

Annual Report

2018

1868-2018



*We are an inclusive multi-congregational
church family of all ages and life stages
united around a common vision of
Extending God's Welcome to Everyone!*

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2018 REPORTS AND MAIN AIMS FOR 2019

VICAR'S REPORT

This year has been a significant and important one. We have looked backwards to celebrate the history of St John's since 1868 and also looked forward to discern God's vision for our parish in 2030! It has been an awesome privilege and absolute joy to have been with you during this pivotal moment.



Our top priority in our Annual Report last year was to hold a Parish Vision Day and so begin the process of re-envisioning and discern our vision, values, mission. On September 15th we held our vision day and from this we have discerned God's vision for our parish.

Our vision

Extending
God's Welcome
to Everyone

Our mission

Welcoming you
into God's family
as we grow in Christ
together

To help us to implement our vision we have begun restructuring our parish so that our structure reflects our mission. We have reduced the number of PCC meetings to four per year and each has a specific agenda. We have also begun to simplify our structure as we create a variety of ministry hubs, each of which possessing its own clear terms-of-reference. This will take a few more years to sort out, but in time it will serve to increase operational efficiency by pushing decision-making downwards and allow each level of the parish structure to work towards achieving our parish vision.

WELCOME

Welcome is the value at the heart of our church family and it reflects God's desire to welcome us into his world-wide family.

We explored what it means to be a welcoming church through a four-week Autumn sermon series based upon the book *Everybody Welcome* by Bob Jackson which we ran following our vision day.

This will be our focus and a major priority during 2019 as we set up a Welcome Ministry Team and engage with the National Weekend of invitation running during June 2019.

***Welcome one
another...just as Christ
has welcomed you, for the
glory of God.***

~ Romans 15:7 ~

GROW

Our identity is rooted in the metaphor of being God's family. During 2018 we have made progress as we have sought to grow as God's family.

In January we restructured our Parish Eucharist and renamed it: 'Family Communion'. The intention was to make our services more engaging for children and young families. We've added in a children's welcome at the beginning of the service which includes a child-friendly song. We have also set up 'Little Fishes' for those aged 0-5 and we have re-launched our Sunday School, renamed '*Energize*,' for those aged 5-11. In October we were given permission to welcome children to the Lord's Table before confirmation and this will begin at Easter 2019.

During Lent we ran a day-time and evening course using book six of the Pilgrim Course exploring the Eucharist. Then in Advent we ran a day-time course using the first book of the Pilgrim Course. We also ran our first Alpha course on Monday evenings during April and we ran a Youth Alpha on Sunday evenings for those who were confirmed in June.

Our teaching focus during 2018 was lectionary-based and we ran two preaching series on Ephesians and 2 Corinthians.

**You are members
of God's family**

~ Ephesians 2:19 ~

SHARE

Finance has been a significant element of our focus in 2018 since it is a vital element in resourcing our parish mission. We held a Gift Day to raise money for two new boilers and the response to this was terrific! Thank you to everyone who responded! I am also incredibly thankful for our treasurer, Adele Lane, who has put in a huge amount of work allowing us to hold a Giving Sunday in October at which we published our first ever budget! Giving Sunday had to components: the first was to publish our budget and the financial situation of the parish. The second was to reflect as a church family how our generosity is shaped by God's generosity towards us and we were challenged to think how we can be a church family who are excelling in the grace of giving. The intention is to make this a regular feature of our parish calendar: from 2020 we shall hold a Giving Sunday every January and in November we shall publish our budget and financial statement.

**Share with the
Lord's people who
are in need.
Practise hospitality
~ Romans 12:13 ~**

SERVE

As vicar my role is to equip all church members for the work of ministry so that we are all built up and encouraged to live for Christ in our daily lives. Every member of our church family is a minister who has been called to serve God. I celebrate that there are so many expressions of service here at St John's. I am mindful that as soon as I begin naming people, I will leave others out so simply wish to say thank you to those of you who have contributed hours and hours of love, care, and sacrifice. Thank you for everything that you do - whether seen or unseen! It really is wonderful to see you participate in the life of our church family. I have enjoyed reading the *Growing Leaders* book from CPAS with our Wardens Team as we reflect on Christian leadership. This team includes Janet Hunter and Caroline Windle, both of whom are new to the role. I deeply appreciate all of your support and advice as we have met together and work to see St John's flourish.

