

St. Matthew's Church, Salford Priors
2018/2019 Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
with financial reports for the year ended
31 December 2018



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, Parish 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 2018 until the date of this report was approved are:

<i>Chairman</i>	Revd Peter Walker	
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Mr Roger Huggins	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mr Peter Penney	
	Mrs Fran Foster	
<i>Deanery Synod Rep</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>	
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr Andrew Clarke	<i>Treasurer</i>
	<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
	Mrs Sheila Penney	
	Mr Greg Hallett	
	Mr Kevin Harrison	
	Mrs S Brunsdon	
	Mr Mike Davies	
	Mr Clive Hickman	

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

These are exciting times for St Matthew's Church, and I would like to highlight 3 aspects of that. But before I do so, I want to pay tribute to all those who, in so many ways, support and enable the work of the Church. From Church Leaders; churchwardens; Ministry Team; administrator; PCC officers; PCC members; musicians; and all those who take part in outreach, services, hospitality and welcome or who tend and care for every part of the premises. Thank you to each and every one of you, your generous giving of yourselves is a beautiful thing.

In this past year we have been thrilled to welcome into our midst Sarah Folkes as our Family Link Worker. Every week Sarah has been supporting the Salford Priors Academy and individual students and families within that community. Alongside this she has run courses for parents in the church premises and encouraged a great many families to join our Family Services on the first Sunday of the month.

To resource all of our work, but especially this work with families we are hoping to build a small extension with toilets and meeting space. We had previously secured the necessary permissions and we are fortunate to have much of the money that is needed, however we do not have enough, hence we are making applications to funding bodies. We believe that we have a strong case to attract additional funding based on the success of the present work with families and children.

Thirdly, I would like to draw attention to our search for a House for Duty minister who will focus their energies on this parish of Salford Priors. He or she will be an additional minister in the Heart of England benefice, living in Salford Priors and able to offer a couple of days each week to this Church and parish.

I believe that as these resources come together, St Matthews is poised to see even more exciting times to come.

Staff

Revd Peter Walker (Rector); Revd Michael Godfrey and Revd Fritha Middlemiss (Assistant Ministers); Mrs Judith Meehan (Reader); Mrs Sarah Folkes (Family Link Worker); Mrs Jayne Bourne (church cleaner); Roger Huggins (volunteer Administrator).

Church Attendance

At the Annual Meeting in April 2018 it was reported that there are 75 parishioners on the Church electoral roll, 44 of whom are not resident within the parish. The average weekly October attendance at St Matthew's was 52. Church attendance on a "normal" Sunday is now about 44. Both Salford Priors Academy and Dunnington school 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 with children, parents, grandparents and carers.

PCC - Roger Huggins (Acting Secretary)

The PCC has met 7 times over the past year with 70% attendance of elected members. Unfortunately we have been operating without a PCC Secretary, so this job has fallen to the Administrator, but it is hoped that this can be remedied for next year.

Many topics concerning the running of the church have been discussed including arrangements for employing a Family Link Worker, and a House for Duty Priest as well as the way forward seeking funds for the proposed extension to the church building. We are very grateful to John Alexander-Head for his considerable help in applying for grants on our behalf.

Fran Foster has been appointed as our Parish Safeguarding Officer and she is organising and co-ordinating all the safeguarding documents, training and DBS checking for the parish.

The drop in income has been a cause for concern and steps are being taken to try to boost the giving by advertising the situation more widely.

Ministry Team - Roger Huggins

We welcomed Sarah Folkes to the team as our Family Link Worker in September and her contribution to the Ministry Team and to the children's work in the church and school has been invaluable and very encouraging.

The Week of Kindness and the Family Fun Day were once again a big success having moved the WoK to June in order to take advantage of the longer evenings and to split the heavy work load of the two events.

The team had a very worthwhile Away Day to Childswickham in October led by Revd Tim Mitchell, the diocesan Healthy Churches Development Mentor considering our Vision for St Matthew's. Subsequently a Vision Statement has been formulated with input from the congregation and is now published together with our "Care—Share—Grow" logo (see front page). An Action Plan following on from this is now being developed.

The team continues to plan and lead Family and Village Praise services most months and works with the musicians to provide lively and spirit lead worship.

