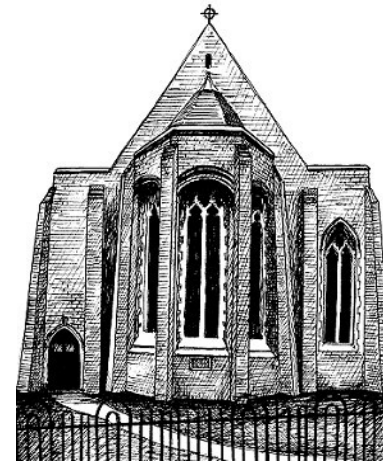


# St Peter & St John's Church

*Closer to God  
Closer to each other  
Closer to the community*

*...and on this  
rock I will  
build my  
church...*



*The place that's  
going to be the  
place to be...*

**Annual Report  
2017**

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The first part of 'Project Welcome' building work was started towards the end of the year, relocating the toilets, as part of a wider plan (subject to funding being available) to change the Entry door, install a lift to the balcony, relocate and improve the toilets and create a screened off area upstairs. Thanks to all who have been involved.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY & SAFEGUARDING

**Yvonne Rollins**

I am pleased to report that there have been no issues this year. All those who needed to, have completed C0 training, with C1 courses completed for those who worked with children or other areas requiring this certificate

### READER REPORT

**Kenneth Timson**

I continue to preach about once a month. I organise our two or three hospital Services each year, my thanks to the small band of regular helpers. I take Holy Communion to the Care centre every other month. The "Hour at the Cross" on Good Friday, and the All Souls Service are also important dates in my Church year.

I complete my 50 years as a Reader ( Licensed lay Minister) in June this year, and I hope many of you will be able to join me in celebrating on the morning of June 10th.

### HOSPITAL SERVICES REPORT

**Kenneth Timson**

St. Peter & St. John's was responsible for two hospital services last year, in April and September. The usual stalwarts supported us. Peter playing the piano to accompany our singing, Linda, David and June assisting with readings, prayers and the "joining up" bits. Linda also did the talk in September. We are supported by three or four others, who were very welcome. The service is broadcast to all wards by the hospital radio. It would be really great to have a few more people coming along to give a boost to our singing. The services, starting at 2.15p.m, last approx. twenty-five minutes, so there is plenty of the afternoon left to do other things. A way of reaching out and supporting those in hospital.

### DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

**Yvonne Rollins**

These meetings take place 4 times a year, and are taken back to PCC to discuss. The talks are varied and include Bishops Council Report. At the moment we are discussing the Rugby Deanery Plan. We have been selected to be the first deanery to have an overall plan for the future. This involves Parish Boundaries, Parish Shares and stipendary/non stipendary Vicars, not to mention Churches, facilities, Parish vicarages. There is so much going on 'behind the scenes' that we are not fully aware of. All will be revealed at a later date!

## **MESSY CHURCH**

**Revd. Sheila Bridge**

changed format in 2017. Having noticed that numbers were dwindling for the early evening slot monthly on a Tuesday we met for the last time in February at this time. After the Easter Good Friday messy church workshop, we then met in the June summer half term for a morning slot. Although numbers were very low at this initial session, offering one messy church every school holiday has gradually picked up more and more members. It is also a simplified format which doesn't require a meal, allowing us to concentrate on the crafts and story/worship time. Holiday club was held from the 1st to 3rd August and it went really well, a particular joy as Sheila wasn't well and unable to be part of it.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Revd. Sheila Bridge**

We have continued to meet on the alternative months when PCC does not meet. We are comprised of Sheila, the two churchwardens, the PCC secretary and the treasurer. We meet over a meal, generally on a Monday evening and report back to PCC.

## **CHURCHWARDENS REPORT**

**Clive Jones**

It has now been four years with our Minister Rev. Sheila Bridge, and St. Peter & St John as a Conventional District. Our thanks go to her for the work put in during the year. The format of services has changed slightly this year, with innovation to the Family service (including Children's Choir) on the 1st Sunday of the month and a change to the music format of 2nd and 4th Sunday services.

The number of 8am services has remained steady at 2/3 per month. It is essential that we conserve our time resources to use them most effectively for growth.