**Now you are the
body of Christ, and
each of you is a
part of it.
~ 1 Corinthians 12:27 ~**

This year we have said goodbye to a few people who have served faithfully over the past years in a number of important ministries: Linda McCaw has taken a step back from coordinating the room bookings, Terry Molyneux has retired as caretaker, Llew Morris has retired as vergers, and Carole Herd has taken a step back from coordinating the annual Winter Fair. Your help over the years has been invaluable and we wish you every blessing as you begin a new stage in your life serving God in new ways.

Not only does God call us to serve our church family, he also calls us and equips us to serve our local community. I am hugely excited that, along with a number of local churches, we have partnered with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to launch a debt counselling service. Over the next few years we'll be thinking prayerfully about the ways in which we can serve our local community.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

As I look back over the past twelve-months I am mindful that there have been a number of changes initiated and I want to take this opportunity to reiterate that these changes have been made because they are the kinds of change that will help us to grow and flourish in the years ahead. Research has shown effective change associated with church growth comes in eight categories:

1. Planting new congregations
2. Worship becoming less stiff, ore relaxed, with better quality music
3. Better provision for children and young people
4. Improving the welcome and integration of newcomers
5. Providing better small groups and pastoral care
6. Regular use of evangelism, basics, or nurture courses as part of an overall strategy
7. More lay involvement in leadership
8. Improvements to buildings

Over the next few years these are the areas of parish life we will need to pay attention to and include on our agenda and in our Mission Action Plan (MAP). In saying this I am aware that change can be unsettling for some and that managing changes and transitions is the hardest task any leader has to face. One verse that has stuck with me has been 'Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you' (Col. 3:13). I am incredibly thankful that this is modelled so well at St John's! I have thoroughly enjoyed serving God alongside you and I am mindful that things could have been done differently, so please bear with me! We are on a journey together as we seek to work out how to live out our vision of 'extending God's welcome to everyone'.

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

WHOLE PARISH HORIZON STORYLINE

2030: Extending God's Welcome to Everyone

In recent years we have become disconnected from our local community in Brooklands as people drive past us on their way to somewhere else.

We believe that God is calling us to be the missional heart of our community as we invite everyone in Brooklands to hear God's invitation, belong to God's family, believe the good news about what Jesus has achieved for us, and experience the radical hospitality Jesus extends to everyone, an invitation to sit and eat in God's kingdom.

Over the next five years we shall create a network of assimilation pathways for all ages and stages as they move from being strangers to friends.

To welcome everyone: we shall multiply the opportunities for people to gather together and encourage one another as we grow as disciples shaped by God's word and Spirit; we shall increase the leadership capacity by providing training for existing leaders and newly identified leaders as well as recruiting a paid staff member to oversee our ministry to children and young families; and, we shall be proactive in working to future-proof our facilities so that they are fit for our mission of *welcoming you into God's family as we grow in Christ together*.

2025: Integrating Newcomers

2025: Increase Leadership Capacity

2025: Initiating Gathering Opportunities

2025: Investing in our Facilities

2020: Initial creation of W2G pathways [welcome2grow]

This picks up that there is a positive correlation with church growth and excellent welcome ministry and we are seeking to move people along our strategy from 'Welcome' to 'Grow'.

2019: Create a new Gathering opportunity to provide an alternative assimilation pathway stage

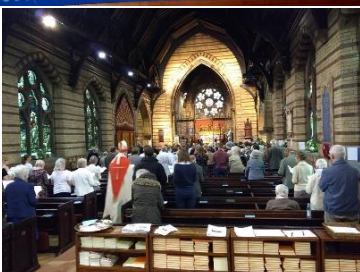
2019: Design a well-balanced church programme covering the period 2020-2025 with clear 'what next' steps for all ages and life stages.

2019: Recruit new teams/groups and someone to oversee welcome.

2019: Clarify next steps for existing and newly formed ministry hubs and explore new opportunities.

MINISTRY REPORTS

150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



To mark our 150th anniversary we ran a variety of events during the year. In January we organised a Quiz Night which included a cheese and biscuit supper. This was well attended with over 70 people in twelve teams and a busy exciting evening was had by all. In February a group headed off to watch Sale FC play after which we went to the Belmore for dinner. In October we held a Barn Dance, and whilst there were a few people with two-left-feet, the dancing was fun.

