



St Editha's Amington
following **Jesus** together

Annual Report

2018

Contents

Vicar's Report	3
Wardens' Report	5
Mission Apprentice's Report	6
Activities	7
Financial Review	10
Reserves Policy	12
PCC Report	13
Safeguarding	14
Other Reports	14
Electoral Roll	14
Polesworth Deanery	14
Tamworth Christian Churches	14
TCHA	14
Appendix	
Financial Statements	15
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	16
Designated & Restricted Funds	16

Aim and Purposes

St Editha's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Ben Green, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Vicar's Report

Revd Ben Green

My thanks go to everyone who serves the church family so faithfully. Whether it is up front leading, or behind the scenes serving, every job matters, big or small.

Mission Apprentice

I was delighted that the diocese agreed to give us a Mission Apprentice – and even more delighted that Mandy Widdas was appointed. Her report can be found on page 6. A key part of her work is helping us make sure we don't become a holy huddle, but are always looking outwards.

Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG)

In September I was invited to attend a LyCiG conference in Swanwick, and was allowed to bring with me four guests: Mandy Widdas, Steve & Rachel Robins and Matt Price. We had an intense 48 hours learning, studying and reflecting together on the health of our church family, and how we can help it to be more healthy – and, yes, to grow!

One of the things they suggested was to have a prayer for growth which we pray at every church service, group and meeting – so we wrote one:

Come Holy Spirit,
and make us one in heart and action,
so we can serve God faithfully:
 abounding in love,
 maturing in holiness,
 and seeking out the lost.

Help us grow as disciples of Jesus –
 in commitment, in depth, and in number –
that we may be a blessing to Amington;
to the glory and praise of God the Father.
Amen.

We also identified the need to improve our welcome and hospitality for visitors and newcomers, which gave a renewed push to get the kitchenette sorted out – hopefully in 2019. We started fundraising in November, and within a month already had £2,000. We purchased a new coffee machine, and hope to form a new hospitality team to make sure we give the warmest welcome we can.

Church Family

One of the huge encouragements of 2018 was some work Mandy did, analysing Sunday service attendance – in the process discovering that our service attendance overall has grown by almost 50% since the low point in June 2016 – and the 10.30 by *more* than 50%. This is a combination of both new people starting to attend, and existing members attending more frequently.

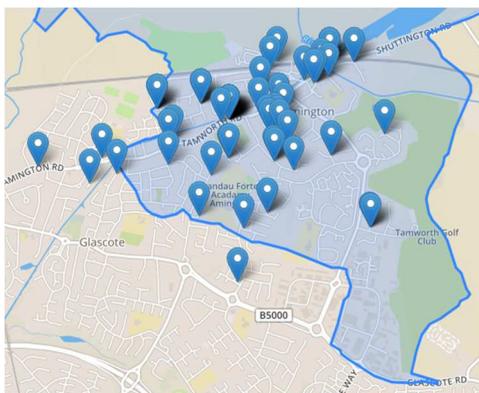
In the autumn we renewed our church directory – our list of members, which stands at 100 as at the end of 2018 – almost all of whom we see at a church service or event at least once per month. Out of interest, I plotted everyone's addresses on a map of our parish:

There are some outliers who don't quite fit on the map, and I have cut off the fields in the top half – but in general the majority of our church family lives within the Church of England parish of Amington.

We are reasonably well spread across the parish as well – with the exception of the council estate.

Churches often struggle to reach places of social deprivation, but that is no excuse!

Two major questions for us to reflect on, think and pray about are: 1) do we want to be more representative of our parish, and 2) how do we do that?



New Vicarage Plans

The diocese have agreed plans for a new vicarage to be built in the garden of the current vicarage, and a planning application was submitted to Tamworth Borough Council in December 2018.

What's Next?

I don't know what the future holds for us, but the important thing is that we keep on being faithful to our calling: to **follow Jesus together** with all our hearts: working together, getting to know him better ourselves, and introducing others to him. And to be honest, everything else is window dressing.

Wardens' Report

Carol Chadwick & Geoff Wyatt

We think 2018 was a year of looking ahead to various projects that we had in mind to improve facilities in church, in order to allow us to invite new people to a church which was more welcoming!

