



**St. Matthew's Church, Salford Priors
2016/2017 Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
With financial reports for the year ended
31 December 2016**

Administrative Information

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

The correspondence address is:

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

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

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2016 until the date of this report was approved are:

<i>Chairman</i>	Revd Peter Walker
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Mr Roger Huggins
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mr Peter Penney Mrs Fran Foster (<i>from APCM</i>)
<i>Deanery Synod Rep</i>	Vacancy
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr Andrew Dean Mr Andrew Clarke <i>Treasurer</i> Mrs Sheila Penney Mr Greg Hallett Mr Kevin Harrison Mr Tim Berkley <i>Secretary</i> Mrs S Brunson Dr Stephen Foster (<i>up until December 2016</i>) Mrs Alex Clarke <i>Safeguarding Officer</i>

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

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

The functions of parochial church councils shall include—

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

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

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

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

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



Rector's Report - Revd Peter Walker

This is an exciting time at St Matthew's, we have much to be thankful for and good things are happening in our midst.

The building has been transformed for the better. After many setbacks and disappointments, we obtained permission (a Faculty) to re-order the South aisle. We now have new chairs, new lighting and a complete redecoration. God willing, we will soon have new sound and projection systems as well. Already the space feels welcoming and accessible and we pray that the same sense of welcome is felt by our guests. At the time of writing this report, we are hopeful that a further scheme to provide toilets and a meeting space to replace the Rainbow Room, may be approved by the District Council very shortly. This too is important, because we want to be a church that offers quality provision for children as well as adults so we need safe and appealing facilities to accommodate them. Please continue to pray therefore for the success of this project and please uphold Peter Penney in those prayers as he shoulders so much of the day-to-day responsibility for these developments.

Alongside these building works, we are also really keen to press ahead with the appointment of a Children and Families' Worker, we are hoping that they might start later in 2017. Our objectives include: strengthening and building up the relationships with our Church Schools; empowering and growing our existing Sunday School work; developing further links with families seeking Baptisms and others who contact the church; and starting new clubs and activities that will meet the needs of existing and future members of St Matthew's. This too is a major project and must be underpinned by prayer.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks, and the thanks of the whole church, to the many who give so much, in so many ways, to supporting St Matthew's. I know that most of you enjoy what you are doing and in many cases feel a real sense of God's call to what you are doing; nonetheless, you need to know that we appreciate you and your efforts. Thank you.

Staff

Revd Peter Walker (Rector); Revd Ruth Walker (Associate Minister) *up until November 2016*; Revd David Benskin (Assistant Curate) *up until December 2016*; Revd Kevin Grumball (Assistant Minister) and Revd Michael Godfrey (Assistant Minister); Mrs Jayne Bourne, our church cleaner; Roger Huggins our volunteer

Administrator who also serves the whole Heart of England group of churches.

Church Attendance

At the Annual Meeting in April 2016 it was reported that there are 69 parishioners on the Church electoral roll, 41 of whom are not resident within the parish. The average weekly October attendance at St Matthew's was 41 which included Harvest Thanksgiving. Church attendance on a "normal" Sunday was about 37. Both these figures are lower than in 2015.

Both Salford Priors and Dunnington schools hold special festival services in church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and Dunnington School holds a Leavers' Service at the end of the academic year in July. On these occasions the church is filled to overflowing with children, parents, grandparents and carers.

PCC—Tim Berkley

The PCC considered a wide range of subjects with sometimes detailed debate and discussions with a range of views expressed in a constructive and healthy exchange of opinion.

During the year the team focused on the continuing work being led by Peter Penney to plan and implement the reordering of the South Aisle and associated decoration and lighting. Alongside this work, a team was convened to review options for improving the audio-visual technology and following their recommendations, new projection equipment has been ordered and detailed plans are underway for improving the sound system. There was also further detailed discussion on the proposed extension which was submitted for planning permission before being pulled back after resistance from local residents. At the time of writing, a new proposal has been submitted to the planning committee and discussions are ongoing.

Separate from this work, the team also discussed proposals for a Children's worker and how that would integrate with the new vacancy for a Clergy member.

There was also continuing regular oversight of the accounts and budget and approval of various Governors for Dunnington and Salford Priors schools. The PCC also monitored and had regular reports on changes at Salford Priors School including the selection and transition of a new Head. Regular updates were also received on the growth and activities of the Salford Priors Youth Club and the PCC discussed a proposal for re-establishing services at the Memorial Hall.

The shortest meeting this year was 1 hour, the longest extended to 2 hours and 5 minutes.