The main event during the year was our celebration weekend. On Saturday 21st April we ran 'Experience Brooklands' at which we displayed a history of Brooklands and St John's since 1868, along with displays from Brooklands Primary School, Sandilands Primary School and The Victorian Society.

In the evening we held a celebration dinner with clergy past and present. We were joined by two previous vicars, Ernest Buckley and Ian McVeety, and two previous curates, Stephen Cherry and Olwyn Marlow. Ruth Shaw did an excellent job organising the evening as we were treated with a drinks reception, a three-course meal, and coffee to finish.

On Sunday 22nd we held our Dedication Festival at which the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker, presided and we then enjoyed a bring-and-share birthday lunch.

We arranged a wide variety of merchandise which have been sold at the Garden Party and Winter Fair including pens, badges, bookmarks, and a tea towel. We've even had our own ale brewed for the celebrations!

WELCOME

WELCOME MINISTRY

During 2018 we have run a number of events with the purpose of connecting with our local community.

Manchester Marathon: We provided over 1,000 bags of jelly babies for the runners on their way out and Jaffa cakes for the return leg. We are grateful for all the contributions made by the congregation and our presence and offerings were much appreciated by the runners and the spectators alike.

Garden Party (June): We had a lovely day for weather and the Parishioners came in their crowds. We had lots of entertainment with Sale Scout & Guiding Band playing a large selection of popular music at the front of the ground. The choir from Brooklands Primary School sang for us. We had a DJ playing music in between and giving out announcements. There were all the usual stalls which as ever are so popular. There was also the Pym's tent; a Beer Garden and the BBQ area were always full where family and friends could socialise. The hall had the usual Strawberries and cream teas which went down exceedingly well. The tombola and raffle stalls were bombed out along with the coconut shy and throw a ball at the crockery stall. There was plenty to keep the children busy too in the Children's Area with the Toy stall, Lucky Dip, Hook-a-Duck, nail painting, and lots and lots of face painting. There was even a Fancy Dress competition!

Winter Fair (November): This was another excellent fair! It was well attended by members of the Parish. The most moving thing was the fellowship and the amount of time, help and donations given by the stallholders to make this so successful.



CONNECT GROUPS

Crafty Chat

Crafty Chat meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. We are a very friendly group where you can bring your own craft, join in with the latest project or simply watch and chat. The chat is as important as the craft and due to growing attendance, we have now moved back into the hall. Over the past year we have:

- made various items for both St Mary's and Wythenshawe Hospitals Special care baby units;
- raised £230 for the Royal British Legion by selling crocheted poppies in various venues around Sale and gave some to help decorate St Paul's Church for their *Sale Remembers* weekend;
- donated £420 to Visually Impaired Children Taking Action; and,
- raised approximately £500 at our stalls at the Garden Party and Winter Fair selling items we had made.

As usual we had a Christmas party in December with around 25 people and were even joined by a couple of husbands. We sang a few carols, enjoyed delicious food and managed a little craft project.

Women's Fellowship

We ladies of the Women's Fellowship have enjoyed a very varied programme and count ourselves fortunate to have enjoyed listening to several speakers on some extremely interesting subjects. We learned how and why we should clear our clutter, all about the interesting world of Bee Keeping, what it is like to be a Mystery Shopper and listened while two wonderful ladies gave us an insight to the world of 'Hearing Dogs' and the difference they make to their owners.

As our fundraising event we hosted a Cheese & Wine Evening which included a Bring & Buy sale as well as a raffle and, as well as enjoying a very relaxed and sociable evening, we were able to present the charity, 'Mind', with a cheque for £600 to aid their valuable work in the community. We also thoroughly enjoyed our Summer Supper and Christmas Meals at two local restaurants as well as a wonderful trip to Liverpool.

Fun and games were the order of the day during our two craft evenings. Hopefully you may have noticed the Christmas Tree Decorations on our Notice Board, we may not be experts, but we know how to enjoy ourselves.

We take time prior to our meetings to thank God for our continuing friendship and fellowship and ask him to help us in trying to help others who are less fortunate than ourselves.