Natural Church Development has been ongoing with the latest survey completed during the summer. Our thanks go to all those who have contributed to and attended our regular services and activities during the year, including the Scout, Beaver and Cub leaders. Also for those involved in the Garden beds.

There has not been any requirement for major building maintenance. Various maintenance items have been attended to during the year. The lighting issues still to be resolved; unfortunately some of these are at a serious height and a cost effective solution has yet to be found. The heating system has operated successfully and has raised ambient temperatures inside the whole building and in the Hall in particular. Heating oil consumption is a concern.

Music during the earlier part of the year was provided entirely by our resident organist, Peter Lock and our thanks go for his efforts in maintaining the organ equipment. John and Helen Merrigan have now taken over the provision of music for about half our services.

## **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

**To be held in Church - Sunday 15th April 2018 at 11.30am**

### **AGENDA**

Election of Churchwardens

## **ST. PETER & ST. JOHN'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**To be held in Church - Sunday 15th April 2018 at 11.40am**

### **AGENDA**

1. OPENING PRAYERS
2. PRESENT/APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. MINUTES of PREVIOUS AGM – Sunday 23rd April 2017
4. MATTERS ARISING
5. TREASURERS REPORT and PRESENTATION of ACCOUNTS
6. REPORTS:
  - CLOSER TO GOD
  - CLOSER TO EACH OTHER
  - CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY
  - CLERGY REPORT
7. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS
  - PCC Members (4)
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Please notify 24 hours before meeting.
9. CLOSING PRAYERS

**MEETING OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS  
AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON  
SUNDAY 23rd APRIL 2017 AT 11.30AM IN THE CHURCH**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:**

Election of Churchwardens: There were two nominations: Clive Jones and Yvonne Rollins. Clive, nominated by David Wakling and seconded by Peter Lock; Yvonne, nominated by David Wakling and seconded by Margaret Mortimore (see nominations sheet). All were in favour and Clive and Yvonne were duly elected. Sheila expressed her thanks to Clive and Yvonne, and appreciated all they do, much of which is 'behind the scenes'.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**1) PRESENT/APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Present: Revd. Sheila Bridge (Chair), and 20 members of the congregation including Churchwarden Yvonne Rollins. Apologies: Clive Jones and Christine Oakley.

**2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS APCM –24th MARCH 2016:** Proposed by Joyce Higgs and seconded by Ken Timson - the minutes were accepted as a true record of that meeting and duly signed by the Reverend Bridge.

**3) MATTERS ARISING;** None.

**4) TRESURERS REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS:**  
(the written report is reproduced here).

**St Peters & St Johns Church, Rugby  
Financial report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016  
Income & Expenditure**

**Income**

The total income for the year is £80,189 compared to £124,243 in 2015. Last year's income included £40,369 money raised for Project Welcome. This year grants received from the Diocese to enable us to pay the Parish share totalled £13,000 compared to over £16,000 last year. Unfortunately the income from donors has decreased by just over £800 in the year. Income on both hall lettings and fund raising has increased.

**Expenditure**

The total expenditure is £81,168 compared to £87,799 in 2015. Our full Parish share was £54,262 which increased by £2500 on last year. Costs for heat and lighting also increased.

The charitable giving includes payments agreed at our PCC meeting.

The major purchases during the year included the renewal of downpipes and guttering on this building. There were also payments made for professional fees on Project Welcome totalling £5751.

The accounts show a surplus of £2,179 on our General reserves.

group during Advent on Thursday mornings. These are all ways in which we have encouraged newcomers into a deeper understanding of faith. Worship for All continues to be the main service reaching out to newcomers although we have seen new people coming along to all services, apart from the 8 o'clock. Our NCD survey was completed with support from Gail Richmond in July 2017.

**Transforming Communities:** we continue to offer many groups which act as a stepping stone into our community: **PJ Veg Beds**, once a month on Saturday mornings continued to encourage gardening but also created good new connections in our community. Angela Brown has done a great job of heading this up and has also become our church 'Eco-Champion' as we signed up to the diocesan scheme encouraging us to be more environmentally aware in terms of our building and surroundings. In 2017 a monthly '**Cake Coffee and Craft**' group began as another way of reaching out to those in our community who might find themselves socially isolated. On Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> we held a **Community Day** from 10 till 2 PM which was well supported and at which Andy Duncan was able to offer feedback on the feasibility study which had been done in the earlier part of the summer (See Project Welcome report). **ESOL classes** at Easter 2017 we were able to begin a weekly ESOL class, which was free to participants. The take-up for this was very good and we were able to pay for a teacher for one year from the Awards for All Money which also paid for the feasibility study. Other groups such as **Knit and Natter** and the **Wednesday lunch** continue to connect with our community.