We started in January by exploring the best way to upgrade the underfloor heating which had failed in December. We eventually went ahead with having a new manifold system installed which was somewhat problematic, and took several months to find the right way to limit the water temperature through the underfloor pipes to meet with up to date safety legislation. We eventually found the right person to do this for us and our church is now warmer than it has ever been and is commented on by visitors!

We also started fundraising for a kitchenette at the rear of church where refreshments are currently served and looked for quotes for the various elements of this work. By the end of the year we had raised £4,000 towards this project and were awaiting the result of a Faculty Application from the Chancellor's office to allow us to go ahead with the work.

After the installation of new LED lights in 2017, we decided to add a few more lights in the chancel to illuminate the altar and enhance the cross which is the centrepiece. We also hope to be able to replace two outside lights which have failed and will need Faculty permission to replace.

As ever we are so grateful for all the people who give their time to helping with various duties in church, from altar flower providing and arranging, decoration of the church interior at special times of year, grass cutting, cleaning, refreshment provision, Ark set up and moving chairs for different services, vergers and desk/sound system experts, welcomers and not forgetting those who lead services and ministry groups. THANK YOU all.

The downside of all the above duties is that as ever there are not enough people to make these jobs really workable as the rotas are dwindling and volunteers are called on too often to fill in for absentees. We are still desperate for more volunteers on the refreshments and cleaning rotas. So please search your hearts again this year and consider helping your church family members in these tasks.

Mission Apprentice's Report

Mandy Widdas

The Mission Apprentice (MA) scheme is a two-year programme. The scheme provides training to help initiate all kinds of local outreach projects. Being amongst the 3rd cohort of Mission Apprentices, funded by the AllChurches Trust, I started in September 2018 with a commissioning service led by Bishop Anne at St Luke's Great Colmore Street.

This first term has been one of teaching, fellowship and growing. All of this could not have been done without Amington church and my support network, for which I am truly thankful.

To begin, each week, I have attended a Learning Programme in Birmingham where I have listened to and discussed a variety of topics including 'What is mission?', 'What is the Gospel?', 'What if the Kingdom?' and 'Know your church know your neighbourhood'. These sessions have been delivered by speakers from within the diocese, giving their time and expertise on the subjects. We study in a variety of ways, listening, reflecting, practical, leading and then bringing back to our parishes the information gained to see how this may be used within our own context.

One of the highlights of the first term has been a visit to the parish of Winson Green, where as a group we walked the parish with Alpacas, discovered lots about Charlie Chaplain, visited the prison information centre and was inspired by their sense of community.

In addition to the Learning Programme I have been involved in the running of the Ark toddler group, attending weekly supervision meetings with Ben and monthly meetings with my mentor Elizabeth Baker. I have also been helping with Café Church and the children's activity on Sunday mornings. I have challenges set from the Learning Programme including prayer walking and mapping the streets of our parish, looking at our church building with fresh eyes and 'bumping' into people to make connections. I have visited a number of people in the church family.

Looking forward, I pray to see the installation of our kitchenette so we can become a welcoming building for our parish community and be able to run a 'Place of Welcome', serving the lonely and isolated and being faithful and obedient servants of God.

Activities

Sunday

In the summer of 2018 the PCC decided to try a new service pattern:

	8.45am	10.30pm	6.30pm	
1 st	HC (BCP)	Café Church	EP (BCP)	Baptisms at 1.30 & 2.30pm
2 nd		HC	EP (BCP)	
3 rd	HC (BCP)	MP	EP (BCP)	Baptisms at 1.30 & 2.30pm
4 th		MP	HC	
5 th		MP	No Service	

The teaching programme began with Mark: Seeing Jesus (chapters 4-8), leading up to Easter Sunday. After that we worked through the book of James in a series entitled ‘Wholehearted Devotion to Jesus’. In the summer we looked at unnamed people in the Bible who are still important: ‘Anon. but not a ‘non’’. In September we resumed Mark: Seeing Jesus (chapters 9-11).

Midweek

Midweek Groups Five groups meet weekly, on Monday afternoons (led by Sue Joyce), Tuesday evenings (led by Ray Skarratt, Allan Baldwin, Geoff Wyatt and Mandy Widdas) and Friday mornings (led by Carol Chadwick).

Band This is led by Mark Widdas and meets for practice in church on Thursday evenings. Jane Sheppard joined, and Sam Widdas went to university.