During 2019 what are we aiming to do? Well, we will continue to reach out to other organisations who may need assistance whilst not forgetting those in our local community who may find enjoyment and fellowship in our company.

GROW

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Prayer and Spirituality (Isabel Bryce & Sue Withenshaw)

In our training for lay ministry we chose as our elective “*Prayer and Spirituality*”. When we were commissioned six years ago, we had ideas of what our ministry might look like, but God has called us to a much wider variety of tasks since then, and has continued through 2018! Following the Archdeacon’s visitation in May, we relinquished our role as wardens. Thereafter we experienced a period of readjustment, and recognised our need to take time ...to discern where God was leading us ... to explore how our focus on ‘*Prayer and Spirituality*’ might be further developed.

Our participation in worship has included leading intercessions, reading and assisting at the Eucharist. We have also led Morning Prayer at a Wednesday service and Evening Prayer with members of the Women’s Fellowship. We have continued to take home Communion and visit members of our church family at home and in hospital.



From Ascension Day to Pentecost, 10th – 20th May 2018, we joined the wave of prayer across the UK and around the world, praying that our families, friends and neighbours would come to know Jesus. As part of this challenge, we prepared prayer stations around the church to help and encourage us in prayer, as individuals and together as a church.



We have maintained links with the Wythenshawe ministry team, and have enjoyed helping at the breakfast clubs at St Martin’s and St Luke’s during school holidays. The church response to our Food Bank appeal has grown over the year, and friends at St Luke’s show their appreciation each time we deliver our contributions. As in past years, we were also able to take a good supply of warm hats, scarves and gloves from our church to the Booth Centre in Manchester, supporting the homeless in their time of need.

Using some of our collection of resources from our WW1 Centenary Exhibition in 2014, we set up displays for this weekend of remembrance as we marked the centenary of the Armistice which ended the hostilities of the First World War.

We thank God for the encouragement and prayerful support of our church family. We also thank God for the opportunities we have been given to strengthen our faith, to bring us closer to God, and to equip us to serve him faithfully day by day. These include fellowship with small groups in the Pilgrim courses during Lent and Advent as we shared together through Bible study, reflection and discussion; our yearly invitation to join members of Christchurch in September for their weekend retreat at Hyning Monastery; the wonderful peace experienced with a group of ALMs in a morning of Ignatian prayer at Church House in December led by Chris Wedge; and, joining friends at William Temple, Wythenshawe in December for a beautiful evening of lute music by candlelight, followed by compline.

CHILDRENS AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

During 2018 the major focus has been upon children's ministry: we've set up Little Fishes (0-5s) and Energise (6-11s) which run during the main Sunday service. Our Childrens and Families Ministry Team has met during the year to plan an annual schedule of events aimed at making contact with local families along with developing a baptism policy which encourages families to belong to our church family. We've run a Pancake Party, Messy Easter, Teddy Bears Picnic, and a Pumpkin Party. Our vicar takes assemblies at the local primary schools and new links are being made with local nurseries. Rupert's Nursery had a tour of our church building and Richard visited them at Christmas and we made Christingles.

Pancake Party – On Shrove Tuesday we ran a pancake party raising money for the Church Urban Fund seek to tackle food poverty around this country.

Messy Easter - We offered two hours of fun and craft-based activities and tell the Easter story and a blessing of the big Easter Garden at the end. There was a light lunch provided. This draws in large numbers each year and this Easter we saw over 60 children come through the doors. There is always a good atmosphere and a strong sense of belonging.

Teddy Bear's Picnic – In July we were joined by around 25 toddlers and their families as had fun making various teddy-related crafts and we acted out the story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. We're already planning a Dinosaur Hunt for next year!

Pumpkin Party – We celebrated Halloween this year at our first ever Pumpkin Party! In addition to pumpkin carving and apple bobbing we had a variety of pumpkin-themed crafts. We enjoyed hotdogs and cake before going outside for a fire and glowsticks/sparklers. We had a fantastic time and we're looking forward to running another party next Halloween!