Ministry Team - Roger Huggins

Once again we have had a busy year. We held another Family Fun Day in September to mark St Matthew's Day and preceded it with Seven Days of Kindness in the village. The Fun Day was again a great success with good weather, an excellent turn out from the church members and villagers, with numerous teddies this year sliding down a zip wire from the tower. It was a wonderful time of getting to know those from our community a bit better. During the Seven Days of Kindness cars were washed, bin men were blessed, children at both schools were given ice cream and the village was beautified. With the closure of Pitchill Care Home during the year we concentrated our Carol Singing on Salford House where we were once again very well received and it was good to meet and chat with the residents there. There was a good Christmas workshop in early December combined with Tree

decorating and a very well-attended “Road to Bethlehem” service on Christmas Eve which replaced the Carols Around the Tree Service.

Our plans to employ a Children’s and Families’ Worker for the church have slowed down due to Ruth Walker leaving the benefice and the need to recruit another half post clergy person. However we are now pushing ahead with drawing up an advertisement for the Family Worker position. We believe that all of our plans should be rooted in prayer, and we continue to meet on a Saturday morning once a month specifically to pray together. Our regular monthly planning and discussion meetings are held on a Tuesday evening.

We engaged Jonathan Veira, a Christian singer and raconteur, for a Group evening of entertainment in February which was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Once again the strengthening of relationships and fellowship that took place in the build-up, running the event and break-down of the venue at St Laurence’s was a wonderful bonus for all involved.

The Ministry Team’s membership has changed a bit in the past 12 months. Ruth Simmons stood down back in the autumn due to family issues leaving a big gap especially with her work with the young people; Bethany Foster who is now at university has also had to drop out, as has Peter Penney and we will miss his wise council and loyal support. We have plans to recruit at least one other person in the autumn of this year. At present the Team is: Ali Berkley, Fran Foster, Anne Gibbs, Tim Jacques, Julie Singlehurst, Rev. Peter Walker and is led by Greg Hallett, and Roger Huggins,

Bell Ringers—Mike Davies

Our small but loyal band of ringers ring the bells for our church services and weddings whenever we can, but the problem of being a small band is that we sometimes find that we cannot ring for every situation. We have missed having some of our regular ringers due to illness.

The bells at St. Matthews are still very popular for outside ringers and we have had ringers come from all parts of the country to use our tower. We have rung the bells for 4 weddings, and the bells have been rung by outside ringers on 18 occasions (Including 3 Peal attempts and 2 Quarter peal Attempts).

Thanks are due to those who give of their time regularly to ring the bells.

Fabric Report—Churchwardens (Peter Penney & Fran Foster)

The year started on a positive note with the re-fitting of the second of two stained-glass windows in January. These had been restored off site at the end of 2015. This was followed in February with the great disappointment of having our Planning Application for an extension on the south side of the Church Room refused, despite having been given approval by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). This prompted us to look again at the few options open to us for replacing the space which will be lost when we have to remove the Rainbow Room by the end of 2017. Various authorities suggested we should consider looking at a stand-alone building but this would have had many drawbacks, not least the cost, our concern for the safety of children and indoor access to toilet facilities. The only remaining, acceptable, solution seemed to be in forming an extension to the organ chamber in the south east corner of the church in the space occupied by the heating oil tank and maintenance shed. Sketches of the proposals were discussed at a pre-planning application site meeting in the

summer, comprising representatives from the local authority, Historic England and the DAC. The outcome was positive and has resulted in a Planning Application being made to Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

After years of prayer, planning and negotiations with the DAC, the Victorian Society, the Church Building Council and Historic England we were delighted to be granted a faculty for the re-ordering of the South Aisle and Church Room. After going out to tender the work commenced earlier this year with completion by Easter.

During the year we also drew up plans for installing a new vision system comprising two projectors and screens and for replacing the lighting in the South Aisle. Both schemes have been granted faculties. The lighting in the South Aisle will be completed by Easter this year, and the vision system, together with an updated sound system, will hopefully be installed in the autumn.

Worship Music Group—Paul Crocombe

I have been happy to take over the organising of the weekly songs and hymns selection, and have been well supported in the music group by Jordan Hallett, Julie Singlehurst, Greg Hallett, Tim and Ali Berkley and Sarah Brunsdon.

We try to choose songs that will appeal to the wide range of ages and tastes within the congregation as well as the type of service on each particular Sunday. New songs are learnt and older more traditional hymns are revisited for the quality they offer.

Cup Cake Café - Debi Harrison

Cupcake Café is still going strong with a loyal following of volunteer helpers, cake bakers and customers. Since the start of Cupcake Café in June 2010 we have been able to donate over £3,000 to people and organisations both locally and worldwide. Recent donations have been made to Salford Priors Youth Club and Friends of Salford Priors School (£55 - proceeds from providing refreshments at Salford Priors jumble sale); Crisis for Christmas - £138 enabled 6 people to sit at the Christmas table; and £60 was donated to Traid Craft's Big Brew.