We have been hampered greatly this year by the poor health of two of our members which has meant that they are unable to fully fulfil the roles to which they have been called and we pray that both Greg and Anne will experience much healing of their bodies in the coming weeks and months. However we give thanks to God for the way in which they have both been able to continue to serve the Lord in very

different ways during their illness and treatment.

Bell Ringers - Mike Davies

Last year it was reported that we no longer have a regular band of ringers to ring for services at St. Matthews. However this does not mean that the bells are not rung at all.

A band of ringers from various parishes get together, usually on the first Wednesday of each month, to ring the bells for practice and enjoyment. This ensures that they are kept in good order.

Sandra Parker from Bidford is still in charge of arranging ringers for weddings when they occur at St. Matthews.

The bells in our tower are rung quite frequently by people from outside our area. This is done by request and usually granted as long as it does not clash with any prearranged event.

Fabric Report - Churchwardens (Peter Penney & Fran Foster)

- In June defective lamps and light fittings in the nave and chancel were replaced.
- Following the church architect's advice the yew tree nearest to the west side of the porch was felled In February
- Rubbish was removed from the lead parapet gutters and the roof of the turret in March.
- The electrical wiring installation is having the five yearly inspection in April 2019.
- The Quinquennial Inspection is due to take place on 16th April 2019.

We wish to take this opportunity of saying a huge thankyou to Mike Davies who opens and locks the church every day, deals with the disposal of dead flowers left by those tending the graves and arranges for the fortnightly emptying of the refuse wheelie bin.

Worship Music Group - Amy James

We currently have 4 members of the music group. Jordan, Julie and Amy have been leading worship on a regular basis. James Salmon has also recently started playing piano with us as we were missing Debbie's fantastic talent. Clive's guitar skills are also missed, but we hope they have a restful break from the group and return to the team rejuvenated in the near future.

As all the group members are pretty busy, we don't get the chance to meet to practice, but have discussed having a team-building day where we can bolster our repertoire and draw closer to God, whilst perhaps having the opportunity to plan a worship evening for the wider congregation. Watch this space!

Cup Cake Café - Debi Harrison

Our monthly café continues to be popular and we are usually full with our regular local supporters and a few visitors from further afield. Volunteers continue to offer their help on the day and also supply some fantastic cakes for our guests to

enjoy. We have been able to keep our prices low (50p per drink, 50p per cake) but we may have to review this in the near future.

We are now funding the entire event ourselves (thank you to the PCC who have funded the hire of the TOPs building up to now) and are still able to donate money to various charities and good causes.

Again last year we supported Caring Hands in the Vale as our Christmas charity. We have also sent donations to Hearts and Homes and to our Children's Church and have donated to and supported the village Remembrance event and St. Matthew's Fun Day.

We are in need of more volunteers to assist at the Café or to bake, or both. We arrange the rota each month so the more volunteers we have the more the work is shared.

Please come and visit or volunteer, or both!

Community Group - Stephen Foster

The group meets every Thursday at the Salford Priors Memorial Hall. The first meeting of the Group was in June 2009 and Community Group meetings (as we now call them) have taken place each and every week, with a few breaks for holidays, ever since. The Group numbers have increased again, just through word of mouth, as it is 9 years since any outreach visits took place in the village. The Group members have built relationships where they support and encourage one another and provide a sense of belonging and identity. Members are journeying together weekly in search of truth and meaning in a society where meaning seems hard to find. This is another "fresh expression" of church. It works towards establishing a new community or congregation including those who have never been involved in church (un-churched) or once were, but left for whatever reason (de-churched), and is a fresh expression of church in the making. Some of the Group now attend services at St. Matthews and others attend Tewkesbury Abbey on a regular basis.

Youth Work:

'JAM' - Sarah Folkes & Fran Foster

Since October 2018, the Rainbow Room has been out of action for safety reasons. Rather than see this as a negative, we have tried to see the newer options available for JAM in the Church Room by utilising the kitchen area. So far, the children have made and eaten: apple and banana muffins (linked to the Parable of the Sower during Harvest), gingerbread people (linked to the idea of Abraham and our family trees), starry jam tarts (Epiphany), fruit smoothies, pancakes (start of Lent) and hot cross bun cupcakes (linked in with the story of Palm Sunday). Alongside the baking we work together to plan the story, other activities and resources. We have between 6 and 12 children who come along, with our maximum being 21 in February when there was a Baptism. Visiting families and children enjoyed joining in and have said that it was refreshing to see a Church so family orientated and welcoming.