Engaging with families at Christmas

This year we ran a separate Christingle service along with the regular Crib service as a way of providing a service for families who go away over Christmas. The Christingle service was held on Sunday 23rd December and people came to make up their own Christingles, share some refreshment, and hear the Christmas story. The Crib service was held on Christmas Eve. Younger children dressed up as the main characters and the older children read out the Christmas story in stages. We also built up the figures into the stable as the story progresses. We sang favourite carols such as 'Away in a Manger' and 'Little Donkey' so everyone can join in. The families were then welcomed into the hall to make their own Christingle to go home with to help remind them what Christmas is about and some refreshments.

Little Fishes

Little Fishes meets during the 10.30am Sunday Service and is for 0-5 year olds and usually between 3-8 under 5s attend each week. It provides a great opportunity to welcome baptism families to our church family.

We worship God and learn about him through rhyme, prayer, song, repetition, craft, dancing, role play and using our voices! During these early years (0-5 years old) a child's sense of who they are and where they belong is shaped and during Little Fishes the children can worship God and explore the relevance of the Bible and God in their lives.

We always start the sessions by singing our Welcome Song to each child because we want our babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers to feel part of our church family at St John's (for they are very valued members!).

We loosely follow the lectionary in our sessions, meaning we are connecting with the rest of the congregation, moving through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time together.

Energize

Sunday School has seen a few changes in 2018 when we launched 'Energise'. We welcome children from 5 years and older and the younger members of the choir also come and join us, so this has seen an increase in the number of children coming on a regular basis.

We follow a three-year teaching programme which is tailored to meet the needs of the ages of the children that day. It is very practical and helps the children to understand not just Old & New Testament stories, but how the theme can apply to their lives today.

Baptism and Confirmations

Four of our young people were confirmed this year, one of whom was also baptized by full immersion during the service.

We keep them all in our prayers as they continue to grow in faith.



ALPHA AND YOUTH ALPHA COURSES



This year we ran our first ever Alpha and Youth Alpha courses. Coming on Alpha is a great way to explore faith for the first time or deepening a person's understanding of what they believe. During 2018 four adults have completed the first section of Alpha and we're looking forward to running the next one in 2019. Five young people did Youth Alpha as part of their confirmation preparation.

SERVE

Good as New

Originally Good as New (GAN) was set up in 1993 to raise funds for repairs to the organ, it was so successful it has continued to this day. In 2018 the cumulative sales from 1993 will reach £250,000 but of more importance than income is fellowship.

Every Thursday, between 10-12pm, GAN provides a place of welcome where people, from both inside and outside of the parish, can meet for a friendly chat, listen to music and hopefully find a bargain or two. GAN is open for nearly 40 weeks in the year during, as far as possible, school term times. Needless to say, GAN requires an army of nearly 50 volunteers who set out the stalls and pack them away, manage the stalls, work in the kitchen, bake cakes and, play the piano.



PRIORITIES FOR 2019

Vision: Review parish vision and implementation of 2019 actions to update our Whole Parish Horizon Storyline (see page 7) and Mission Action Plan.

Leadership and structures: Recruit new teams to develop our welcome and growth during 2019. Form a new Welcome Ministry Hub and recruit a Leadership Team. Design and launch newcomer integration pathways. Recruit a Welcome Team, New Residents Team, and Grub Club. Create a Men's Ministry Team to oversee our ministry to men. formalise and communicate the parish restructure; incl. Operations Committee, Ministry Hubs, Small Group Web, and Congregation Ministry Teams.

Integrating newcomers: Create new assimilation pathway stages during 2019. Run Café Church from 6th January 2019. Begin annual evangelism courses (Alpha) which are congregation specific inviting targeted groups, e.g. newcomers and baptism families. Clarify 'next steps' for existing Ministry Hubs by Easter 2019 and explore opportunities for new initiatives by November 2019. Design a well-balanced church programme covering the period 2020-2025 with clear 'next steps' for all ages and life stages by November 2019.

Worship: Begin discussions about the future shape of parish worship. Continue conversations about the liturgy at the 10.30 service. Create a new Café-style afternoon service. Welcome all the baptized to receive communion. Restart the process to appoint a Director of Music / Organist. Engage with *Thy Kingdom Come* during Ascensiontide as a way of revitalising a culture of prayer within the parish.