Cupcake Café often provides refreshments at the local jumble sale, village fete and other village events. New volunteers to help at the café and to bake cakes are always welcome – many hands make light work!

A big THANK YOU to all those who contribute to Cupcake Café in any way – it is a really valued and fun event in our local community.

Community Group - Stephen Foster

The group meets every Thursday at the Salford Priors Memorial Hall. The first meeting of the Group was in June 2009 and Community Group meetings (as we now call them) have taken place each and every week. The Group is self supporting and now meets even in our absence for holidays. The Group numbers have increased again, just through word of mouth. It is 7 years since any outreach visits took place in the village. The Group have built relationships where they support and encourage one another and provides a sense of belonging and identity. Members are journeying together weekly in search of truth and meaning in a society where meaning seems hard to find.

This is another “fresh expression” of church. It works towards establishing a new community or congregation including those who have never been involved in church (un-churched) or once were, but left for whatever reason (de-churched), and is a fresh expression of church in the making. Some of the Group now attend services at St. Matthews and others attend Tewkesbury Abbey on a regular basis.

Pastoral Care Team—Peter Penney

During the year the small Pastoral Care Team has been involved in visiting folks in their homes and some who are residents in the two care homes in the parish. We offer confidential listening support, encouragement and befriending and at the same time bringing news of church activities and plans for the future.

Please let Peter Penney know of anyone who would welcome a visit by one the Team,

Youth Work: ‘JAM’

JAM has unfortunately been suspended for the last few months due to family commitments of the leader, Ruth Simmons who is standing down from that role for the time being. We are extremely grateful to Ruth for her amazing gift of time and talent in leading this group for the last few years. With the Rainbow Room being out of action due to the refurbishment work in the church and re location of a lot of equipment, we are hoping to re-start JAM after Easter when we should have the Rainbow Room back temporarily until new facilities are built.

“Fresh Expression”

This is a monthly event for the youth of Salford Priors called Fresh Expression. The event is aimed at building relationships with the youth of the village. The latest pop music videos are shown using the Hall’s new cinema system. We now include Hillsong live in Miami, played at high volume! The camera pans round to show thousands of worshippers in the audience. Games include giant chess, table football and air hockey. There is a chill out zone with bean bags and dimmed lighting and we provide free food and drink. The age group is now largely 10 and 11 year olds including children who attend St. Matthews. The event has now been running for 42 months and some progress is being made. As with all outreach, success is achieved only in the long haul. It will be in God’s timing through the work of the Holy Spirit. St Matthew’s employing a part time children and families worker could help a great deal with event.

Marriage Preparation

Another 4 week course was held in January/February preparing couples for marriage. Greg & Julie Hallett ran it again this time in Bidford Church Hall, and were supported by Ali & Tim Berkley who have volunteered to take it on from next year.

Safeguarding—Alex Clarke

There are no outstanding issues regarding DBS checks.

A safeguarding self audit was submitted in September 2015 as requested by the Diocese. This was to confirm that we adhere to the safeguarding policies and procedures. There are currently 5 DBS checks that are waiting to be processed

and these are expected to be completed by end of May 2017.

As safeguarding officer I will be attending mandatory training in June at St Giles, Wixford. Every member of the PCC is required to attend a training session and the new dates for these sessions will be announced in September.

Small Groups

Four **Homegroups** continued to meet in various homes, usually twice a month during the year, for Bible study, prayer and mutual support as well as social events. They also read the lessons, lead prayers and provide and serve refreshments at our main Sunday morning services. Our thanks to the leaders and hosts of these groups which form an important part of our fellowship. A new system is being designed as there are now fewer groups and responsibilities for refreshments and service assistance will be put in place shortly.

Prayer & Retreats

The life of our church continues to be underpinned with prayer, and for many years now Thursday mornings and Friday evenings have seen regular weekly prayer sessions attended by a faithful few.

Many of our ladies again attended the two day 'Colour' conference hosted by Hillsong church at the Wembley Arena.

Communication

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

Treasurer's Report—Andy Clarke

Income

2016 showed an improvement in our income of £54,873 against a budget of £49,484. This was due primarily to increased revenue from Weddings and Funerals. In addition the Gift aid claim was made later in the year than budgeted which showed a £619 increase against budget.

Events & Home Mission

St Mathew's fun day is proving to be a very worthwhile and well attended event, and this year was achieved with a relatively small cost of £321.49. Hopefully this day will become a regular event in the calendar.