**PROJECT WELCOME**

**Revd. Sheila Bridge**

The most important progress to note in 2017 was the completion of our feasibility study by Andy Duncan on our behalf which was made possible by the grant we had received from Awards for All. Following on from this the next important steps were going ahead with phase 1 of the building work which began on Oct 23rd 2017. At the time of compiling this report (February 2018) the work on phase 1 is approximately three weeks away from completion. During the course of 2017 significant awards were received from Awards for All (in Dec 2016) £10,000, WREN (May 2017) £45,000 and the National Churches Trust £10,000 (July 2017) as well as other smaller awards from the All Churches Trust £2,200 and the '29th May 1961' £5,000 and the Rank Foundation £6,000. Towards the end of 2017 a group of interested people from both church and the community met to plan a Reaching Communities Bid which was submitted in January 2018. The community day in September 2017 was an important moment to feedback to our community. Fundraising continues towards phase 2 and in December 2017 an appeal letter went out to 176 different charities/organisations. At the date of writing £3,000 has been received from Edward Cadbury Trust and 5 other fund-raising bids are underway (Reaching Communities, Suez, Baron Davenport, Charlotte Marshall Trust, Joseph Rank Trust). We very much appreciate the hard work and support of both John Scouller and Andy Duncan who have worked with us towards these grants.

## COFFEE, CAKE & CRAFT

Margaret Mortimore

Coffee, Cake and Craft takes place on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the church hall from 10am to 11.30. Primarily a coffee morning, there is a quiet reflective area and the option to try your hand at a craft. If you are looking for a relaxing, friendly atmosphere, please come along.

## 200 CLUB

Stella Jones

There were 44 members last year, each with two numbers. Each month £40 in prizes was paid out, and at the end of the year the balance goes to Church Funds. In 2017 this amounted to £92.52. In view of the reducing number of members, and the closure of the Ladies Group it was decided to cease the club at the end of the year. Thank you to all the members who have contributed over the years.

## CLERGY AND OFFICERS REPORTS

### VICAR'S REPORT ON 2017

Revd. Sheila Bridge

Using the three diocesan goals as our map or compass, we have made progress in the following ways:

**Worshipping God:** there were no major changes to the times of services on offer in 2017 but at the July PCC meeting a decision was taken to work towards having a more consistent modern style of worship in every service. This transition was greatly facilitated by the commitment from John and Helen Merrigan to join us on two Sundays a month from September 2017.

The 8 o'clock service continues to be appreciated by those who regularly attend, an average of 6 or 7. Some of those who now find the early morning to difficult have transferred to the Wednesday lunchtime weekly communion where numbers have stayed steady between 9-12.

Particular highlights during the year were hosting the **Service of Unity for Revive at Pentecost** and the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration** on June 25<sup>th</sup> recalling 25 years since St John's and St Peter's were combined. The autumn term began with a sermon series on 'An Ordinary Day with Jesus'. This material and theme was chosen in response to our third and final NCD survey which was done in the summer which continue to show that the quality of Passionate Spirituality was still our lowest factor. In 2016-2017 we had addressed this through encouraging Bible reading. Our goals to address this in 2017-2018 are all focused on developing our own inner resources and particularly our prayer life. Sheila would particularly like to thank those who have taken services from time to time: Hilary Iredale, Clive Harper, Malcolm Garrett and Margaret Simmonds.

**Making Disciples:** in June and July 2017 Sheila led the Keeping Health in Mind course for the third time. Sheila and David have continued to host a biweekly small-group on a Thursday evening and Sheila led a daytime small-

## Investments

The church continues to hold shares and deposit accounts with the CBF Church of England funds. The shares have increased in their market value since last year therefore the total value shown is now £19,554. The balance held on the CBF deposit account is £17,295.