Messy Church - Sarah Folkes

We have now held two Messy Church events at St Matthew's; 18 February (Noah's Ark theme) and 20 April (Easter theme) and we are officially registered on the Messy Church website. Both events have been fortunate to have a great team of helpers who have arrived early to set up, been hands on and chatty with families during the free flow of activities as well as being there to pack up at the end. I was able to use some of my budget to buy Messy Church t-shirts for the leaders which has worked really well in clearly showing visitors who our team members are. All helpers have been DBS checked and are sent risk assessments and planning sheets beforehand.

On the registration forms, some new parents have expressed an interest in helping in future Messy Churches and this will be a fantastic new way of discipleship. I now need to talk to these parents and safely recruit them. I have had registration forms for 58 children for Messy Church; some of these came to both events and some to one of the two. We received positive feedback for both days and it was encouraging to see a mix of faces come along, new and old. I am excited to see these relationships with families grow and develop as we plan future dates. We are aiming to put on an October Messy Church and also some Messy Specials during the Summer holidays, including a Sporty morning and picnic, Circus skills workshop, Bellboating day and hopefully a Pottery and pizza morning.

"Fresh Expression" - Stephen Foster

This is a monthly event (3rd Sunday) for the youth of Salford Priors and is aimed at building relationships with the youth of the village. The event now utilises the Cinema system (built in projector, large screen) to show the latest pop music videos. Games include giant chess, table football and air hockey. There is a chill out zone with bean bags and dimmed lighting and we provide free food and drink. The event has now been running for five and a half years. There has been some progression with the event covering the real meaning of Christmas with the help of clips from the film the Grinch, which was "Youth for Christ" supplied material. We hope soon to run a further (shorter) event on the 1st Sunday of each month with a different format when we can find a young person to give a suitable talk each month. 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.

Small Groups

The three Homegroups have continued to meet this year, although more sporadically due to other commitments of members. The format of the meetings has been varied with study material on Prayer and The Bible being used very successfully by two of them. The third group has concentrated latterly on being a wonderful support and prayer group for those suffering from long term illness. It is hoped that a new Day-time group will be launched this year to accommodate those who prefer not to go out at night and also for young parents who are searching for God's love and truth. Our thanks to the leaders and hosts of the groups which form a vitally important part of our fellowship.

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. We now have a small group who "Pray for Schools" 2 or 3 times a term, focusing on one school each term and actually praying inside the school buildings. A new initiative called ""Breathe" has been launched approximately once a month by Mick Cocker and Julie Singlehurst using different methods of contemplative prayer.

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

Communication

"Heartbeat" magazine continues to be published monthly, edited by Neil Smart of St Laurence's Bidford. Tim Jacques acts as our "local reporter", collating information from St Matthew's and the village to include in the magazine.

Our website, maintained by Roger Huggins, is one place to go for up to date information about St Matthew's together with the new Facebook page 'St Matthew's Church Salford Priors', maintained by Sarah Folkes. Currently, 76 people 'like' and follow the page and 30 people are in the private 'Messy Church' group. Weekly diary dates are put up that advertise what's on and post photos of what's been happening. This is another useful tool to show members of the public who look up St Matthew's that we are a lively Church with lots going on. The 'He is Risen' video from Easter Sunday has proved to be a popular post which has brought in new likes and new reactions.

The Heart of England Group website includes items for the whole group of churches: www.heartparishes.org.uk

Treasurer's Report - Andy Clarke

Income

Income was down by £11,244 against income for 2017.

This reduction in income relates directly to the drop in planned giving that the Church relies on to function. Many of our congregation generously choose to donate on a regular basis via monthly direct debits, this makes managing the church budgets easier as we have visibility of what our expected income is going to be over the coming year. This money is used not only to pay for ongoing support in our community and upkeep of services but also for our contribution to the Diocese. Unfortunately, over the past year the Church has seen a decline in this regular giving, either through church members relocating to different areas, or members of the church that have passed on. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone that feels they are in a position to make a regular contribution, to set up a direct debit and this will help to support the good work that St Matthew's is doing.