Saturday Prayer A small but faithful group meet every Saturday morning to pray, usually in the OSH, but once a month in the lounge in the TCHA building.

Pastoral Care

Prayer Calendar We now produce a monthly prayer calendar, containing all church members, to help us pray for each other regularly.

Pastoral Care Team Lay Pastoral Ministers Carol Chadwick and Annie Somers continue to be supported by Ray Skarratt. We hope to expand our church family’s pastoral support work, and will be looking at ways of doing this.

Knit & Natter This continues to meet fortnightly in the OSH coffee shop, and is led by Allan & Anne Baldwin.

Children & Young People

A new shared leadership team overseeing our children and family ministry was formed, led by Sue Joyce.

The Ark The group meets weekly on Thursday mornings and continues to thrive. It is led by Sue Joyce with assistance from other group and church members.

Creche Team For each 10.30 service a member of the creche team prepares and leads an activity for the young children in the church family, during the sermon.

Schools Ben continues to build our relationship with the local schools, and with Sue Joyce and others has welcomed schools into church, and taken assemblies.

Florendine Link A group of church members meets occasionally with children from Florendine Primary School, to promote inter-generational learning.

StEdys This continued to meet every fortnight term time, and is run by Steve Robins and JoAnne Griffin.

Light Party Once again we held a Light Party as an alternative to Halloween, which was extremely well attended and enjoyed by many families. We created a photo montage, which can be watched here: <https://steac.uk/light-party-2018>.

Outreach

Wholeness & Healing The team paused the Monday evening services between January and July, and focused on leading and being interviewed at a monthly 10.30 healing service. The Monday evening services resumed in September. Matt Price joined the team over the summer.

Alpha We ran an Alpha course in the autumn term, hosted by Bruce and Judith Ackers, for a good mix of people. We used the Centre for Life Management in Dordon for our Away Day, which was led by John Plumb.

CAP Money Ben, Allan Baldwin and Catriona Paton continued to run CAP Money courses in Amington Heath Primary School, teaching budgeting skills. Although take-up was not as much as we hoped, a small number of people found it extremely helpful. We stopped running them in the summer.

Food Parcels Amington's three Borough Councillors each gave a grant of £100 at Christmas, to be used to provide food parcels for families connected to Amington Heath Primary School. The school's butcher also contributed, which meant 19 adults and 41 children received a parcel.

Social and Fundraising

A new shared leadership team overseeing our events and fundraising efforts was formed, led by Jan Hine.

Maundy Supper We had a fish and chip supper and celebration of Holy Communion at the Old School Hall.

Amington Fête The stall focused on the Ark, and advertised Healing Services.

Church Summer Fair Numbers were down, largely due to holding it on the August bank holiday weekend, and poor weather.

BBQ We had a special performance of the second half of Mark's gospel by Daniel and Joanna Robins, and Sam Widdas, and a barbecue lunch.

Harvest Barn Dance Despite high demand in 2017, we were unable to find a larger venue, and in the end struggled to shift all the tickets.

Christmas Party With a repaired heating system it was much more pleasant than last year – puppets, refreshments and craft activities were enjoyed by all.

Occasional Offices

In 2018 14 children were baptised, 8 couples were married in church, funeral services for 15 people were held in church, and for a further 11 in a crematorium or cemetery. There were no confirmation candidates.

Special Services

Harvest Our food collections at Harvest continue to decline – despite holding the service earlier in September, we collected predominantly non-perishable goods. These were donated to TCHA and St Giles Hospice.

Remembrance Day 2018 saw the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. Ben took seven assemblies / services at all the primary schools in Amington, in addition to the usual church and war memorial services.

Memorial Service As usual we held our memorial service, for the families of those who have died in the previous 12 months and whose funerals were taken by the Vicar and Readers of Amington. This year instead of reading out the names, we created a video with the dates and photos of the deceased, which was received very well. It can be watched here <https://steac.uk/memorial-2018>.

Financial Review

Our financial position continued to improve through 2018, by the end of which our Common Fund contribution stood at £2,350 per month, which is about 60% of our regular income. The PCC intends to increase our Common Fund payment in step with our income, maintaining that percentage.