The money held by Lloyds bank is £987 in the church current account, £5866 on deposit account and £1785 on the current account for Project Welcome. The account with Virgin direct for Project Welcome had a balance of £31,043 at 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Funds held at year end include the fund for major repair/renovation work of £8068 and £35327 for Project Welcome. A new fund for the Veg beds group has been introduced with £1000 received from Rugby Borough Council.

## Review of Activities

The main impact on our income has been the decrease in grants received from the Diocese although despite this we have made a surplus on the general account.

The accounts have been examined and approved by the trustees of this PCC on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017

Sheila thanked Linda for all her hard work and she was given a round of applause.

**6) REPORTS:** Sheila commented that the reports were a full summary of a lot of work and expressed her thanks to all those who prepared them.

Questions/comments from the floor: It was recognized that the Women's Fellowship was coming to an end and it was asked that the meeting recognize Marjorie Simms for all her work organizing it in the past

The acceptance of the reports was proposed by Yvonne Rollins, seconded by Linda Wakeling, all in favour. Sheila also mentioned that she was looking to streamline the reports for next year.

**7) VICARS REPORT:** Sheila recognized that the church is at a cross-roads with the various funding bids, such as WREN and the National Churches Trust. If successful Phase 1 should be possible (moving toilets, creation of meeting room and possibly the centre door into Church) but more money will be required for Phase 2 (knocking down the door). She thanked all those who had contributed. However Church was more than growing a building, we also need to grow spiritually and numerically. To this end a number of initiatives are planned such as re-running the keeping health in mind, Veg Beds, School Worship group and Children's choir. ESOL classes are due to start shortly.

Again looking forward at the end of May, Sheila is looking to hosting another Business Leaders Breakfast, They Kingdom Come course will also start later May and on the 4<sup>th</sup> June Revive will hold a service at PJ's. She is also looking at

running a beginners course in the Autumn along the lines of Alpha She finished by pointing out that 'we are all in this together' and thanked all those that contributed so much to the life of the Church. Yvonne also thanked Sheila for here hard work over the year.

**8) ELECTIONS:** The following were elected to the PCC for a three year term:-  
Christine Oakley (Proposed David Bridge, seconded Linda Wakling),  
Peter Lock (Proposed David Bridge, seconded Margaret Mortimore)  
Margaret Copperwheat (Proposed David Bridge, seconded Margaret Mortimore).  
Linda Wakeling (Proposed David Bridge, Seconded Margaret Mortimore)  
All were in favour.

Spencer Gardner Dickens were elected Independent Examiners of the accounts (Proposed Linda Wakeling, seconded Yvonne Rollins), all in favour.

**9) AOB;** It was noted that Wed 28<sup>th</sup> July will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Peter and St. John coming into existence as a church.

**10) CLOSE:** The congregation sang the hymn 'To God Be The Glory'.

social events such as quiz evenings, the Christmas Bazaar and Summer Community days. We are continuing to receive enquiries from groups who would like to use the hall for regular bookings but unfortunately are currently having to say no due to the calendar already being full. The hall continues to be booked on a regular basis for parties and celebration events. The hall has also been used for one off meetings by local allotment associations and continues to be used by Rugby Borough Council as a polling station.

The church itself is becoming well known in Rugby as a venue for music concerts with a number of local bands and orchestras making enquiries about using the space; successful concerts for RMU, Bilton Silver Band and the Saturday lunchtime summer concerts continue to be a regular feature on the calendar and in July the Rococo Players will holding a concert. It is my aim to increase the use of the church as a venue for concerts in Rugby as this could provide a good source of income for the church during times when it is not usually being used. It is also a good way of increasing the profile of the church across the local area.

The church and hall bookings have been impacted upon to some extent by the recent building work for phase 1 of Project Welcome, with some bookings having to be turned down; however it is envisaged that once the new extension is complete this will benefit all users. It is my intention to relaunch and advertise the hall and church as a venue that can be booked once phase 1 is completed.

The revenue from hiring out the hall and church is an important part of church income. We are in a position where we are competing with other community venues for business therefore it is essential that the building and its upkeep is maintained to a good standard at all times to create a warm, clean and welcoming environment that people want to use. The modernization of the building through Project Welcome will be crucial to ensure the longevity of the hall and church as a venue that people in Rugby want to use and spend time in. It is hoped that it will provide a modern and flexible building that a wide group of users can access and essentially, can provide the church with a substantial regular income from bookings.