Pastoral: Appoint a Pastoral Care Co-ordinator with a particular remit of overseeing: (1) nursing home services; (2) funeral follow-up; (3) visiting the sick at home or in hospital; (4) taking Holy Communion to the housebound; (5) coordinating lifts to church. Begin to work towards creating a Bereavement Ministry.

Mission: Grow in our appreciation of whole-life worship. provide a list of potential new ministry initiatives for PCC discussion in November 2019. Each existing Ministry Hub will provide its own Action Plan that takes our Vision forwards. Set up one new ministry initiative during 2019

Resources: Review parish finances to ensure financial stability and sustainability, suitable for a growing and outward-focused church. Form a Buildings Committee to draft and implement a strategic plan for how we can 'build for the future,' both with respect to developing existing structures and exploring the building of a purpose-built community centre. Begin to plan a stewardship campaign based on projected costs over the next five years with the aim of expanding our budget through regular giving. Begin the process of recruiting a children's minister.

WITHINGTON DEANERY REPORT

Withington Deanery Synod met on the 7th March at St. Paul's, Withington, the 25th July at St. Chad's, Ladybarn, the 18th October at Christ Church, West Didsbury and the 21st November at St John's, Brooklands.

We celebrated becoming the first Inclusive Deanery in the Church of England – well done everyone!

At the March Meeting there was a proposal to amalgamate the work of Deanery Synod with that of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee. This was approved. Also at that meeting we agreed to fund the 'PCC Tonight' training from the Synod's contingency fund. This event, held at Emmanuel Church, Didsbury, proved to be both popular and helpful, with all parishes in the Deanery represented. Also at the March meeting we discussed our Deanery MAP which included deployment of clergy, and there was an update on Inclusive Church. Our Treasurer, Bill Raines, attended his final meeting, pending a move to Preston after Gisela's retirement at Easter.

At the July Meeting further discussion took place on our Deanery MAP. Also at that meeting was a presentation on the Inclusive Church Policy at St. Paul's Withington by Eve and Leah which was very enlightening. There was feedback on the 'PCC Tonight' event.

At the October meeting we welcomed James Emerson who talked to us about Stewardship. James gave us plenty of food for thought and circulated a document called "Reimagining the Offertory".

Our November meeting focussed on Mission Action Planning and each parish in the deanery was asked to give a 2 minute presentation on their MAP. There was fierce time-keeping on this and the whole evening was good fun, productive and enlightening. We recognised how much diversity there is in our parishes, and we thank God for that. Archdeacon Karen was in attendance.

OPERATIONS REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION

A great deal goes on behind the scenes and Parish Administration is an important element of our parish operations as it enables a more efficient and effective administration practice, which supports the vision and mission of St John's.

Our Parish Administrator provides general administrative support which currently involves:

- assisting with the preparation and production of the weekly sheet and other essential service sheets for acts of worship, prayer list and other tasks as required.
- maintaining and producing rotas for; Bible readings, lay assistants, intercessors, Sunday coffee, Sunday tables and chairs, Sanctuary Guild.
- preparing monthly Parish Calendar for the magazine
- Ordering supplies for church ministry including office stationery, small items of office equipment, communion supplies, candles and other items as required
- Assisting the treasurer with the copyright licence requirements
- Managing the new online booking system for the hire of the hall/hut for both regular and 'one off' bookings. Liaising with the treasurer regarding payments for 'one-off' bookings.
- Liaising with the photocopier engineer for ordering of ink cartridges, call outs and repairs

As we look to the future a dedicated area for an office and storage space is needed. In the meantime, we shall identify an existing area that can be used for the storage of office stationery.

BUILDINGS

The major item of expenditure this year has been the replacement of the two boilers in the cellar, the cost of which was almost entirely met by donations from our generous congregation. A side effect of the work was the flushing out of the heating system, which has led to the large cast iron radiator next to the font now working properly after many years. There has been minimal expense incurred inside the church this year apart from some routine maintenance to various lights.

As part of a plan for the upgrade of the hall, budget estimates for a new roof have been obtained, but is on hold until an overall strategy has been worked through. A number of bulbs have been replaced in the hall recently and some new tables, chairs and other equipment has been purchased to facilitate Energize and Little Fishes.

An updated electrical safety report on the church and the hut has been obtained.

No more expenditure has been incurred on 39 Dalebrook Road this year, though some fence panels were replaced at a cost of £360.