Receipts (income)

Voluntary receipts (which includes all giving and Gift Aid) was £52,182 – compared to £41,197 in 2017. Approximately £4,000 of this increase was due to a change in the way we claim Gift Aid. General giving went up by £1,820, an increase of 5.6%. The rest of the increase is accounted for by fundraising for the heating system repairs and the new kitchenette, and a one-off gift of £2,000.

During 2018 we continued to encourage regular givers to use the Parish Giving Scheme. This is a great help to us in terms of administration, it reduces the amount of cash we need to pay in at the bank, and spreads the Gift Aid claim more evenly through the year.

Our fees income was significantly higher in 2018, but we expect that to drop back again in 2019 – which means, as our Gift Aid claim will also return to its usual level, **we expect our income overall to decrease in 2019 – though we aim for general giving to continue to increase.**

Payments (expenditure)

Expenditure dropped back down to normal levels in 2018 after a high 2017 (which was due to major items of capital expenditure).

As usual the biggest item of expenditure was our Common Fund contribution (£28,150) – 55% of our general income (or 59% if you exclude the £4,000 income that was due to a change in the way we claim Gift Aid). Other major items this year were the heating repairs (£2,314) and new lights (£1,441).

We ended the year with a surplus of £2,129. Most of that was used to finish building up our general reserves (set at £10,500). However, we still ended the year with £387 *above* our reserves – a first for many years.

Outward Giving

In 2018 the PCC introduced a new method of giving to other charities. Each month we set aside 5% of our unrestricted income. When that reaches £1,000 the PCC identifies three charities (one local, one national, one other) and then over the following month every time someone attends a service in church they get a token to vote for the charity they wish to support. At the end of the month the tokens are added up, and the £1,000 is given in proportion to the votes.

Additionally the PCC continues to support Sarah Paine, and makes occasional contributions to the Diocesan Malawi Appeal, and United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) for the Word for Today booklets.

Sarah Paine / Atulya	£650.00
Tamworth Cornerstone Housing Association	£536.62
St Giles Hospice	£467.80
Pathway Project	£342.63
British Heart Foundation	£334.66
Starfish	£322.71
Christian Aid	£195.57
United Christian Broadcasters	£140.00
Diocesan Malawi Appeal	£8.00
Total	£2,997.99

We ended the year with £818 to be carried forward and given away in 2019.

New Account (CAF Bank)

After a ridiculous amount of effort, we have finally moved our banking away from Barclays – to the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Bank. It costs £5 a month, but is a significantly better offering, and has enabled us to make the majority of our payments online (instead of by cheque). It even comes with debit cards!

Thanks

Thank you to our treasurer Allan Baldwin for all his hard work keeping track of the accounts, making payments, and keeping such accurate records.

Thank you to Geoff & Jan Wyatt who regularly bank the money from services, and manage our Gift Aid tax claims.

Thank you to our independent examiner for the 2018 accounts – Alan Greathead FMAAT, PIIA, CIA, CTA.

But above all, thank you to everyone who gives regularly, and who support the church through social events and fundraising. Without your generosity, we would be forced to close. Christian giving is always be a response to the abundant generosity of God – not because the church is strapped for cash!

Reserves Policy

The Church of England and Charities Commission recommend that all churches should have a reserves policy. This is not about hoarding money, but good stewardship.

The PCC have agreed to follow these principles in our reserves policy:

- To keep approximately three months' running costs in reserves (currently about £10,500).
- This will cover emergency building work, or help us fund new developments while we are fundraising.
- To achieve this, we will continue to underpay our Common Fund until that level is achieved, at which point we will review and increase our monthly Common Fund payment to be 60% of our unrestricted income.
- Once we have reached that level, we will also start to save a small amount of money (£50-100 a month) to cover the cost of small development projects.

At the end of 2018 we held £10,887 in unrestricted funds, which is above this level, leaving us with an effective surplus of £387.

PCC Report

The PCC met eight times in 2018, and discussed, among other items:

- Applying for a Mission Apprentice
- Shared Leadership teams and volunteer training
- Leading your Church into Growth
- Various fabric items, including the kitchenette (see report on p5)
- Church finances, bank accounts and stewardship (see report on p10)
- Vicarage building works and potential land sale by the diocese
- Updated Safeguarding policy, officers and procedures

Sue Joyce and Ray Skarratt continued in their role as Readers.