## **WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LUNCHES**

**Yvonne Rollins**

We have continued to meet every Wednesday (apart from the week after Christmas) after Communion and have had a varied number of people and different menus. We now have five cooks on a rota system, one week, main course followed by pudding on the next. Then three weeks off! Our numbers vary from 6 to 12 and jump to over 20 on special occasions. Anyone else fancying cooking for a crowd would be welcome to join us, just see me!

## **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

**Revd Sheila Bridge**

We were delighted to be able to invite Melody Heath to be our Children's Choir Leader in the summer of 2017. She came along and helped us initially at our summer children's holiday club. The choir has attracted a steady number of children (7-9) as well as their associated family members to our Worship for All Services. The formula of a single simple song being prepared and performed on the same morning, along with fun and snacks and tea and coffee for the parents, has seemed to be successful. We hope to continue on this success in the coming year.

## **MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP**

**Yvonne Rollins**

Thanks to a grant from Smart Start, we were able to fund a new initiative of an extra group on Fridays, focusing on soft play. This started on April 28th. We have two new members of staff who concentrate on Fridays, but we need more help, especially in the kitchen. We have bought a great deal of soft play equipment which taxes our brains in getting it back in the right place, but can now be hired out for children's parties. The Wednesday group continues to thrive with 6 volunteers. There is talk of a Monday session, but again we need volunteers. Please see me if you are able to help.

## **KNIT AND NATTER**

**Sarah Barker**

This group is thriving: 15 members with average attendance of about 12 each Tuesday morning. All sorts of items are created, many for charity such as baby blankets and twiddle muffs for dementia patients, these were recently collected by St Cross hospital. The group enjoyed a Christmas Social at Blooms. It is funding itself and has also been able to donate £50 to Zoe's Place - a Hospice for Children.

## **HALL BOOKINGS**

**Angela Brown**

I took over the role of Church Hall Coordinator in August 2017 from Mandy Clewlow. Mandy did a great job of compiling a list of charges for the hall and setting up a bookings system so my thanks go to her for making my transition into the role much easier.

Over the last year the number of regular groups using the hall has gone up. The hall now has a regular timetable of weekly users including the uniformed groups, knit and natter, miniaturists, men's breakfast, PJs veg beds, Wednesday Community lunch, PJs Toddler group on a Wednesday and PJs Soft play group on a Friday morning. Regular users who have joined us on a weekly basis in the last year include a Samba band, a Flamenco class, a children's dance class and coffee and crafts. The hall is also used for the Messy Church group held during the school holidays and of course is used on a regular basis by ourselves for refreshments after church and church related

## **CLOSER TO GOD**

*Worshipping and praising God in our variety of church services are the primary activities we as Christians engage in. Yet by no means is secondary following Jesus' teachings, as did the disciples, enriching our faith by acts of service in his name:*

## **PRAYER REPORT**

**Linda Wakeling**

The prayer group usually meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month to pray for situations and people who we know are in need of prayer. We invited old friends of PJs to lead us in our prayer meetings last year as well as one of the group leading occasionally. We joined in with the Prayer day held for Project Welcome last February and also with the daily prayer held between Ascension and Whitsun.

We were again fortunate to meet as a group in the Quiet garden at St Mark's church in Bilton last July. This enables us to spend time alone in prayer and reflection in beautifully quiet surroundings and then we closed the time with prayer inside St Marks church.

Marjorie & I visited another St Marks church (this time in Leamington) last December when Bishop John led a Quiet day. It was good to meet there and pray with others in our Diocese.

## **ORGAN & KEYBOARDS REPORT**

**Peter Lock**

Most of the Organ was made in 1889 by Bevingtons for Quex Road Methodist Church London and are now 129 years old. Following electrification of the action in 1965, after 53 years here at St Peter & St John, as reported before, full stop control, on the Swell organ has failed. In addition, some coupler action and some casework pipes no longer work. Some of the bellows nearing the end of their life & the high notes on the Great Flute are unplayable due to lack of wind. Richard Young tuned the Organ twice, a standard half day tuning in May and a FULL tuning in late August just before Tim Campain's PJ Saturday Music Recital. Richard came again in December & replaced a broken Clarinet Pipe which had been repaired in October. He also reset and tuned the Reed on Tenor A on the Main Trumpet Stop.

