

The Diocese of Leicester

THE GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Loughborough



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council 2018

Compiled by Mark Smith and Laurence Emmitt

AIMS AND PURPOSES

The Good Shepherd Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Susan Willetts, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Good Shepherd Church and Church Hall in Park Road, Loughborough. Each year our annual report affords us the opportunity to look back over the past year and review what has happened in the life of the Church and our community. The following pages give a glimpse into the life of the Good Shepherd as we journey together.

OBJECTIVES

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 The Good Shepherd. The PCC maintains an overview of our worship and endeavours to see how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. We endeavour that all our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Growing - Praying, Worshipping, Listening to God and becoming more like Jesus
- Inviting - Sharing the Good News and planting new worshipping communities
- Serving - Helping those in need, the poor and isolated, welcoming and encouraging

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of our Church and the Church Hall.

OUR 80th BIRTHDAY

In 2018 we celebrated the 80th Birthday of the Good Shepherd Church building. To mark this wonderful occasion, we held a number of special celebrations throughout the year – inviting many guests and often having a slice, or two, of cake!



We provided year long access to a display showcasing the history and heritage of the church in the Link Room and this was well used throughout the year as friends past and present came to visit us and find old photos of themselves – dubious haircuts and all!

To each celebration we invited people who had been connected in some way with the church in the past, perhaps married or baptised in the Church, maybe been a member of the choir, or the Sunday school, the Stage Group or the Women's Friendly (now Wednesday Friendly).

We celebrated the past and the present and began to look forward to the future of the church as it enters a new exciting phase of ministry with our Resourcing Church Partnership with Emmanuel Church.

CHURCH LIFE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

We have a new website! Developed in the Spring of 2018 a team of volunteers came together to design a new website, through which we can better advertise our services, activities and work in the community. It has been put to good use, enabling us to display our policy documents, advertise for new posts and to keep the local community updated with life at the Good Shepherd. There's always more to do with the website and we are very grateful to those who maintain it and ensure it is always up to date especially as we integrate this resource with our 'A Church Near You' page provided by the Church of England, which is accessed by so many people.

In January 2018, a number of us attended the Loughborough Church Partnership United Service in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We believe as Christians from across the churches in Loughborough meet together to pray in unity, there is something powerful and unique. In order for God to manifest his power and presence in the everyday lives of Christians in Loughborough, we firmly believe that PRAYER isn't just necessary, but is of paramount importance as we ask, "Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

At the beginning of February 2018, we welcomed once again the Loughborough 2229 Squadron of the Air Training Corps for their annual parade service. This service was led by their Chaplain the Reverend Rosie Whitley and included a drum routine showing some exceptionally skilled drummers' work.

On 17 March the Loughborough Ladies Choir held a concert in the Church, led by Jackie Rotter, it was very clear that all the ladies enjoy singing together and a very pleasant evening was had by everyone.

During Lent we followed a series of sermons working through Paul's letter to the Philippians and considering if we live 'a life worth living' and on Sunday evenings the Lent Group took up the challenge of chocolate in Lent as they used the film 'Chocolat' to consider what sort of God we believe in, what sort of Church community we want to be, what ministry do we each and together feel called to, and what healing or change do we need first - again there was lots of cake as we met each Sunday tea-time! At the end of March our Holy Week and Easter services gave many people an opportunity to recall those events that are so significant in the life of the Church. On Maundy Thursday we held a Passover meal that helped us as Christians discover the Passover celebration that Jesus shared with his disciples and then as we moved in to Church prepare us for the darkness of Good Friday and Easter Saturday. On Good Friday the Church was open for private prayer from 12pm to 3pm and then in the evening Elizabeth led us in a moving meditation at the foot of the Cross.

As always, the church was beautifully decorated for Easter Sunday and once again our grateful thanks go to Edie Smithson and her team for their regular work on our behalf.

On Saturday 12 May we held our annual Gardeners Coffee Morning. Once again, a very successful event, although the early spring weather had challenged our gardeners somewhat! The Beacon Academy Voices, a mixed age school choir, entertained those enjoying their coffee as well as their parents acquiring lots of tips and tricks for their own gardens!