Some gutters require cleaning along with tiles needing to be replaced and we have applied for a grant to cover these costs. We are also in the process of producing a maintenance schedule for those works identified in the latest quinquennial inspection.

During 2019 we shall be reviewing arrangements for volunteers to maintain specific areas of beds with the grounds on a more regular basis.

FINANCE

Although Planned Giving, Collections and the associated Gift Aid are not as high this year as last, we did have a very successful appeal to replace the church boilers. A total of £13895 was donated which, together with Gift Aid of £2109 and a grant of £1150 from All Churches Trust, resulted in a total of £17154. The boilers cost us £18954 so the shortfall was covered by transferring £1800 from the Fabric Fund. Thank you very much to all who supported the appeal. The positive response to our first Giving Sunday at the end of October was encouraging and this should help to maintain the level of Planned Giving in 2019.

The Garden Party, Winter Fair and Good as New continue to provide us with a valuable source of funds as well as reaching out to the local community. These events do require a lot of work and we are very grateful to everyone who gives their time and support. As part of our aim to be a Welcoming Church, the charge for Sunday coffee was dropped during the year to encourage new members of the congregation to stay after the service. Various events were held during the year to celebrate our 150th anniversary. The main event was the anniversary dinner in April which was a wonderful evening. From a financial point of view, it was calculated that profits on other events and on the sale of memorabilia would help to fund the cost of the dinner as well as the ticket sales. In the event there was an overall shortfall of £771 for the year but it is likely that there will be small amounts of income received in subsequent years as the remaining stock of memorabilia is sold. The stock has been written down to £Nil at the year end since there is no guarantee of any future sales.

Fees for life events dropped slightly this year as did magazine receipts. A new structure for renting out the hall and hut, which is based on hourly rates, was implemented last September. This is a far better system and should not result in a dramatic loss of income. The hall rents have dropped this year due to a long-standing regular booking ending and there being fewer one off bookings but the new rate is more competitive so the hope is that there will be more one-off bookings going forward. Regular bookings for the hut have been very consistent and the tenants have been in the Dalebrook Road house for the full year.

A new deposit account was opened with the CBF (General Legacy Fund) and a much appreciated bequest from Enid Gregg was transferred to this account. It is intended that any unrestricted legacies should be placed in this deposit account and be used for specific projects.

There were no charitable donations direct from General Fund this year but donations at the Pancake Party raised £138 for the Church Urban Fund.

With insufficient income to cover the full amount of Parish Share requested, the PCC have continued with the policy that no surplus on the General Fund should be retained; the amount to be paid as Parish Share therefore results in a breakeven position for the year on General Fund before transfers to other funds. The surplus of £2000 shown in the Statement of Financial Activities relates to the transfer of the legacy received to the General Legacy Fund. In 2018, the Parish Share requested was £68217 and 67.9% will have been paid once the final payment (included in creditors) has been made. The amount requested for 2019 has increased by 12.5% to £76744, which is £8527 higher than 2018. The Diocese are currently having discussions with parishes with the aim of agreeing a Parish Share figure that the parish can afford so this figure will hopefully reduce.

Church Fabric expenses last year included additional amounts for the organ repair, decorating the vicarage and tree work. This year the only exceptional item was the boiler purchase.

The budget for 2019 which has been approved by the PCC includes additional expense analysis and therefore Note 14 has been expanded to reflect some of these expense lines.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Usual Weekly Attendance¹

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
8.30: Holy Communion	-	-	-	-	13
10.30 Morning Service	-	-	-	-	89 [15 74]
6.30: Evensong	-	-	-	-	10
10.00 Midweek Communion	-	-	-	-	[6]
Total	115	117	108	104	112

- Special Events/Services

	2017	2018
Alpha	-	4
Youth Alpha	-	5
Easter Sunday	155 (18 < 16 + 137 > 16)	142 [23 < 16 + 119 > 16]
All Souls	71	66
Advent Carols	14	14
Crib Service	518 [212 < 16 + 306 > 16]	331 [122 > 16 + 209 > 16]
Midnight Communion	146 [3 < 16 + 143 > 16]	129 [2 > 16 + 127 > 16]
Christmas Day	73 [9 < 16 + 64 > 16]	65 [4 < 16 + 61 > 16]

- Occasional offices in 2017

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Baptisms	38	32	37	30	26 ²
Confirmations	3	6	-	-	4
Funerals	22	20	20	14	14
Weddings	17	13	6	8	4
Wedding Blessings	-	1	1	-	-
Renewal of Vows					1

- Electoral Roll

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Residents	116	127	123	119	119	
Non-residents	80	88	88	88	80	
Total	196	215	211	207	199	208

¹ The average excludes the Midweek Communion service and the figures in brackets record those <16 and those >16.

