stormzy, a committed Christian, has been very helpful in ensuring there is always a faith message, as we can regularly show “Blinded by your Grace” included in his number one selling album. This number ends with a mass prayer gathering. St Matthew’s is in the process of recruiting a children and families worker. This could potentially be a great help in providing a stepping stone for the children and youth of Salford Priors on their journey of faith within the St. Matthew’s family.

Marriage Preparation

Another 6 week course was held in February/March preparing couples for marriage. Ali & Tim Berkley led the course which used the HTB material for the first time. This is based on DVD presentations and has been generally well received although the Church Room has not been as warm as it might. It was made cosy by the addition of some extra lighting, heating and candles.

Safeguarding—Alex Clarke

Coventry diocese have recently changed the provider for all our Online DBS checks to a company called APCS. It's an easy way to apply for our checks and the turn around is very prompt.

All PCC members need to complete the online safeguarding module C1. This can be found on the diocese website.

There have been no safeguarding issues to report.

Small Groups

There has been a slight reshuffle of the homegroups with a reduction to three which have continued to meet in various places around the benefice, usually twice a month during most of the year, for Bible study, prayer and mutual support as well as social events. Our thanks to the leaders and hosts of these groups which form an important part of our fellowship. The new system for providing refreshments at services is now in place and generally working well. Assistance at services with readings and prayers is now on a general rota of people who are willing to help.

Prayer & Retreats

The life of our church continues to be underpinned with prayer, and for many years now Thursday mornings and Friday evenings have seen regular weekly prayer sessions attended by a faithful few. It is hoped to launch a new “Pray for Schools” initiative in the near future.

Some of our ladies again attended the two day ‘Colour’ conference hosted by Hillsong church at the Wembley Arena.

Communication

“Heartbeat” magazine continues to be published monthly, ably edited by Neil Smart of St Laurence’s Bidford. Tim Jacques continues as our “local reporter” collating information from St Matthew’s and the village to include in the magazine. Our website, maintained by the Administrator, is still the place to go for all the up to date information on St Matthew’s and the Heart of England Group website includes items for the whole group of churches: www.heartparishes.org.uk

Treasurer’s Report—Andy Clarke

Income

Income was slightly up by £1753 against budget but down against 2016 by around £5k. The improvement was due to increased revenue for weddings and funerals, also gift aid claims were made later in the year in order to capture a longer period.

Events, Home Mission and Appeals

St Mathew’s once again hosted our now annual fun day at a cost of £220. All activities, BBQ, cakes etc. being free to the public and paid for from St Mathew’s

funds. There was also a cost of £150 for an Ice cream seller to visit Salford Priors and Dunnington schools as part of the week of kindness. A contribution of £235 was made to Salford Priors School to support an Isle of Wight Trip.

Parish Share

St Mathew's Parish Share contribution for the year was £29,000 and a certificate of thanks has been received from the Diocese.

Designated Funds

We spent a total of £32,586.77 on Church repairs and maintenance. Included in this figure were the following exceptional items:

- New Alarm system - £4554
- Repair to roof following the theft of the lead on the south aisle was - £16,497.25 which was a net loss of £7,582 after the insurance claim.
- Repair to gutter - £14,789.71

Internal re-ordering

A total of £153,282 was spent on the improvements in the south aisle, this included the building work, new cooker, new chairs, lighting and the new Audio Visual system.

In conclusion

A better than budget finish to the year, primarily due to having costs of 1 stipend rather than the original budget of one and a half.

Although we had a better finish to 2017 than anticipated, I feel that it is worth stating that there is some concern regarding finances for 2018. We have a number of projects that the PCC is committed to delivering and a lot of hard work and prayers have gone into making these projects a reality. Unfortunately costs have risen steadily over the last few years and income through regular giving has declined over the same period. I would therefore encourage anyone that feels they are in a position to do so to give by direct debit as this not only helps to pay for the regular running of the Church but it gives us better visibility of our income and helps us to plan more effectively.

St Matthews Salford Priors
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31 December 2017

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2017	2016
Fixed assets						
Glebe Field			8,393		8,393	8,393
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,393</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,393</u>	<u>8,393</u>
Current assets						
Lloyds current account	19,283	(6,846)	1,656	0	14,093	16,728
Lloyds deposit account	(2,737)	270,884			268,147	122,148
Lloyds Vicarage decoration account	(3,223)	3,698			475	475
Deposit - James (CCLA)	0	0		3,329	3,329	4,887
Kenley Fabric - fixed interest (CCLA)	(9,884)	8,515	1,369		0	147,044
Kenley Fabric - Investment (CCLA)					0	1,263
Deposit - Mace (CCLA)				3,100	3,100	3,100
Stewardship Income F&C	2,079	(2,079)			0	84,847
Stewardship International (reinvestment)	14,512	(14,512)			0	79,332
	<u>20,030</u>	<u>259,660</u>	<u>3,025</u>	<u>8,429</u>	<u>291,144</u>	<u>459,824</u>
Liabilities						
Agency collections			1,514		1,514	0
Other creditors	20,123	(20,123)		0	0	0
	<u>20,123</u>	<u>(20,123)</u>	<u>1,514</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,514</u>	<u>0</u>
Represented by						
Unrestricted - General	20,030				20,030	18,889
Designated - DesF		259,660			259,660	432,144
Restricted - ResF			9,904		9,904	9,762
Endowment - EndF				8,429	8,429	7,422
	<u>20,030</u>	<u>259,660</u>	<u>9,904</u>	<u>8,429</u>	<u>298,023</u>	<u>468,217</u>

Approved by the PCC on 6th April 2018 and signed on their behalf by

Andrew Clarke (PCC Treasurer)

St Matthews Salford Priors
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2017	2016
Receipts						
Planned giving	30,085				30,085	32,459
Collections and other giving	4,043				4,043	3,935
Other voluntary receipts	211		62		274	619
Gift Aid recovered	8,992				8,992	8,219
Other receipts	1,808	8,913	80		10,803	983
Activities for generating funds	167				167	201
Investment Income	67	7,791		173	8,031	13,568
Receipts from church activities	4,944				4,944	8,420
Total receipts	49,718	16,706	142	173	66,739	68,404
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	1,582				1,582	521
Missionary and Charitable Giving	1,887				1,887	1,090
Parish Share	29,000				29,000	29,000
Clergy and Staffing costs	1,687				1,687	3,631
Church Running Expenses	13,767	33,979			47,746	31,617
Hall Running Costs	540				540	540
Church Repairs & Maintenance		161,830			161,830	17,683
Hall Repairs & Maintenance					0	0
New Building work		10,148			10,148	0
Governance Costs					0	0
Total payments	48,463	205,957	0	0	254,420	84,082
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	1,255	(189,251)	142	173	(187,681)	(15,678)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	374				374	0
Gross transfers between funds - out				(374)	(374)	0
Net incoming/outgoing before other gains/losses	1,629	(189,251)	142	(201)	(187,681)	(15,678)
Other recognised gains/losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets	(488)	16,767		1,208	17,487	31,182
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use					0	0
Net movement in funds	1,141	(172,484)	142	1,007	(170,194)	15,504
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	18,809	432,144	9,762	7,422	468,217	452,713
Total funds carried forward	20,090	259,660	9,904	8,429	290,023	468,217