Ray Dew and Sue Willetts cutting the birthday cake

On Sunday 13 May we welcomed Archdeacon Claire Wood as our preacher for our special celebration service – another occasion with a cake – this time a very special one celebration our anniversary. The service was followed by a shared lunch and it was a great pleasure to invite Ray Dew, one of our oldest members to cut the birthday cake before it was shared.

On 7 July we had our 80th Anniversary Garden Party. This was incredibly well attended with people from across the parish visiting us, browsing the bric-a-brac stores, eating hot dogs and we had another visit from the Beacon Academy Voices. The weather was amazing, and it was a blessing to welcome so many people into the church hall, to keep cool!

At the end of July and beginning of August, we ran our children's Holiday Club finishing with 'Sweaty Church' on Saturday 4 August. We focused on the Scripture Union Team Builders daily programme – discovering a collection of awesome stories from the Bible (including Joseph, Moses, Esther, Jesus and Paul) – each one giving children the opportunity to see what life is like on God's team and inviting them to join his team for themselves! Team Builders helped the children to discover what it means to be part of a team – helping them to understand that every role in a team is equally important, no matter how big or small.

Everyone was invited to join in the 100 Days of Peace and Hope initiative from our Archbishops in readiness for the commemorations of the end of the first World War, to be held in November, and recalling the call to our nation at that time to pray on 4 August 1918. Bible readings, reflections and prayers for each week were available to download.

At the end of September, we held an 'Autumn Serenade', inviting Concorde to sing for us, a small group of singers (and their accompanist) based in the East Midlands, who sang a wide range of music from all eras.

The following day we held a celebration service to which we invited many people with previous connections to the Church. It was amazing to see the church completely full and many old friends were reacquainted.

On 6 October we held our Harvest Supper and Auction of Promises which was a huge success! We're incredibly thankful to everyone who took part in making this evening a thoroughly enjoyable event, and especially to Helen Smith for acting as our Auctioneer. Promises ranged from an hour's ironing service, to a taxi home from your next event, we managed to sell a fantastic collection of promises from local individuals and businesses in support of our nominated charity for the evening, we raised over £540 in total, a magnificent sum which was given to Wishes 4 Kids.

Also, in October, we celebrated Andrew Willetts' 25th year as a Reader in the Church of England. We're grateful for his ministry and preaching since he came to the Good Shepherd and we pray for the next 25 years too!

During the year Edie Smithson and her many volunteers continued their hard work in making and collecting items to fill shoe boxes for their last annual Christmas Shoe Box appeal. Once again, we were able to send one hundred and twenty boxes – an amazing achievement – well done to everyone – especially Dave Smithson for covering all those boxes with Christmas paper! So many children and young people will have benefitted from these boxes over so many years and we can only say a big **THANK YOU** on their behalf to all those who have made this happen, but especially to Edie and Dave as they have spearheaded this work.

The month of November was busy! At the beginning of the month there was an opportunity to gather with our brothers and sisters at Emmanuel Church. This was a full weekend designed to gather the churches to be inspired, encouraged and challenged in order that we might be courageous for Jesus Christ in the ordinary and extraordinary things of life. Throughout the weekend we discovered more about what it means to be a Resourcing Church, as we seek to plant new churches and fresh expressions in order to reach the 93% that have no or very little contact with the Church – more on this later.

Our All Souls' Day Memorial Service was again very well attended and was followed by a time of fellowship – and cake – for those who were able to stay. This can be a difficult time for some, but such services give us an opportunity to remember and give thanks to God, for the life of those we have loved and cared for – as well as to comfort one another in grief.



On Remembrance Sunday once again, we held a service of remembrance – particularly remembering the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War and then later that evening we lit a Beacon, gathering together in the Car Park. We invited people from across our local churches and this was a great opportunity to share together. This commemoration and remembrance of the end of the war and the many millions who were killed or came home dreadfully wounded, meant that over 1000 Beacons of Light were lit at 7pm on 11 November throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories – a century after the guns fell silent. This was followed by an opportunity to share refreshments and sing some favourite songs of the time, as we were led by the Rev Adele Adshead.