² Of these 2 were adults.

PCC LEADERSHIP AND MAKE UP 2018

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

Aim and purposes

St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has a shared responsibility in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

At the heart of our church life is the worship of God, everything else comes from that worship. We seek to reach upwards to God in worship and adoration, inward to one another in fellowship and outwards to the community and the world in witness and service.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John's.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

In particular the PCC is committed to promoting the work of the church in the following areas:

- **Worship, prayer and spirituality:** the maintenance and provision of regular Sunday and weekday

worship, celebration of festivals, preparation for baptism, weddings and funerals and the nurture and teaching of faith

- **Social and Community Outreach:** opening the church building to the people of the parish for social and community events, social and fundraising events, the support and involvement in community activities
- **Pastoral:** visiting the sick and the housebound, support for those in need, prayer with and for those in need
- **Mission and Evangelism:** financial, prayerful and active support of world and national mission agencies, concern and involvement in local needs
- **The wider church:** the deanery, diocese and wider Church of England, ecumenical relationships

Membership 2018

Vicar: Richard Sherratt

Churchwarden: Phil Dykes (Vice Chair)

Churchwarden: Caroline Windle

Reader representative: David Newton

Deanery Synod representative: Carys Pugh

Elected members (until 2021):

Isabel Bryce, Janet Hunter (Assistant Warden), Adele Lane (Treasurer), Mike Lawrence (Electoral Roll Officer), Anthony Marlow, Angela Mather (Assistant Warden), Rosalind Morris, Sue Withenshaw, and Susan Wildman (PCC Secretary).

Co-opted members:

Philomena Harrison and Ofodile Obidike.

Main things PCC did in 2018

There have been five full meetings of the PCC. Items on the agenda this year included:

- CAP Debt Counselling service for Churches Together in Sale
- Baptism policy
- Admitting Children to Communion before Confirmation
- Inclusive Church
- Boiler replacement
- Approved various policies
- New rental schedule for hall and hut
- All Age Worship and Café Church
- Celebrations for our 150th anniversary
- Formation of a Parish Operations Committee
- The Parish Budget for 2019
- Vision and Mission Action Plan
- A schedule of maintenance work
- Proposal for a Celebrating Diversity event

Other PCC committees/groups

In addition to the newly formed Operations Committee there are two other subgroups:

- (1) Children and Families Ministry Team
- (2) Parish Communications Team

The core responsibilities of the *Children and Families Ministry Team* are to: (1) pray for our children and families; (2) develop a strategic plan for children and families work that is consistent with our parish mission, vision, values, and strategy; (3) oversight of the Baptism Ministry Team; (4) plan the curriculum for Little Fishes and Energise; (5) plan the core pattern of events to engage with children and families; (6) look for new opportunities to reach out to children and families who do not currently come to

church; (7) actively recruit and nurture/train volunteers; and, (8) Provide regular progress report to the PCC and APCM.

The core responsibilities of the *Parish Communications Team* are to (1) develop a strategic plan for parish communications that is consistent with our parish mission, vision, values, and strategy; (2) implement the parish communication plan; (3) review the parish communication plan on an annual basis; (4) improve the internal communications of the parish; (5) improve the external communications of the parish; and, (6) provide regular progress report to the PCC and APCM.

Administrative Information

St John's is situated in Brooklands, Sale. It is part of the Diocese of Manchester within the Church of England and is in the Deanery of Withington and the Archdeaconry of Manchester.

The correspondence address is

The Vicarage,
186 Brooklands Road,
Sale,
M33 3PB.

Registered charity number: 1132141

The address of the Parish website is www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE
DIVINE, BROOKLANDS**

(Registered charity number 1132141)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT AND ANNUAL
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST