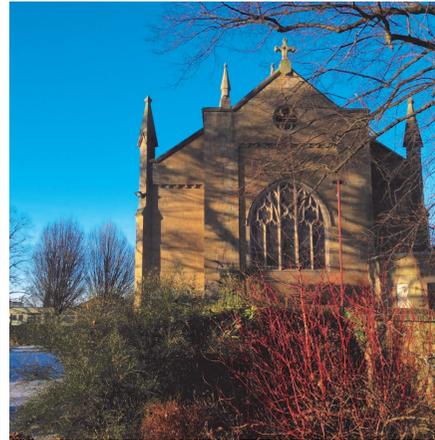
 Holy Trinity HURDSFIELD



**Annual Report 2018-2019**

# We are HTH, come on in:

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# Welcome

Welcome to our annual report. Thank you for taking the time to find out some more about us, God's church at Holy Trinity Hurdsfield (HTH). Whether you've been part of HTH all your life or just came by for the first time last week, we hope this report will tell you something you didn't already know about us and what we've been up to over the past 12 months or so.

I am encouraged to see more and more new people joining us at our Sunday services as well as our midweek events, and to see an increasing openness to the work of the Holy Spirit in all we do. We have worked hard to build connections with our local school and community and this has had a really positive effect as we have got to know people better and have been able to support things that are going on.

At the beginning of the year we spent some time thinking about our purpose and what we believe we are called to do. We've distilled what we're all about into a single sentence:

***We seek to follow Jesus passionately, sharing the good news of His amazing love and seeing people, relationships and our community transformed by Him.***

HTH is a brilliant community of people and it's a joy to be part of it. As you look through these pages, we hope that the words and photos will reflect some of the joy and excitement that we share as we follow Jesus together.

Every blessing to you.

**James Gibson**  
Vicar, Holy Trinity Church, Hurdsfield



## Leadership – The PCC, Vision and Values

In early 2018 the PCC (our board of trustees) defined the kind of community and people that we aspire to be as we go about implementing our **vision** for HTH that we've outlined on the previous page. We call these our **values**:

**Family** – Everyone is welcome to be part of our family. Each of us is unique. Each of us has a place in the family of God. We want everyone to hear the good news about Jesus and experience His amazing love for themselves.

**Authentic** – We want to be honest with each other. We all have some mess in our lives. So we don't judge; we listen, and encourage one other to get to know God better. We allow the power of Jesus to transform us.

**Adventurers** – We want to be bold risk-takers as we follow Jesus and serve our community. We are all on a journey of faith and discovery. We want to grow as we read the Bible, pray and worship together.

As we seek to live out these values it's exciting to have seen lots of different things developing over the last year, including:

- our deepening relationship with **Hurdsfield School** where in the last year we've led regular assemblies and three whole-school celebrations at the church
- the community café **The Green on the Corner** establishing itself and where we've introduced a weekly after-school drop-in at its library next door called **There Will Always Be cake**, connecting us with some of the young people we know from our KidZone and N:ergise groups, and
- lots of **new people** coming to HTH and the several 'Newbie Teas' we've held to tell them what's going on and how they can get involved.

As we gather for worship each Sunday, I sense an increased desire to follow Jesus and an increased openness, both to one another and to the work of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives.

In the last year we have also:

- improved our **financial position** following our giving appeal in early 2018, and
- strengthened **the way we work** by embedding our five PCC sub-groups of Governance, Mission and Outreach; Pastoral and Discipleship; Building and Grounds; and Young People, Children and Families, with each group taking responsibility for leading that area of church life.

We pray that these strong foundations will harvest growth in our ministries as we see more and more people coming to know Jesus and seeking to follow Him.

We're indebted to everyone who serves the church. This year we have seen some people arrive and some go. I want to mention three people in particular for their combined contribution of almost 50 years! Heartfelt thanks to Rachel, our Church Administrator for 12 years until January 2018, Andy, our Youth Minister for 10 years until July 2018, and Wendy, our Church Administrator since 1992, and soon afterwards also our PCC Secretary, until retiring in March 2019.

Please do join us by praying that God's kingdom will continue to grow here in Hurdsfield, Macclesfield and beyond.

### James



*The PCC, left to right:  
Alec, Rob, Richard, Geraldine, Jenni, Anne, James, Hellen, Gavin,  
Rebecca, Wendy (Secretary), Michael, John, Pip.*

# Prayer Diary

We produce a prayer diary each week which goes on the back of the church notice sheet.

The diary asks the church to pray for people in and outside the church who are unwell or in other need, our mission partners, our children and young people, what's going on at church on Sunday and in the week, and the people living in named streets in our parish.

I love the phone calls I have with people when they ask for prayer. I try to note word for word what they say, as this is usually straight from their heart.

I love to hear your thanks and to hear

that God has answered our prayers; this is such an encouragement to everyone who uses the prayer diary.

**Louise**



*Great to see my street being prayed for this week.*

# Thy Kingdom Come

Jesus got up early and went to pray. We can think of Him when we get up early to gather at church at 7.00 am on a Thursday morning to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' in HTH, Hurdsfield and beyond. This is a Church of England initiative to encourage prayer for the kingdom and to encourage others into it.

As we gather, we ask God to lead us in word, picture or verse and we've been excited to hear Him speak to us and guide us. We've received and shared images including ants, wellington boots and Zorb football and these have helped us as we've prayed.

What better way to start the day than in prayer with others?

**James**



# Prayer Stokers



Left to right: Debbie, Lisa, Anne, Louise.

The Prayer Stoking Team presents a monthly Prayer Pointer at our 10.30 am service to encourage us in our daily prayer lives and organises prayer evenings and sanctuary days to help each of us in our walks with God.

In 2018 our Prayer Pointers looked at different types of prayer, for example reflective prayer, confession, doubt, praise, etc. The spring 2018 prayer evening was on Jesus while our summer one focused on 'Thy Kingdom Come'. The autumn prayer evening used the acronym ACTS (also known as an acrostic): Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

We held an advent sanctuary event in the vestry for a week from the first Saturday of December and included prayer stations to help people prepare for Christmas.

**Debbie**

## Day of Prayer and Worship

The church held a 12-hour day of prayer and worship on 1 December 2018. A good number of people came throughout the day for various prayer activities, including a Daily Examen session with Deb Gibson. There were also some powerful times of worship and it was great to have the space to pray freely and listen to God. It was exciting that people were praying through the priorities in HTH's work and to see people of all ages really engaging in the day.

We're hoping to hold similar events in the future, with an eye on eventually doing a full 24 hours of prayer and worship!

Nic and Jonny

*The prayer day was an oasis of calm and challenge in the busyness of my Christmas preparations.*



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party

### Recipe for Pancake Party à la HTH

Serves 200

#### Ingredients

10kg flour  
105 eggs  
30 lemons  
Nutella (industrial quantities required)

#### Equipment

4 frying pans  
11 cooks

#### Method

Place cooks in HTH kitchen on Shrove Tuesday  
Heat until warm  
Release only after making 300 pancakes  
Serve with games such as Hook a Duck and Giant Jenga

This is a lovely dish to serve about 200 friends for a quiet evening at home.



## Alpha



Questions about God, life and anything? Alpha is the place to come and ask them. It's a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each week we look at a different question around faith. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say (seriously). We've welcomed 18 guests on our current course which started in January. As we've got to know each other it's been great to see people grappling with some big and deep questions...

James



*Great food – thank you!*

*It's great to be able to talk about God openly and express my views.*

*It's good to see the pieces falling into place.*

*The talk on prayer was really helpful, especially as it helped me with that question of unanswered prayer.*

## Baptisms

We're always excited to welcome new members. Baptism is a mark of membership in the church and we have enjoyed baptising both youngsters as well as adults over the year.

Through our Trinity Tots' connections, more families have been asking for baptism so we ask that they complete a short preparation course where they can explore the meaning of baptism and we encourage them to attend HTH regularly.

One young boy, who is a regular at Trinity Tots, entered the building for a family baptism and declared '*this is my church!*'

Not everyone comes regularly but some do after having no previous connection with HTH, other than having contacted us to have their child baptised. While this is great news, we'd love to see more baptism families become members of the church.

We held an adult baptism service again in July, which as usual was blessed with fabulous weather for those in the water (many children jumping in afterwards) and then for our bring and share meal together as a church.

James



## Messy Church

We ran Messy Church three times in the last year, sharing stories from the Bible through innovative activities and crafts. Every Messy Church ends with a talk, some songs and a lovely meal together.

We did **Messy Church does Science**, looking at creating 'life' through different science experiments and then linked this to the Easter story.

Our **Messy Summer** was as popular as ever. We used the theme of the parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl so we had treasure hunts, made treasure chests, maps and oyster shell biscuits as well as having a football pitch and sand and water play followed by a barbeque.

Our **Messy Advent** was really popular again as we looked at how we could prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas rather than our wallets and busy schedules.

These events brought people into HTH from the community and we hope that they have taken away the true meaning of the Gospel and, similarly, that we continue to reflect on each session and look at different ways to engage people with God's message through Messy Church.

**Melissa**  
Children and Families Minister



## Lighthouse Party

On 31 October each year we like to offer an alternative event to Halloween. It's an opportunity to celebrate light instead of darkness. This year, Jared and I decided to have a 'Lighthouse Party' to make it a bit different. I was the leader of the 'Sailors' and Jared was the leader of the 'Sharks', both in suitable attire for the occasion (yes, really).

The children were in fancy dress as well and had a wonderful time as they learned how to balloon-model and perform diablo tricks. We played games and had a fun

praise party followed by a performance and talk from Matt Pacey, a professional diablo performer who is a committed Christian.

The numbers were good, the pace of the evening went well and it made a big difference having a guest speaker. We'll do another one next year and will endeavour to make it as good as this one or even better, which will be a challenge...

**Melissa**



## The Green in the Corner

The aim of the Green in the Corner is to increase community engagement and reduce social isolation. One way we do this is by providing home-cooked, healthy meals at affordable prices.

We also provide a venue which local residents can use for small community groups to meet in. We're working closely with the Hurdsfield Neighbourhood Partnership to support new groups who want to use the facilities.

The Green in the Corner opened its café in December 2017 and took over the small library building next door in spring 2018. I've been the manager of the Green in the Corner since September 2018 and I'm the only paid member of staff.

The café is open 12.00-2.00 pm Monday to Saturday and is run by volunteers, one of whom is from HTH. Different groups meet regularly in the library,



including an after-school craft club and an after-school games group, both run by members of our church.

There's also a singing group, with a book group and drop-in craft afternoon starting soon. Macclesfield

College has run community courses in the library, and AstraZeneca put on a cooking workshop.

The numbers of customers at the café are steadily increasing, and attendance at the groups is growing.

We're always looking for more volunteers to help in the café or at the groups meeting in the library. But if this isn't for you, it would be great to see you for a meal or drink in the café, or joining one of the community groups.



Rachel

## There Will Always Be Cake

After some great afternoons playing games on the green by the café, where we were joined by as many as 15-20 children with their carers etc to play parachute games etc, we moved our opening time to 3.00-4.30 pm on Wednesdays to be able to catch up with people after school.

We have been opening up the library part of the Green in the Corner for table games, playing with the toys and of course tea and cake!

It's been great to have some regulars from church joining us along with a variety of families from the houses and apartments around. Some come early

for a quick chat and a cuppa, others after school to play Uno, Dobble or Quirkle.

It's so good to be engaging youngsters with games such as dominoes and helping them learn numbers etc and, for some, how to take turns! With old folks like me, positive 'youth' role models like Jared, little ones in arms plus mums and dads, it is truly intergenerational fun.

We're really keen to see anyone join us and encourage life-sharing hope in the café and library.

John



*A word of warning: don't play Dobble with Jared; he always wins!*



**Dobble Champ  
Jared**

## Funerals

Funerals either at the church or crematorium are taken by James, Hellen or myself. Here are some recent encouragements from bereaved families.



Phil

*Thank you so much for all your help and guidance over the last few weeks. You helped me immensely. You were a bit of a hit! Everyone loved the service. Thank you for your professionalism and heartfelt service.*

*Thank you for the sensitive and caring way that you led the funeral service. At the gathering afterwards, we all felt that the service had been very much what Mum would have wanted.*

### **After the funeral of a baby**

*Thank you so much for all you did, you made it possible for us to say goodbye, we would not have known what to do without you. Then meeting them in the local pub after our bereavement visitor had been, the parents said how helpful our church support had been.*

*Thank you so much for the wonderful service at the crematorium to commemorate Mum's life. It was a very special moment for family and friends.*



## Bereavement Visiting



A small group of church members (at present only ladies!) make up our Bereavement Visiting Team and their brief is to follow up funerals by offering a visit to the family or next of kin.

We offer the follow-up irrespective of whether the funeral has taken place in church or at the crematorium only. Since I, assisted by Phil, took over coordinating bereavement follow-up in March last year there have been 33 separate opportunities to visit bereaved families.

In the autumn HTH hosted a training day run by Care for the Family for HTH team members and bereavement visitors from other Macclesfield churches, with a total of 23 people attending.

Julia



*The Bereavement Training Day by Care for the Family was informative and encouraging.*

*Wanted to express my thanks and appreciation for the Remembering Service. From the quite lovely gentle classical guitar music prior to the service right through to the end, it made its way very gently and calmly with the underpinning strength of God. It was moving, especially for me as I tumble towards the first anniversary.*

### **Following a chat in the pub after the funeral**

*Thank you for your guidance with regards to reading the New Testament and advice on how to try and understand the underlying meanings.*

*Julia and Phil taking over the Bereavement Team organisation has re-energised everyone!*

## Trinity Tots

FUN AND FRIENDSHIP;  
SHARING JESUS' LOVE

In just an hour and a half on 40 term-time Mondays an average of 40 babies and toddlers and 30 grown-ups played with lots of different toys, created some extraordinary crafts and consumed quantities of tea and toast before listening to a story and singing nursery rhymes and children's worship songs. Recently one child with no church background asked if we could sing 'Jesus' love is very wonderful'.

A wonderful team of volunteers not only set everything out, put it away again afterwards, provided refreshments

and helped with the crafts, but also ensured that they were available to offer a listening ear to anyone who needed one. Those that we were able to support include the recently bereaved and sleep-deprived new mums (we have had babies as young as one week old come along), as well as a mum who came to the group with her son after having had a car crash instead of going home.

This is such an amazing ministry as we build relationships with toddlers, their

parents, grandparents and carers, tell Bible stories and celebrate Christmas and Easter with them while sharing their true meaning in fresh and exciting ways.

The main difficulty we have is wiping away the tears of little ones who don't want to leave!

**Melissa**



*In Tesco today I bumped into someone that used to be a regular at Tots with her daughter who is now too old for the group. She declared that she really missed Monday mornings and would love to come back, maybe to help out. She then gave me a hug and said she'll join us a week on Monday.*

**Melissa**

*Best cup of tea out of all the toddler groups.*

*It is a sanctuary.*

*It's a lifesaver.*

## Recharge

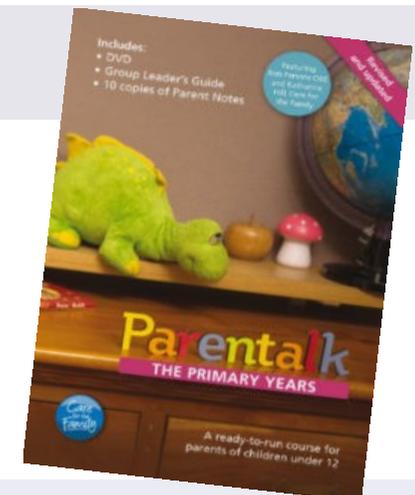
When I was on maternity leave in 2015, it was difficult to get to homegroup in the evenings and it felt like quite a spiritual void so I asked others in the same position if they felt the same way. They did, so I decided to set up a daytime Bible study group where there would be space for babies and toddlers to play while we engage with Jesus.

It's progressed into a group that's open to everyone as we want to encourage people from Trinity Tots to join us so we have been doing a parenting course run by Care for the Family in the hope that we can learn together how to raise our children in the best way we can. It's a great chance for fellowship, tea and

biscuits. We now meet in the classroom which is toasty warm with comfy settees!

It's a lovely group but we would love to grow so if you would like to join us at 10.00 am on alternate Thursdays or know anyone that would, please contact me at [melissa@hthmacc.com](mailto:melissa@hthmacc.com). Children are welcome but not compulsory and it's not just for women!

**Melissa**



## Toddlers' Service

The toddlers' service has been running for nearly two years. We've explored many different ways of finding out about God and being church together.

We've sung songs about God and Jesus using instruments, signs, actions and dance. We've learned about Jesus through stories using Lego, ladders, soft toys, water, sand, clay, wooden spoons, fabric and more. Together we have prayed using different objects symbolising what we pray for: cards, photos, prayer dice, crosses, stones, candles and more.

The children have rung us together as a group with bells to start the service. They have lit the candles and we have thought and spoken about Jesus being our light in the darkness. We have learned the bigger



part of a version of the Lord's Prayer using actions. On many Thursdays we've sat together in a circle at the front of the church learning from each other and from the Bible about who God is, that He loves each one of us and that He is with us until the end of time.

We have walked through the church grounds imagining that we are following Jesus from Gethsemane to the grave. We have followed a red thread upstairs to encounter characters from the Old Testament telling us why the baby in the crib is so special.

We close each service standing next to each other holding hands and blessing the ones on our left and our right. Afterwards we often do crafts linked with the stories. While eating fruit, drinking juice, tea or coffee, young and old chat, laugh and sometimes cry, sharing a little of our lives and our journeys.

I am always amazed when I think that it is me telling the children about God but realise that it is them telling me. When other mums or other people from church tell a story for us I am so impressed at their imagination and how it tells us about Jesus' life and the people He met and knew.

The service is aimed at children aged 0-5 but I hope it will continue also to bless fellow leaders, storytellers, parents, carers and guests. We meet every other Thursday morning so please see the notice sheet for dates and come along even if you are not aged 0-5.

**Sofia**



*The service is perfectly pitched for our 3-year old, Sam, to learn about Jesus. Sofia and her team put a lot of effort into creating different crafts and activities each week to keep the tots interested and we frequently use the prayers and blessings from the service at home. It is lovely to hear Sam singing the songs to himself around the house. Thank you.*

## Groups for Children and Young People on Sundays

One of last year's highlights was when our Harvest Service was led by the young people from our Revelation and Fusion groups (Years 7-13). It's one of our priorities to make sure that our young people get the chance to use their God-given gifts and talents.

The service included this response from one of our young people when asked how knowing that God gives you strength helps him: *'Knowing that God is there and helping me helped me to feel confident; it feels like when you're a kid and your dad puts you on his shoulders'*.

And it was a joy to see the younger children showcasing their skills in our

Nativity Service, reading beautifully and dancing and singing, with the Superstars in particular singing their hearts out. The older groups made the scenery, sourced the props and choreographed the whole thing. It was a great way to bring all the groups and ages together.

Visiting our Pebbles and Superstars groups this year, I found the Pebbles (our pre-school group) really engaged with the interactive stories, activities and crafts as they learn about Bible stories in playful ways, while the Superstars have such great foundations in Biblical truth and immense enthusiasm for learning more.

**Melissa**



Nativity 2018: The Company

### Superstars

Here's what one of their leaders said about our group for children in school years Reception to Year 2.

*The Superstars are all superstars when it comes to singing and dancing. One of our favourite songs is My Lighthouse! Everyone loves to join in and sing and do all the actions.*

*Sometimes we lie down and we close our eyes while we talk to God quietly in our minds, sometimes we have a go at listening to God or just being quiet (for a very short while). We love running-around games; you can probably hear us upstairs. We like listening to Bible stories and we sometimes look in the big Bible to see what the story looks like there.*

*We love our drink and biscuits time, and often this is when we have our sharing time. We like telling people our news and we love telling people about our birthdays. We are kind and helpful to one another and we love helping to hand out drinks, sharing pens and passing craft items around.*

*By the time we join Trailblazers, we can investigate through different games, activities and crafts what it really means to follow Jesus.*

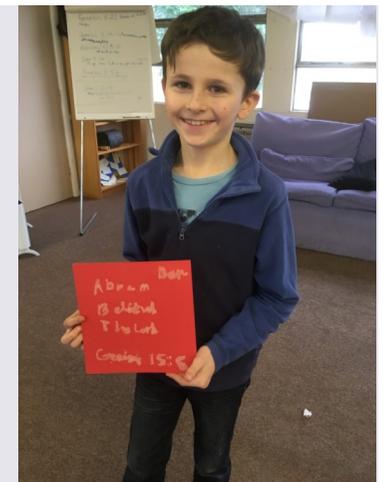


### Trailblazers

Here's what one of their leaders said about the Trailblazers (Years 3-6).

*The leaders have really enjoyed getting to know each Trailblazer and helping them grow in their faith.*

*We want the group to be a space where the children can not only learn more about the Christian faith but also be themselves and share feelings and opinions on life in general, whether that's issues with friendships or Donald Trump. This may be a space that they don't find anywhere else.*



## Fusion



**F**usion (formerly Fusion 13) is our group for Year 9 and upwards. We have up to 15 young people attending every Sunday evening for games, discussions and food. A number of the young people from this group, and a couple from Revelation, (our Sunday group for Years 7-13) will be coming to the Soul Survivor Christian festival this summer and we're all really excited for that! There are clearly good relationships between everyone and an openness to share and talk about how they are and what they're thinking.

We're especially looking to support some of the young people who have specifically mentioned that they're struggling due to exam pressures. Our hope is that by building on the open environment we have at Fusion we can help them to feel valued and able to talk to us about the things they're finding hard.

Jared, Youth Minister



*I come because we talk and have fun and everyone is kind and welcoming.*

*I come to Fusion and Revelation to see people that I otherwise wouldn't see outside of church.*

*Fusion has been a really good group to be a part of, both for leaders and young people. Everyone there is genuinely welcoming, they include new young people and that's one of the things that makes it such a good place to go! Jared*

## N:Ergise

**N**:Ergise, our group for Years 6 to 8, had a fairly difficult time this year and due to a limited number of leaders and other commitments we changed the frequency from weekly to fortnightly. If we were ever to reverse this, it would have to be with a larger pool of leaders.

On a more positive note we have seen an improvement in behaviour at N:Ergise and those young people that come do enjoy it. Below are a few of the reasons that they said why they come.

Jared



*To see my friends To make new friends It's fun and I enjoy the games  
I get chance to talk about stuff The people here are nice*

## KidZone

**I**n the last year we've simplified KidZone, our Friday group for Years 3 to 6, which we run every other week in term-time at Hurdsfield School. We did this in order to cut down on the large number of people and resources needed to run it. But it hasn't reduced the high numbers of children and young people attending and enjoying themselves.

We're also beginning to see better responses in discussion time and more involvement in the 'praise party' section of the evening. Our hope is to keep improving these bits to make them even more fun and engaging for the children.

Jared



## Football Team

The church football team (HTHFC) is playing this season in the second division of the South Manchester and Cheshire Christian Football League (SMCCFL). Results have been difficult this year, and we are now playing to avoid relegation.

The team is made up of HTH members, players from other churches and some non-Christian friends. We are very grateful to our regular supporters for home matches (the Truswell family) and would love to see others come to Victoria Park on Saturday mornings either to play or support us.

As one of the founding members of the league 20 years ago, HTH has the ability to influence the way the league



is run. For example, before every match this year, both teams have gathered in the centre circle to say a prayer. This helps us to keep our faith in the

forefront of our minds as we play, and acts as a good witness to those non-Christian players.

Playing in the league allows us to come together as a team and a group of friends who enjoy playing football, and the fact that it's a Christian league enables us to act as witnesses to others.

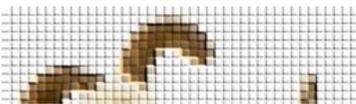
### Luke

(has played right back, left wing and right wing this season; no goals yet, but hopeful)



## HTH Big Quiz 2019

### Who are these?



We held our second curry and quiz night on a dark January night. It was amazingly well attended (slightly more amazingly than we were expecting!) with about 120 people filling HTH to the brim.

Many HTH regulars brought friends and family and a few came after they had seen it advertised locally, which was great.

The quiz was devised by Chris who was surprised to find that

Food & Drink proved to be the hardest round.

The Shalimar restaurant provided the curry and we were thankful that when we prayed, Jesus even made sure there was just about enough for everyone.

The Justice Homegroup did an excellent job of making sure it all happened smoothly and were busy on the night setting up, in the kitchen and running the bar.

The event raised a cool £325 for Tearfund!

People said how much they had enjoyed it and several asked if it will be an annual event. After two successful evenings I suspect it will be.

It was really great to see the church full of people enjoying themselves so much, even if none of them could spell PyeongChang exactly right.

### Rebecca



Answers: Gromit, George Clooney

## Hurdsfield School



James and Melissa continued to take assemblies once a fortnight at Hurdsfield School throughout 2018 and I joined them after I came to HTH in August.

Ten folk from HTH run a Breakfast Club there for the children, five mornings a week. A further six people go to the school each week to help children with their reading.

We've seen a real rise in engagement in our assemblies over the last year and the children responded really well to a recent visit by some diocesan colleagues who brought along

two Melanesian bishops with them.

Our colleagues from the diocese remarked that they hadn't seen many schools with as good a relationship with their local church, which was particularly notable in this case, given that Hurdsfield School is not denominationally affiliated.

We're proud of our longstanding relationship with Hurdsfield school and it's one that we're very keen to strengthen further.

**Jared**

### Breakfast Club

*We find this a rewarding experience, hence we have been doing this on Tuesdays for 15 years! The staff are supportive and grateful for the help from HTH. There is opportunity to get to know the children and we also see some of them at KidZone.*

*The children are very well mannered and friendly, and we even indulge their requests to cut the crusts off the toast.*

*If you're thinking of joining the team, do come and give us a trial. It's worth getting up early for!*

**Judy and Pip**



## Midweek Service

We continue to run our midweek service once a month. About 25 folk gather to worship God and share food and fellowship afterwards when we have soup and refreshments.

We advertise the service to those on the fringe of church, particularly those who've been to Holiday at Home. We mostly have an older congregation but by no means exclusively so. We need more drivers willing and able to bring people to church and take them home afterwards.

**Sylvia and Brian**



## St Luke's Chapel

Saint Luke's is the chapel in Macclesfield District General Hospital. As a church we provide one morning service a month, at 11.00 am on the fourth Sunday of every month.

The HTH team meets in the chapel at 10.00 am and then goes around the wards to invite any patients who are well enough to come to the service in the chapel, or pray with those who are not well enough. We generally collect patients in wheelchairs or walk to the chapel with them. We also invite relatives and staff members to join us.

We also collect the names of those who cannot leave the wards but would like to be mentioned in prayer during the service. The service generally lasts around 40 minutes and includes hymns (usually a recorded track) a Bible reading, a short talk and prayer.

We then take patients back to the wards in time for their lunch.

We often find that God has gone ahead of us. Here are just two examples:

Sally was chatting to a patient on the ward who was thrilled to be invited to come to the service as they felt it was just what they needed. Afterwards, the patient told Sally that they felt the talk was incredibly appropriate to what they were dealing with.

On Bible Sunday, I asked Alec from The Gideons if I could have some Bibles to distribute. Alec gave me six Testaments and one large print version. On the Sunday, the number of Bibles required were six Testaments and one large print version. No more, no less.

As well as me, the HTH team for St Luke's currently includes Eileen Delight, Peter Cliffe, Anthea Flynn, David Haley, Rachel James, Andrew Melville, Lisa and Lucy Moncur, Sally Nocker and Lindsey Russell.

Although we have a good number of people on the team, additional volunteers would be very welcome, especially to cover during holidays.

Wendy



*I really enjoy being part of the Hospital Team. As I walk down Victoria Road before the service each month, I say a quick prayer about the people we might come across on the wards. Some may just be keen for a change of scene but we also have the most amazing conversations with people.*

*That may just be about the book they're reading or the sweets their relatives have brought in but at other times we'll discover God is really working in their lives and it's a privilege to enable them to participate in the service.*

Lindsey



## Thank you Andy



### **Is it really 10 years since you joined HTH as our Youth Minister?**

Yes, I joined in October 2008 and worked here until July 2018.

### **What are you doing now?**

I'm now a self-employed electrician and have been setting up and running my own business since leaving my role back in July. This has been a huge challenge but, seven months in, things seem to be going well, the work is extremely varied and business seems to be increasing, which is encouraging. Along with that I'm actually getting more time with my family which is amazing.

### **Where did you grow up?**

Although I was born in Yorkshire I grew up in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire where I lived from the age of about 4 until I left home at 18.

### **When did you become a Christian?**

I became a Christian when I was about 16 years old through a youth group at Tewkesbury Baptist Church.

### **Tell us something about yourself that we don't know.**

On the day Sarah and I got engaged we were in London and spent an hour looking for somewhere to park for free near Primrose Hill. We eventually found somewhere with a sign stating it was OK to park there and went into London, only to find when we returned to the car that the sign had been changed and I had a parking ticket!

### **What was the last app you downloaded on your phone?**

Amazon Prime Video, so I could catch up on watching Arrow.

### **How do we get hold of you if we need any electrical work?**

I'm contactable by email at [ALElectricals@mail.com](mailto:ALElectricals@mail.com) or mobile on 07805 094467.

## Thank you Wendy



### **When did you start coming to HTH?**

I think we started coming in the latter half of 1991. When we arrived I heard that HTH wanted an administrator to help John Tsipouras (John 'Chips'). My husband Dudley said to me 'you could do that job' but I was reluctant at first. God made it plain to me in a picture of a jigsaw with a hand putting the last piece in and God saying 'Why are you being reticent?'. When I told John about this he said 'Thank goodness, I've been waiting for you to say that'. This was in 1992.

### **Who were the vicars during the time you've worked here?**

After John Tsipouras, the vicars have been Ian Rumsey, Evan Cockshaw and now James Gibson, with Margaret Owens during an interregnum. I've seen four interregnums, each of a minimum of 12 months, but in reality probably longer.

### **When did you become a Christian?**

I became a Christian more than 50 years ago in my late teens (17 or 18) and had to wait to be baptised until I was 21 as my father would not consent (things would be so different these

days). I was in a Brethren church then but moved to an Elim church where I met my husband.

### **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Birmingham where we lived until 1979 when Dudley got a job as a research chemist at Alderley Park for what was then ICI Pharmaceuticals. I didn't want to come to Macclesfield as I was happy working both in our church and also at my job in an advertising agency in Birmingham city centre. I did give God a set of ideals so that I would know if it would be right for us to move. One was a house with a large garden for our two sons and the second was that if the house needed a lot of work then we'd need a specific amount of money (which I named) to do it. We'd renovated our house in Birmingham so we knew we could do the work. God answered both ideals right down to the last penny so that's why we ended up in Macclesfield.

### **Tell us something about yourself that we don't know.**

I have just started learning the piano.

## Welcome Jared



### **When did you start at HTH as our Youth Minister?**

I started on 26 August 2018, so I've been here for six months now!

### **What were you doing before that?**

Before I came here I had been a teacher in a primary school and prior to that was at Edge Hill University getting my teaching degree.

### **When did you become a Christian?**

I became a Christian at a young age (about four) so I've always had a sense of the idea of God. It became a lot more real for me in my early teens though.

### **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Burnley (pronounced burnl-eh in those parts) in Lancashire and then moved to the Rossendale Valley when I started high school.

### **Tell us something about yourself that we don't know.**

When I was six I broke my arm trying to get to the front of a zip wire queue, spent the rest of my holiday with my arm in a cast and learnt that not being allowed near water or sand is not great at the beach.

### **What football team do you support?**

Liverpool (so I don't really mind if someone mispronounces my name as Gerrard).

### **Did you do anything special last summer?**

I got married on 13 August to my lovely wife Annie!



## Welcome Emma



### **When did you start at HTH as our Church Administrator?**

I started in January 2019.

### **Where did you work before that?**

I worked at St Michael & All Angels in Macclesfield (it's the church in the town centre) for six years as its Church Co-ordinator dealing with events in church and the building itself.

### **When did you become a Christian?**

I became a Christian when I was a teenager when I went on Christian holidays in Hummanby and Giggleswick in Yorkshire with some friends.

### **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Wilmslow, where my father had a chemist shop, as well as one in Alderley Edge. These had been in the family for over 150 years.

### **Tell us something about yourself that we don't know.**

I love being outdoors and doing anything adventurous. I've taken a group of disabled people up a mountain in Switzerland.

### **What's your favourite leisure activity?**

It's walking with my dog Joe. We both love being out in the hills.

### **What subject was your favourite at school?**

It was music. I started playing the guitar and flute at school, and still play the flute now. My daughter, Harriet, started playing the flute last year...we can now do duets!



## New Wine

The New Wine 'United 18' Christian festival in Shepton Mallet in August was an action-packed week of getting to know about 30 members of the church family better by camping together (or, for some, sleeping off-site in proper beds) with a vast range of activities: inspiring speakers, arts, sport, films, music and much more.

One memorable session was hearing from a North Korean Christian who had escaped a prison camp, having planted a church which met secretly in the prison toilets because they were in such awful condition that the guards wouldn't investigate!

Another was listening to a Christian writer with experience of working with huge corporations such as Disney and Lego, talking about being an 'outside voice' communicating through secular media to

connect with people: *'The artists and musicians with soul-stirring stories instead of sermons. The reluctant revolutionaries with off-the grid ideas that can shake the world'*.

It's not too late to book for 'United 19', along with an even bigger group from HTH this year for week one in the new venue in Peterborough. Just ask me, James or Melissa to tell you more.

**Fiona**



## Big Church Day Out

We also had fantastic weather at the Big Church Day Out down the road at Capesthorpe Hall. How good it was to worship and have fellowship with thousands of other Christians, and see how particularly helpful this was for children and young people (we took a group from HTH) who can sometimes feel isolated as Christians today.

The highlight for singer-songwriter Philippa Hanna was surely meeting HTH's own well-travelled megastar Trinity Ted!

**Melissa**



*A wonderful weekend of getting to know each other, having fun, discovering new bands and praising God!*

*It was a great place to show everyone that worship is all inclusive and that it's OK to sing, dance and even bounce along to together.*

## HTH Around The World

We are privileged to support some extraordinary people and organisations. We do this both financially (devoting 10% of our budget each year to them) and through prayer, including through a monthly Mission Slot in our Sunday services where we remember and pray for our mission partners.

Our Tearfund Connected Church project in **Mozambique**, which uses a process called Umoja, meaning togetherness in Swahili. In particular we've supported an ecumenical Christian association called Kubatsirana (meaning 'help each other') and pastor training projects in the Diocese of Niassa in the remote north of the country. It was wonderful that a team from HTH was able to go to Mozambique in 2018 to visit people, churches and projects.



Geraldine, right

*The trip to Mozambique was an incredible way to see what a real difference the work of the local partners working with Tearfund makes to the communities.*

*It was a privilege to share worship, food and homes with all the people we met and to share their stories when we returned.*

**Jenny Vincent**

**Anne Moore**, a nursing sister working for the Church Mission Society at Kisiizi Hospital in Uganda.

**Johnnie and Anne McClean** working with a small church in Bangkok, Thailand, witnessing to the local Thai community and serving some of the marginalised in many spiritual and pastoral ways. The McCleans visited us in 2018.

The **Cre8** Youth and Community Project based on the Moss Rose estate in south Macclesfield.

The many national and international ministries of **The Message Trust** based in Manchester.

**Martin and Hilary Raymond** and their work at Wycliffe Bible Translators. To have God's word in one's own language is a joy we take for granted. Translation for all of the world's languages remains a huge challenge.



**Bron and Colin Cleaver** in Novosibirsk in Russia where Colin is the pastor of a local Baptist Church and Bron is a volunteer with Wycliffe Bible Translators supporting language translation with people groups in southern Siberia. The Cleavers also visited us in 2018.

**India Direct**, a locally based charity supporting two children's homes in South East India run by the Love and Care Charitable Trust.

**Hope in North East Cheshire**, a group of 39 local churches working together in mission.

**Michael**



### Prayer Breakfasts

We come together on the third Thursday of each month at 7.00 am to pray for our mission partners and their work.

*The prayer breakfasts are really valuable in helping us to understand and share the joys and difficulties of our mission partners and know that we are contributing by our prayers to the work they are doing in bringing the good news of Jesus to those we will never meet. At the close we have breakfast together and enjoy one another's company as we share our own news.*

# Fairtrade

Over the last year we've continued to run our Traidcraft stall at the back of church on the first Sunday of every month. Thank you to all our regular customers and to the members of the Justice Homegroup who help me to run it. We've moved with the times and you can now pay by card.

We sold £1,625 worth of Traidcraft at HTH in 2018. Sadly this was £200 less than in the previous year. The years 2017 to 2018 were very difficult for Traidcraft. It suffered from falling sales and higher costs, due to the drop in the pound, and nearly closed in December. A smaller company, nicknamed 'Traidcraft 2', has survived and will continue to challenge the unfair trading system that keeps producers in the developing world poor.

Traidcraft goods are all Fairtrade, which means the producers receive a guaranteed minimum

price, plus a premium to spend on community projects. However, Traidcraft goes the extra mile and does more than Fairtrade. Traidcraft works with communities who would struggle to produce the volume of product required by big business, and it pioneers new Fairtrade products. Traidcraft's work is part of what makes it possible for Fairtrade products to be sold in shops.

It is clear that Fairtrade can bring benefits to producers' lives, but to really change their lives they need to be able to sell much more of their product on Fairtrade terms. That is where we come in. The existence of Fairtrade means we are enabled to 'act justly and love mercy' (Micah 6:8) in our everyday purchases.

Karen



## Fairtrade changes the lives of producers

This is Rosine Bekoin. She is a cocoa farmer from Ivory Coast and these are some of the things she has to say about the benefits of Fairtrade.



*I've seen that Fairtrade has helped us a lot in cocoa farming. The Fairtrade Premium has enabled us to do many things, especially helping women. It has enabled us to advance our children, and also we use the Fairtrade Premium to build for the future.*

*In 2017 I had one tonne, and in 2018 I had 1.5 tonnes, so I can see that the training from Fairtrade enabled me to increase the income from my farm.*



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

# Homegroups

Homegroups have continued to be a key part of life at HTH over the last year. Together we study the Bible, pray and encourage one another to follow Jesus faithfully. Meeting regularly in this way also means that homegroups are central to the way we deliver pastoral care as well as providing opportunities to build relationships throughout the church.

One group additionally has a particular heart for issues of justice, wanting to see a fair and just society worldwide, while another group has special responsibility for relationships with our mission partners.

Well over 100 people have been attending homegroups in 2018. These vary in size from a handful of people to as many as 25. The number of groups has stabilised at 10 and the total attending homegroups is very similar to previous years with several new members over the year. We are very grateful to our nearly 30 homegroup leaders who put prayer, energy and creativity into leading their groups.

We want to thank them for the work they do organising, inspiring and challenging their groups week by week.

In the past year our studies have included an in depth look at the Creed, the story of Joseph and the book of Haggai.

We're always seeking to encourage new members.

## Ali and Michael



*Homegroup for me is where church happens, where I can ask questions, think about others' questions, be heard and hear, be loved and love, and share (and change) my own thoughts about why we believe and what we believe.*

*On a Thursday night, here's a typical title from Facebook to introduce the topic to our Rock Badgers homegroup: 'The one where Joe gets an offer he can't refuse.' It's all about being friends, here discussing the life of Joseph and what we can learn from it, being real (authentic) and being challenged to live for Jesus. We also meet every second Sunday for 'tea@88': being family, eating together. One member writes: 'I love it, having the children being part of our homegroup.' On the other week we meet in the pub, 'Friday pub nights@Park Tavern'. Another member says: 'So glad I've got something I can invite other friends to so they can meet my church family.'*

*I enjoy being able to do things together in our efforts to learn how to make the world more just.*

*It is always encouraging to know that there are other people who think like we do, and to get ideas and inspiration. The difference between just making noise and having influence is relationships.*

Left to right: The Honking Geese, The Rock Badgers, Justice Homegroup



## Evergreens

**E**vergreens meets most Monday afternoons at HTH as a homegroup for older people. We welcome new people and hope they will settle with us.

Thank you to everyone who supports us: minibus drivers and other drivers and those who prepare our room for us each week. Without you all we would struggle to cope, with you all we do just fine!

Here are some comments about Evergreens by both leaders and members.

*At Evergreens we have lots of laughter, good Bible study and prayer.*

*We enjoy companionship with each other and sharing our love of the Lord.*

*It is a chance to relax with different people to enjoy our homegroup, learning about the Bible and our faith in a friendly atmosphere, sharing tea together afterwards.*

*It's an all-singing all-dancing (well, not really dancing) group of older people who meet for Bible study, discussion, prayer and singing, support and friendship. We share humour, catch up on news and eat together - especially when Veda makes things for us.*

*Evergreens is a group from which we all eventually graduate and receive promotion. This year five of our members have been honoured: Jean Barlow, Ruby Grainger, Veronica Bainbridge, Maureen Gidman and Sandra Cripps. We miss you all but thank you for your love and service, also for living authentic lives whilst here on earth. Rest in peace.*

*These losses have sharpened our awareness of the importance of nurturing our faith and sharing it as we do each Monday when we meet. We are aware that earthly life does not last forever, but that life with Christ does and we acknowledge that fact and enjoy each other's company whilst we can.*



From top left:  
Nigel, Brian,  
Hellen, Veda,  
Hazel, Joy.



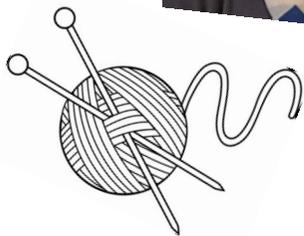
## Ladies' Group

We're a lively group of 14 ladies, aged from two and a half years to 90 (Mavis), meeting every fortnight. There are usually 9 or 10 of us.

As a group we respond to need. To this end, we knit or crochet small hats and blankets for the baby unit at Macclesfield Hospital and regularly send knitted tops, jumpers and blankets to Chernobyl where there is still great need. We also have two or three home knitters to whom we are very grateful.

We love trips out and this past year enjoyed a 'cruise' on the Mary Sunley Community Narrowboat, Christmas lunch at Wilmslow Garden Centre and afternoon tea in the gardens of Norbury Farm in Hazel Grove.

Nora



*It's really pleasant to be with like-minded people, enjoying and exchanging ideas and also the companionship and cake!!!*

**Mavis**

### **Nora writes:**

We value Mavis for many reasons, not least for setting out cups and plates, sorting out balls of wool and telling us about her days as a midwife, her involvement with the Eye Society and the craft work she used to do.

*The Ladies' Group is my absolute favourite. I love coming along because it is relaxed, fun and friendly with so many interesting people.*

*When I first came to the Ladies' Group, I was just starting my knitting journey. Knit and purl was about the extent of my skills and I wasn't even good at that! Over time, the other members of the group encouraged me and offered practical help and advice even as far as taking my work apart for me when I had messed it all up...again!*

*The Ladies' Group is something I always look forward to, not only for the beautiful homemade cakes, but being able to spend time with such lovely people and have the chance to develop friendships is absolutely*

*priceless. All of our members are so interesting and the depth of knowledge and experience is unmatched. I feel truly privileged to be part of this group and long may it continue.*

**Jodie**



## Time Out

**T**ime Out meets once a month at Harry Lawson Court, a sheltered housing complex in Hurdsfield. Residents join other people from Hurdsfield and others from HTH to share a morning with coffee, a charity sales table, a raffle and mini entertainment and plenty of time to talk.

On the right are some comments from different charity sales table organisers, entertainers and participants.

From these comments you can tell we are thriving and really enjoying our monthly outreach into our own Hurdsfield community. It is clear the charity organisers are dedicated to their causes and all of us are pleased to contribute in our small way, and enjoy a happy morning at the same time. Thanks to all who help and contribute to Time Out, including Hurdsfield School Choir who sing for us at Christmas and in the summer.

We also organise services, such as before Christmas and Easter, run on separate mornings and led by Phil and Julia. These are very popular and people join in fully.

**Joy, Dorothy, Ann**

*At Time Out I meet friends, have coffee and browse the sales table and do the raffle. And it all goes to charity. I never miss going, so to the organisers, thank you.*

*Good News Community Churches are linked with an area of Kenya called Kunya where life is hard when every drop of water is brought over two miles from the river and people must grow their own food, where diseases including Aids and road accidents mean that many elderly widows are bringing up children as young as four years old. Money raised at Time Out is sent to Pastor Allan Ouma who carefully spends every pound on basic foodstuffs such as maize flour for the widows and orphans. They are very thankful that people are thinking about them and this encourages them to keep going. Thank you for your support.*

*The morning I spent at Time Out was full of chatter and laughter. Everyone was at ease and seemed to enjoy contributing to the conversation on memories of their youth. Everyone appreciated each other and I felt very welcome.*

*Last June I was given the privilege to have a sales table at Time Out in aid of raising funds for our granddaughter Alice to go to Mozambique under the umbrella of Tearfund. We were amazed by people's generosity and help in baking cakes, making jam, donating bric-à-brac and helping run the stall and the raffle. We found we had raised £172. Thanks everyone.*

*I really enjoyed my visit to Time Out and seeing this group for the first time surprised me on two fronts. Firstly, a lot of local people come, so this group clearly has a significant impact in our local community. Secondly, there are more people from HTH involved than I had realised, quietly taking values of HTH beyond the walls of our church. Well done.*

*Once a year I'm responsible for the sales table where the proceeds are donated to my chosen charity, The Message Trust, a Christian ministry based in Wythenshawe that reaches out to the least, the last and the lost among children, estates of high deprivation and prisons. Every year I am so grateful for the generosity of the people who go and delighted to send The Message about £150.*



## Holiday at Home

Our Holiday Club for older people saw another happy and successful year, with three days in August and one each at Easter and Christmas. At Easter, we were deeply moved by the Signing Choir who brought the message of the cross to us in a unique and beautiful way.

**Card from holidaymaker:**  
*Remembering your kindness with warmth and gratitude. Thoroughly enjoyed the Holiday at Home. Looking forward to next year.*

James. Our guests are Holy Trinity folk and many from the community with no connection to any church.

Thank you to the team of 20 or so who run this ministry, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, without whom there would be no craft activities, hand massage, lifts to get there, or wonderful two-course hot lunch each day.

Sylvia



We were entertained in August by singer Glyn Jones, cartoonist Rev Taffy Davies and the Playback Theatre, who took some of our life experiences and turned them spontaneously into drama.

At Christmas, Year 6 from Hurdsfield School sang to us and as the afternoon turned to dusk we lit our candles and experienced the joy of the familiar Christingle with a message of hope from



## Tuesday Walkers

Most Tuesdays over the last year a group of up to 15 intrepid explorers have walked 4 to 5 miles together, sometimes directly from church, sometimes driving to start elsewhere. New folk have joined us over the last year while others have moved on to other commitments. We all agree that everything about belonging to the Tuesday Walkers is good, especially the chats in local pubs afterwards.

All of us are refreshed by the beauty of the places we go to even if we feel tired after traversing tricky terrain or clambering over multiple stiles.

Some walkers have been attending our church services for decades, while others don't cross the building's threshold. But somehow, God has brought us together and we share, discuss and debate our faith as we travel through the ups and downs of life as well as across fields and hillsides and along canal paths and tracks. We're a group that cares about each other and I believe that we are quick to offer that support to new people.

This winter we didn't have to cancel any walks which meant that we experienced large snowflakes tumbling over us as well as surprisingly sunny skies with sharp winds. To keep safe we have taken some urban walks to avoid testing our ageing legs on slippery countryside slopes and valleys.



We're keen to welcome new walkers. Just wear suitable clothing and bring yourself something to drink. We leave the church carpark by 9.15 am and there are plenty of lifts available if we're starting the walk elsewhere.

May God continue to bless our conversations, our routes, and our companionship as we continue to enjoy our amazing countryside.

Hellen



*Belonging to this group is an opportunity to make new friends, hold interesting new conversations and discover new areas of beauty and interest around our town.*

**New member Anne** (centre in grey woolly hat)

# Money In, Money Out

For 2018 we budgeted a **deficit of £28k** (to be met from our reserves). God, however, had other ideas and we actually ended the year with a **surplus of £52k**.

We celebrate God's amazing faithfulness and the generous and sacrificial giving by the members of His church at Holy Trinity Hurdsfield (over 60% of our income comes from regular giving and its associated Gift Aid rebate).

We have been blessed with a substantial increase in income over 2017, principally from:

- a significant increase in regular monthly Gift Aid giving
- some substantial one-off donations, and
- the closure of the CSM Trust.

In 2018 we appointed, as the church's accountants, Slade & Cooper, a firm that specialises in serving charities. We've introduced an accounting software package called QuickBooks, so we now keep all the accounts on a secure online site that Slade & Cooper can look at as well. Rachel has generously taken on the task of recording all our transactions each week, with John now assisting her.

We've established a new financial policy, overhauling the headings under which we account for the money we spend and requiring individuals with particular responsibilities for areas of our work to prepare annual budgets and to control their day-to-day expenditure.

Please ask me if you have any questions at all about the way we use the money with which God blesses us so richly.

Pip



|                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Year to 31 December 2018</b> | <b>£ '000</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------|

| <b>Money in</b>                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Regular Gift-aided giving          | 112.9        |
| Other giving (not Gift-aided)      | 53.6         |
| Tax recovered on Gift-aided giving | 35.2         |
| Other Gift-aided giving            | 15.3         |
| Weddings and funerals              | 7.5          |
| Other income                       | 0.3          |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>224.8</b> |

| <b>Money out</b>                             |              |
|--|--------------|
| Diocesan contribution                        | 52.1         |
| Staff costs                                  | 51.8         |
| Utilities, insurance, professional fees, etc | 25.1         |
| Mission and charity giving                   | 14.4         |
| Office costs                                 | 8.6          |
| Building and grounds maintenance             | 7.0          |
| Wedding and funeral fees                     | 4.2          |
| Worship                                      | 3.3          |
| Children, youth and families ministry        | 3.2          |
| Local mission and evangelism                 | 2.7          |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>172.4</b> |

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Surplus</b> | <b>52.4</b> |
|----------------|-------------|

*All figures are still to be independently examined*

*And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.*

**Philippians 4:19**



Rachel

*Brian served as our Treasurer for five years until mid 2018.*

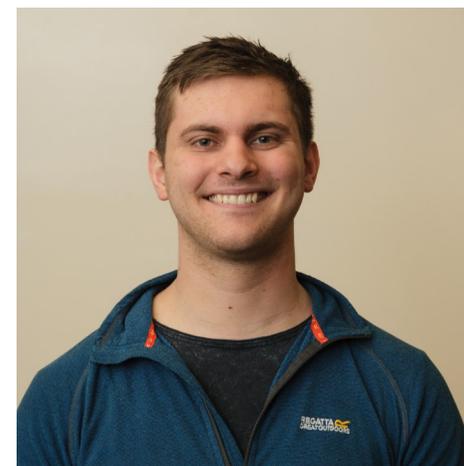
*We record our considerable gratitude to Brian for his professional expertise and personal dedication and commitment to this important responsibility.*



Brian



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