On the 24th November, we held our annual Christmas Market but also offered a Crib Making Workshop. Again, we were pleased to have the support of the Beacon Academy Voices, and many Christmas gifts and crafts, books and toys were purchased, alongside the grand Christmas raffle and tombola and of course

Crib scene made by the Lavine Family



cake! Our deepest thanks go out to all who made this such a success. It was wonderful to see the church and church busy with people having fun.

At the same time in Church, Elizabeth led a Crib making workshop, where people could gather ideas to create a festive crib of their own in preparation for one of the last celebratory events of our anniversary year.

We also held our first contemporary Worship event on 30 November, hosting musicians from Resound Worship and the local area to lead us not only in worship but reflection and prayer. Resound Worship is a collective of British worship songwriters, established in 2006, seeking to resource the church with songs that engage heart, mind and soul.



Contemporary Crib Scene

To start our Advent and Christmas celebrations in December we held a Christmas Crib Festival with the challenge of displaying 80 cribs for our 80 years. Everybody in the local community was invited to fill the Church and the Hall with Christmas Crib scenes. The cribs displayed ranged from traditional to homemade ... from pegs to plasticine and it was wonderful to see so many displayed – 87 in all!

To close the festival we joined in with the live BBC Radio Leicester broadcast known as Sing Christmas. Sing Christmas is an interactive sing-along carol concert organised by BBC Radio Leicester, Leicestershire Churches Media and the Diocese of Leicester. This represents a great opportunity to invite people from outside our usual church family, sing songs, share mulled wine, mince pies and cake!

Our own Christmas celebrations started in earnest on the 23rd December with our Carol Service. This was a great opportunity to bring those who may not have heard Jesus' story before as we had lessons and carols, as well as pieces from the singing group that reminded us of the circumstances of his birth once more.

At 4pm on Christmas Eve we held a Messy Christingle and Crib Service. We welcomed a number of families to this service with an opportunity to raise funds for the Children's Society using Christingles and reminding ourselves of the greater narrative of Jesus' life.

Later that day we held our second (in recent times) Midnight Communion service. Midnight Communion at Christmas is a powerful sign that we are adjusting our lives to fit Christmas, and everyone was welcomed to take part in this important event. Our Christmas celebrations concluded with a family communion on Christmas Day.



Crib Scene from Nigeria

RESOURCING CHURCH

Following a 10-month discernment and formal application process, in partnership with Emmanuel Church, we have been successful in our bid to become one of six Resourcing Churches in the Diocese, after a successful bid to the Church Commissioners for strategic development funding for Resourcing Churches in our Diocese.

This has been an important part of church life this year, and much time and resources has been committed to developing this work in partnership with Emmanuel Church

Resourcing Churches, those with the capacity to plant new churches, have been part of Diocesan thinking for about 18 months. In August 2017, The Good Shepherd Church, along with every other parish in the Diocese of Leicester, were invited to an evening at St Martin's House to explore this idea if they wished. Prior to this meeting Sue had already met with Revd Michael Broadley, Rector of Emmanuel Church, to discuss the possibility of working together somehow, to minister to the many people on the new Grange Park Estate, which is in our parish.

Along with Bishop Martyn and the Mission and Ministry Team, we carefully explored the issues associated with planting a new church as well as the overall concept of working in partnership and in June both PCCs ratified a memorandum of Understanding, a document which explains how we will work together in this project.

We are planning to plant at least two churches within the next 6 years in partnership with Emmanuel Church.

The first will be on the Grange Park Estate and around two years later, the second in the Beacon Academy Area; both will be in the Good Shepherd Parish. Alongside this we intend to plant some fresh expressions of church in both of our parishes. Overall, it is recognised that Emmanuel has more resources and the Good Shepherd has good relationships which, when used together, will enable these Church plants to develop.

This is an exciting, as well as a daunting venture as we look forward to seeing what God can do amongst us.

COMMUNITY LINKS

The Wednesday Friendly Group continue to meet regularly in the Church Hall, led by Barry and Sandra Lockwood. The group continues to follow a pattern of a time of worship, then a speaker or indoor/outdoor activity before sharing in refreshments together. The group has a sustained a strong emphasis on pastoral care as members care for each other in between meetings.