Once again we were able to help with the cost of a pupil from Salford Priors School to attend the Isle of Wight trip. The PCC also arranged for an Ice Cream man to go into our schools and supply free ice creams to all the pupils. We also continued to support Fresh Expressions and Thursday Night Live events.

Parish Share

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

Designated Funds

We spent a total of £17,683 on Church repairs and maintenance but this included £12,432 on restoring some of the stained glass windows.

£8,100 was spent on purchasing new chairs for the South Aisle.

In conclusion

A better year for St Mathews due to the increased receipts from Church activities which showed an overall surplus of £4,538 but we are still finely balanced and 2017 budget suggests a deficit of around £2k, so cost control is still paramount.

St Matthews Salford Priors
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31 December 2016

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2016	2015
Fixed assets						
Globe Field			8,393		8,393	8,393
	0	0	8,393	0	8,393	8,393
Current assets						
Lloyds current account	17,721	(1,194)		201	16,728	15,553
Lloyds deposit account	(2,804)	124,952			122,148	21,699
Lloyds Vicarage decoration account	(3,223)	3,698			475	475
Deposit - James (CCLA)	488	278		4,120	4,887	4,399
Kenley Fabric - fixed interest (CCLA)	(9,884)	155,560	1,369		147,044	139,060
Kenley Fabric - Investment (CCLA)		1,263			1,263	115,091
Deposit - Mace (CCLA)				3,100	3,100	3,100
Stewardship Income F&C	2,079	82,769			84,847	81,818
Stewardship International (reinvestment)	14,512	64,819			79,332	64,819
	18,889	432,144	1,369	7,422	459,824	446,013
Liabilities						
Agency collections					0	1,693
	0	0	0	0	0	1,693
Represented by						
Unrestricted - General	18,889				18,889	14,351
Designated - DesF		432,144			432,144	421,320
Restricted - ResF			9,762		9,762	9,762
Endowment - EndF				7,422	7,422	7,279
	18,889	432,144	9,762	7,422	468,217	452,713

Approved by the PCC on April 2017 and signed on their behalf by Andrew Clarke (PCC Treasurer)

St Matthews Salford Priors
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2016	2015
Receipts						
Planned giving	32,459				32,459	32,100
Collections and other giving	3,935				3,935	3,596
Other voluntary receipts	620				620	14,511
Gift Aid recovered	8,219				8,219	10,031
Other receipts	983				983	695
Activities for generating funds	201				201	159
Investment Income	37	13,389		142	13,568	12,340
Receipts from church activities	8,420				8,420	3,730
Total receipts	54,873	13,389	0	142	68,404	77,161
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	521				521	1,065
Missionary and Charitable Giving	1,090				1,090	1,806
Parish Share	29,000				29,000	29,000
Clergy and Staffing costs	3,631				3,631	3,790
Church Running Expenses	15,552	16,064			31,617	18,836
Hall Running Costs	540				540	0
Church Repairs & Maintenance		17,683			17,683	32,649
Hall Repairs & Maintenance					0	0
New Building work					0	11,119
Governance Costs					0	480
Total payments	50,336	33,747	0	0	84,082	98,745
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	4,538	(20,358)	0	142	(15,678)	(21,584)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in					0	0
Gross transfers between funds - out					0	0
Net incoming/outgoing before other gains/losses	4,538	(20,358)	0	142	(15,678)	(21,584)
Other recognised gains/losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets		31,182			31,182	6,007
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use					0	0
Net movement in funds	4,538	10,824	0	142	15,504	(15,577)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	14,351	421,320	9,762	7,279	452,713	468,290
Total funds carried forward	18,889	432,144	9,762	7,422	468,217	452,713

Thank yous!

We would like to record our grateful thanks to our Churchwardens, Peter Penney and Fran Foster, for their work in the parish and on Sunday mornings. On Sundays they have been ably assisted by the group of Sidespersons who warmly welcome folk as they arrive for services and give out the various items for worship. We thank Andy Clarke, our Treasurer who has continued in this vital role this year and has been ably assisted by Andy Dean and Greg Hallett.

We particularly want to thank Peter Penney for the massive amount of work he has undertaken on our behalf in bringing to fruition the changes to the south aisle area of the church and the Church Room. He has spent hours at the church with architects, consultants and contractors overseeing all that has gone on to produce the wonderful areas we are now using.

Thanks also to those who work behind the scenes: to Mike Davies who manages the daily church security; to those who lay out the worship space for services and clear up afterwards; and to those who provide and arrange flowers, clean brasses and generally keep the church looking lovely and to our Bell Ringers who ring for Sunday services whenever they can.