This contribution can be as small or as large as you like, every penny helps and is very gratefully received.

Events, Home Mission and Appeals

A total of £1318 was spent on Mission and charitable giving

Grants

A Grant of £3000 was received from Cutting Edge Ministries in support of the children's worker.

A Grant of £2417 was received from the DCMS scheme to help with the repair to the Parapet roof.

Parish Share

St Matthew's Parish Share contribution for the year was £27,500 (down from 29,000 in 2017)

Designated Funds

We spent a total of £16,698 of designated funds

Church maintenance - £2941 (General maintenance/repairs to lights, clock service etc.)

Churchyard maintenance - £2787 (Grass cutting, tree pruning etc)

Internal repairs/reordering - £2941 (Building work)

Costs for preparation of plans/ surveys etc. for new building - £8028

In conclusion

We finished the year showing a deficit of £8631 – This was due to a reduction in income from regular giving which also meant a reduction in the gift aid we are able to claim. In addition to this our insurance and costs of security have risen following the theft of the lead from the church roof. Cost of insurance and alarm system was £4962 for the year.

All other costs were close to expected levels.

For information the Bank details are as follows:

Account no: 01424298

Sort Code: 30-98-26

St Matthews Salford Priors
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2018	2017
Receipts						
Planned giving	22,293				22,293	30,085
Collections and other giving	4,486	15,491			19,977	4,043
Other voluntary receipts	161	5,417			5,578	274
Gift Aid recovered	6,423				6,423	8,392
Other receipts	339				339	10,803
Activities for generating funds	159				159	167
Investment Income	145			177	322	8,031
Receipts from church activities	4,469		77		4,546	4,944
Total receipts	38,475	20,908	77	177	59,637	66,739
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	849				849	1,582
Missionary and Charitable Giving	1,319				1,319	1,887
Parish Share	27,500				27,500	29,000
Clergy and Staffing costs	1,663	5,085			6,748	1,687
Church Running Expenses	14,291	5,729			20,020	47,746
Hall Running Costs	585				585	540
Church Repairs & Maintenance		2,941			2,941	161,830
Hall Repairs & Maintenance					0	0
New Building work		8,028			8,028	10,148
Governance Costs	900				900	0
Total payments	47,107	21,783	0	0	68,890	254,420
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	(8,632)	(875)	77	177	(9,253)	(187,681)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	177	3,000			3,177	374
Gross transfers between funds - out		(3,000)		(177)	(3,177)	(374)
Net incoming/outgoing before other gains/losses	(8,455)	(875)	77	0	(9,253)	(187,681)
Other recognised gains/losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets				(80)	(80)	17,487
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use					0	0
Net movement in funds	(8,455)	(875)	77	(80)	(9,333)	(170,194)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	20,030	259,661	9,904	8,428	298,023	468,217
Total funds carried forward	11,575	258,786	9,981	8,348	288,690	298,023

St Matthews Salford Priors
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31 December 2018

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2018	2017
Fixed assets						
Glebe Field			8,393		8,393	8,393
	0	0	8,393	0	8,393	8,393
Current assets						
Lloyds current account	8,692	0	2,655	0	11,347	14,093
Lloyds deposit account	2,883	258,310			261,193	268,147
Lloyds Vicarage decoration account		476			476	475
Deposit - James (CCLA)				5,248	5,248	5,329
Kenley Fabric - fixed interest (CCLA)					0	0
Kenley Fabric - Investment (CCLA)					0	0
Deposit - Mace (CCLA)				3,100	3,100	3,100
Stewardship Income F&C					0	0
Stewardship International (reinvestment)					0	0
	11,575	258,786	2,655	8,348	281,364	291,144
Liabilities						
Agency collections			1,067		1,067	1,514
Other creditors					0	0
	0	0	1,067	0	1,067	1,514
Represented by						
Unrestricted - General	11,575				11,575	20,030
Designated - DesF		245,380			245,380	259,660
Designated - Link		13,406			13,406	0
Restricted - ResF			9,981		9,981	9,904
Restricted - None			0		0	(77)
Endowment - EndF				8,348	8,348	8,429
	11,575	258,786	9,981	8,348	288,690	297,946

Approved by the PCC on April 2019 and signed on their behalf by