During the year, the Tots of Fun group has continued to use the Church Hall on Fridays in term-time and Sue and Elizabeth join them once a month to lead a craft activity and story session.

The Stage Group continue to enjoy productions in May and December and this year's pantomime was called 'Pan goes to Oz and Back Again'! The proceeds from the Panto are given to charity, over £2000 once again this year. Many other groups use our Church Hall each week and we are encouraged by their support.

The local Chinese Methodist Church also continue to use the buildings on Sunday afternoons for their worship and for their bible study groups. They now have their own minister; the Reverend Calvin Cheung and we look forward to see how we might work together in the future.

Rev Sue Willetts continues to serve on both the Shelthorpe Community Association and the Haddon Way Residents Association committees. This enables the church to pray for on-going situations brought to these associations' attention but also to be involved in community activities.

This year the Grange Park Centre Committee, of which Sue is also a member, have managed to secure planning permission and funding to build a community centre on land owned by William Davis'. This is an incredibly important development in the life of the parish, and we're excited about the possibilities it presents to us as church.

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

As we have focussed on our anniversary year there have been lots of opportunities to invite friends and neighbours to events and services that have showcased our church and community life together. A number of people have begun to attend some of our services through these opportunities and we are encouraged to continue ensuring our invitation work.

In June and early July and again in September to October Ken Rotter visited the ship Logos Hope as it was based in Central America, which is a converted ferry housing 400 plus young Christians from over 60 nations. They volunteer for two years or more to receive training in practical Christian living, Bible study, prayer, and sharing the good news. Ken goes to train those assigned to the engine department. They share in watchkeeping under the professional engineers, minding the machinery which keeps the ship running even in port.

Our strong links with Beacon Academy through the 'Pray, Bake, Read!' scheme have also continued - many thanks to all those who regularly bake cakes for Beacon Academy Staffroom. Sue regularly takes assemblies at both Beacon Academy and Outwoods' Edge School. A small team also lead a Monday Lunch Club at Beacon Academy for children in Years 4 and 5 – this has proved a challenging experience, but a small, regular group of children attend and they are also linking, with their families, into Messy Church.

DEVELOPMENTS

We continue to pray regularly for the streets in our parish with our Prayer Board and information given to all church members. We have also developed a regular Parish Prayer Breakfast, usually held on the Second Saturday of the month. We have a very tasty, simple breakfast together – usually in the vestibule – and then we pray together. Each month we focus our prayer on a specific area of life in our parish.

Another contemporary service has been in development during the year too. *Breathing Space* is our take on the Café Church format. *Breathing Space* is an opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life, take time to breathe and consider big questions: Why are we here? Who is God?

Our aim is for this service to have a relaxed and informal café style, which meets once a month on a Sunday afternoon and is easily accessed by those with little or no church background. This service is almost a year old, and we're constantly reviewing its success to see that it meets the needs of those attending.

MINISTRY AND PRAYER

Our service pattern has continued both on Sundays and weekdays with a variety of people leading and preaching to help us all in our everyday discipleship. We followed a few series of sermons this year, in Epiphany we considered 'Who is this man?'; during Lent as already shared we considered 'a life worth living?'; in June and July we worked through the books of I and II Samuel thinking about Samuel and David; over the summer our preachers shared some of their favourite Proverbs with us and then in October we looked at some parts of the book of Hebrews alongside Mark's gospel.

Our monthly Evening Prayer service has taken several forms over the year, from formal services to informal communions as well as focussing on the work of some organisations that we support, for instance the Gideons' and the Logos Hope ship.

Our monthly 'Messy Church' congregation continues to grow and develop with grateful thanks to the team who put in so much work each month.

The Singing Group have continued to support our worship and encourage us all to learn new songs. We are grateful too, to our musicians and Audio-Visual Technicians, whose skills enhance our worship week by week.

The Ladies Homegroup has continued to meet on Thursday afternoons, studying I and 2 Samuel, the life of David, using some guides from the Good Books Company. Now they are working through Luke's Gospel. Each meeting includes some worship, Bible Study, and prayer for each other and more. During the year two new members joined the group and everyone said goodbye to Linda Tozer moving to pastures new.

Communion is regularly taken to our now housebound members, and those in nursing homes, by Sue, Elizabeth and our reader Jackie Rotter.

ANGLICAN AND ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Church is a member of the Akeley East Deanery in the Diocese of Leicester, as well as a member of the Loughborough Area Mission Partnership (LAMP). We are also part of the Loughborough Churches Partnership. The Church Leaders from this partnership meet monthly for breakfast, sharing good practice and information about events that all can share in. There is also a regular Forum which includes a wider group from the 26 or so churches involved in the Partnership.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We continue our links with the local ATC through their Chaplain, the Rev Rosie Whitley. This year they held their regular Parade Service in February, supported our Battle of Britain Service in September and held their annual Carol Service at the Good Shepherd in early December. Members of our congregation were invited to each of these occasions.

During the year groups of children from both Beacon Academy and Outwoods' Edge Schools have visited the church for educational visits as well as Sue, Elizabeth and others visiting them in school too.

Although we have very few children come to our Sunday services, those who do keep us on our toes, so to speak, with some very challenging questions, some great responses to the activities provided for them and some very beautiful smiles!

MISSION PARTNERS

A box continues to be placed in Church for food contributions to a local food bank which is organised and managed by the Carpenters' Arms. We are grateful to those who ensure the continued delivery of our items. The tinned and dry-goods food from our Harvest Celebrations were also donated to this regular collection.

We continue to support Peter and Martina Morris working for Arab World Ministries. They have now moved from Paris to Germany. We also support the True Vine Trust in a variety of ways, as well as other more local charities from time to time.

The PCC is of a mind to review our financial giving at the beginning of the new council's term of office.

BUILDING

During the year, the buildings have been cared for by a willing group of people whose DIY skills have helped to ensure that the church and the hall are maintained to the highest of standards. The church grounds are also kept in good order by others with more 'green' fingers!

Without the support and dedication of all these people, our financial expenditure would be much more and therefore, we wish to offer them our very sincere thanks for all they do.

In particular the kitchen hatch area in the Church Hall has been refurbished and approval gained from Environmental Health for its on-going use in preparing and serving food subject to the appropriate regulations.

The PCC is also in the process of pursuing the installation of signage to the front of the building. We hope to install the name of the Church to the front of the building so that people can find us more easily and highlight our position within the community. This is a lengthy process and we are working with the Charnwood Borough Council and Leicester Diocese to get this work completed as soon as possible.

VOLUNTEERS

Again, it is very important that we express our grateful thanks to all our volunteers for all that they do to encourage our life together but especially:

- all those who help with Messy Church throughout the year
- all those who care for the Church building and the Church grounds, and deal with hall bookings
- all those who decorate the Church week by week with flowers and at Celebration times, and especially Edie Smithson for coordinating this for us
- all those who help with services each week in any way, particularly our sides people, those who look after the laundry and ensuring we have everything that we need for our worship each week
- all those who pray for the ongoing mission and ministry in our Parish

In fact, thanks to everyone for being you and contributing in the ways you do!!

INFORMATION FROM OUR CHURCH REGISTERS

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

We have celebrated the baptisms of two children and one adult, there have been no weddings, but we continue to read Banns for many couples and always pray for them and send them a card to celebrate their wedding and invite them to future events at the church.

We have also helped twelve families with funerals held both in our church (2) and at the local crematorium (10) this year. Cards continue to be sent to families at the time of their bereavement and on the first

anniversary. Invitations were also sent to these families for our All Souls' Memorial Service, many attended and afterwards commented how helpful these services had been.

Amongst those families that we have supported during the year were the families of some church members who we sadly now miss, including the late John Cheshire, Nigel Lapham, and Jessie Pugh.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representations Rules. At the Good Shepherd Church, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, readers, deanery synod representatives and up to nine representatives elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services and members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Anyone is very welcome to attend our regular services. At present, there are 84 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 31 are not resident within the parish. 8 names were added during the year and 3 were removed either through death or because they moved away from the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October and including our Messy Church congregation, was 73, but our services at festival times have again been much busier.

The PCC normally meets as a body at least 6 times a year, this year however, we met 8 times with 2 extraordinary meetings.

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

During the year we have had to undertake some very important work especially around the issues of safeguarding, ensuring all our policies are up to date and fit for purpose as well as ensuring that they are very easy to find on our website, and implementing the new General Data Protection Regulations.

The Good Shepherd Church is situated on Park Road, Loughborough, LE11 2HJ. It is part of the Diocese of Leicester within the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PERSONNEL

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2018 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex-officio Members

- Incumbent: Rev Sue Willetts
- Curate: Rev Elizabeth York
- Warden: Ed Grainger
- Warden: Nuhad Aboulela
- Reader: Paul Chung
- Reader: Jackie Rotter

Deanery Synod Representatives

- Linda Tozer Secretary to the PCC (until August 2018)
- *Vacancy*

Elected Members

- Laurence Emmitt Treasurer for the PCC
- John Cheetham
- Michael Devlin Deputy Churchwarden
- Jeannette Green
- Ken Rotter

- Mark Smith Secretary to the PCC (co-opted from July 2018 to APCM for 2019)
- Diane Fairbairn (from 26 April 2018 for one-year term)
- *Vacancy*
- *Vacancy*
- *Vacancy*

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Our principal bankers are CAF Bank (part of the Charities Aid Foundation) at 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ. We also have deposits with CCLA, that is the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Deposit Fund and with the Loughborough Building Society. The Stage Group uses Lloyds Bank.

Rosemary Duke has been appointed as our Independent Examiner for the year 2018.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 2018

The Financial Statements show that the balance of the General Fund has increase during the year by £2152. However, to understand the Churches true financial performance some explanations are needed. Firstly, it should be noted that this includes a Legacy from Joyce Hewitt, which has been designated for special purposes. Also, £152 is due to the Children's Society. Thus, if adjustment is made for those two factors, we merely broke even, however there is a change in our financial practices which must also be explained.

In last year's review I projected for 2018 a deficit of £4000. I maintained that forecast throughout most of the year. When therefore, early in the year, we were asked to make our gift promise to the Diocese for 2019 the PCC had a difficult decision to make. We did not feel able to maintain our previous policy of increasing it each year in line with the rate of inflation but were reluctant to reduce our giving. I pointed out the Hall Fund was consistently generating an increase in funds. We decided that whilst the accumulated Hall Fund should not be touched it would be reasonable to use this year's increase to support the General Fund. In previous years the Hall has contributed £2000 to the General Funds, whereas in 2018 it has contributed £4533, thus before this subsidy the General Fund showed a deficit of £2533. Better than the £4000, I was forecasting, thanks to Fund Raising Events and some generous gifts in the later part of the year, but still is a point for concern.

For 2019, I am again projecting a potential deficit of £4000. With this in mind there remains a need for the congregation to review generously their level of giving and for us to consider how else we might increase our income.

The Parish Giving Scheme (under which giving is collected by Direct Debit) has proved to be a great success. If you have not already joined, I would ask you to consider whether the Parish Giving Scheme would be appropriate for you. If not, the Envelope Scheme and Plate Giving remain important ways for you to give.

I regret due to my illness, the Independent Inspection of the Accounts has not been completed, but I remain confident the numbers I quote are accurate.

To conclude I would like to thank John Cheetham, Cashier and Anissa Chung, Gift Aid Officer, without their support, I could not cope.

Laurence Emmitt

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to completely unforeseen circumstances, our independently examined accounts for the year 2018 are not currently available, meaning that we have no financial statements to consider as part of our Annual Report at present. Having taken advice from the Diocesan Operations Manager, this is the procedure we are to follow as soon as practically possible:

When the accounts have been approved by the Parochial Church Council, an Extraordinary Parochial Church Meeting will be called.

The approved Financial Statements will then be made available in Church for no less than seven days, including one Sunday, before the date of the said Extraordinary Parochial Church Meeting.

At the said Extraordinary Parochial Church Meeting there will be the normal presentation of the financial affairs of the Parish.