Members of the PCC in 2018

Chair Revd Ben Green (ex-officio)

Lay Chair Geoff Wyatt

Churchwardens Carol Chadwick and Geoff Wyatt

Parish Safeguarding Officer Carol Chadwick

Deanery Synod Steve Robins and John Taylor (elected to 2020)

Readers Sue Joyce and Ray Skarratt

Elected Members

to 2019

Allan Baldwin and Annie Somers

to 2020

Janet Hine and Matthew Price

to 2021

Helen Slim and Janet Wyatt

Treasurer Allan Baldwin

Minutes Secretary Steve Robins

PCC members are elected for a term of three years, after which they must step down for at least one year before seeking re-election.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 and have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

A copy of our Safeguarding document and policy is available in church and on our website.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Carol Chadwick.

Other Reports

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll was renewed this year and stands at 53 names (last year it stood at 70 names).

Polesworth Deanery

The synod met twice during 2018. The major item under discussion was People & Places 2 – one implication for Polesworth Deanery appears to be a merger with the neighbouring Coleshill Deanery. Other implications are not yet clear.

Tamworth Christian Churches

In November TCC renamed itself to 'Tamworth Christian Churches' and agreed a new constitution, with the Nicene Creed as its basis of faith.

St Editha's continues to support the work of TCC, including a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Good Friday Walk of Witness and a Pentecost Party in the Park.

Our lay rep is Janet Wilson, who is also TCC's treasurer.

TCHA / Old School

Geoff Wyatt represented the church on the Old School User Committee.

The pre-school and coffee shop continue to operate in the OSH.

Overall, the position of TCHA remains good. Ben and Sue Joyce are members of the Management Committee, which is chaired by Frank Joyce.

Appendix – Financial Statements

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts:					
- Planned giving	24,289	-	110	24,399	21,872
- Collections at services	5,965	110	-	6,075	6,368
- All other giving / voluntary receipts	3,818	2,240	5,132	11,190	6,680
Gift Aid Recovered	10,167	-	351	10,518	6,276
	44,240	2,350	5,593	52,182	41,197
Activities for generating funds	1,461	-	1,177	2,638	2,548
Church activities	5,632	399	-	6,031	4,170
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	25
Total receipts	51,333	2,749	6,770	60,851	47,943
Payments					
Church activities:					
- Common Fund	28,150	-	-	28,150	21,200
- Clergy and staffing	2,862	1,420	197	4,479	2,883
- Church running expenses	11,105	878	440	12,423	10,702
- Mission giving and donations	-	2,998	300	3,298	850
	42,117	5,296	937	48,350	35,635
Cost of generating funds	632	-	-	632	422
Major capital expenditure	-	-	3,771	3,771	18,362
Governance and training	215	-	-	215	767
Total payments	42,964	5,296	4,708	52,969	55,186
Excess of receipts (or payments)	8,369	(2,547)	2,061	7,882	(7,243)
Transfers between funds	(6,240)	5,049	1,191	-	-
	2,129	2,502	3,252	7,882	(7,243)
Cash at 1 January 2018	8,758	1,502	912	11,172	18,416
Cash at 31 December 2018	10,887	4,004	4,164	19,055	11,172

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£	£
CAF Cash Account	8,891	4,004	3,363	16,258	-
Barclays Current Account	1,967	-	-	1,967	10,351
Parsonage Decoration Scheme	-	-	801	801	798
Petty cash	29	-	-	29	23
Total assets	10,887	4,004	4,164	19,055	11,172

Designated and Restricted Funds

	Bal. b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal. c/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Outward Giving	1,250	-	2,998	2,567	818
Ark	184	-	-	-	184
Youth & Children	65	-	-	-	65
Flowers	40	117	74	-	-
Mission Apprentice	-	200	1,420	2,220	1,000
Special Projects	-	2,000	462	-	1,538
Audio / Visual Equipment	-	509	299	189	399
Total designated funds	1,502	2,749	5,296	5,049	4,004
Restricted funds					
Parsonage Decoration Scheme	798	-	197	200	801
CAP Money	114	-	120	6	-
Fabric	-	3,106	4,091	985	-
Kitchenette Appeal	-	3,363	-	-	3,363
Amington Heath Food Parcels	-	300	300	-	-
Total restricted funds	912	6,770	4,708	1,191	4,164
Total	2,414	9,518	10,004	6,240	8,168