Our Yamaha P120 keyboard works well. We must thank John Merrigan for his generous donation of this instrument and the continuing loan of his small PA amp, microphone stands and some Microphones, these are all proving very useful with the reformed and expanding Music Group on 2nd and 4th Sundays

The Baby Grand Piano was very popular with a number of visiting performers especially the pianists in the Young Musicians May PJ Saturday music concert. The PCC have discussed the Grand Piano and agreed its Sale after 6th May – offers invited. However, a replacement instrument would be a good idea if we are to provide a worthy acoustic instrument for income generating concerts. So, if

you know of anyone who might like to donate an overstrung Upright in reasonable condition or a modern weighted key action Digital instrument we may be interested.

The Grand Piano was tuned twice, and the Vestry Piano retuned to Concert Pitch with some strings replaced by Guy Cross.

## CHOIR DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Yvonne Rollins

The Choir has diligently performed each Sunday and continues to lead the congregation in vocal praise of God. Lack of numbers and ill health has meant that there are times when full harmony is not possible. However with Peter's help on organ and piano, Helen and John's leading on the second and fourth Sundays, we continue to do our best. Our carol service this year was a challenge as we were two members short. As ever, we would welcome any new members, just turn up at 10am on Sunday.

### **CLOSER TO EACH OTHER**

***Some of our activities are primarily for church members and should help us to grow closer to each other. But remember that the purpose of this is not just to have a nice time with "people like us", but should equip us for work in the world:***

## HOME GROUPS

Linda Wakeling

Our home group meet on a Friday morning & have followed several different courses over the years.

Last year we used the Lent course 'Finding a voice' based on the film about King George VI called 'The King's Speech' by Hilary Brand & in the autumn we used the book 'An ordinary day with Jesus' looking at our own daily spiritual journey. This Lent, along with several other groups in the town, we are using the book '40 stories of hope' based on the stories of faith that have changed prisoners' lives.

Another home group meet regularly on a Wednesday evening and have followed several bible study courses over the last year.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Yvonne Rollins

The Social Committee have been busy over the past year on your behalf, having regular meetings, usually in Pat's house (thank you) Most of our efforts have been in aid of Project Welcome. We held a Fashion Show in July The Christmas Fete was also very good this year with a visit from Santa and Santa's Workshop a definite 'must see'. If you missed it, it will hopefully be there again next year. We catered for all the lunchtime recitals on the first Saturday of the month and provided refreshments for our Community Day in September. Again, we hosted the Christian Aid lunch in October. Any help either by coming on the committee or

by offers of help at functions would be most welcome as would suggestions for fund raising. My thanks to the hard working members of the committee who have helped and supported in every way possible.

## LADIES GROUP

Joyce Higgs

This report is given with great sadness as it was agreed at the Annual General Meeting in July, that the Ladies Group should close after 60 years.

The decision was made mainly because the number of members had decreased considerably, therefore making it more difficult to cover expenses from our annual subscriptions.

During the year we have had some very interesting speakers covering a wide variety of topics. In May, we had an outing to Stratford-upon-Avon and after the Annual General Meeting in July we held a cheese and wine party. Sheila took a lovely moving service for us in Church on 16th October followed by refreshments and a cake. In November most of the remaining members enjoyed afternoon tea together at Blooms Garden Centre.

Margaret, our Treasurer, has compiled Post Annual General Meeting Accounts and these have been audited by Bert our Auditor. It was agreed at the Annual General Meeting that any remaining funds should be sent to The Fishermen's Mission and The Children's Liver Disease Foundation. I am pleased to report that £175.21 has been sent to the two Charities and both donations have been acknowledged and received with thanks. Our Group may have closed but I know that our friendship will continue and we will always have happy memories of the time we shared together.

### **CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY**

***Our activities do not divide neatly into separate compartments. God's world does not divide into 'us' and 'them'; all of us are his children, equally loved by him. But these activities are the less church ones in which we welcome all comers to share his house.***

## St Andrew's Benn school

Revd Sheila Bridge

In 2017, Sheila continued to lead a 'Leading Worship' group for Key stage 2 children on Monday lunchtimes with the support of Margaret Mortimore and Rachael Coysh. The children were enthusiastic and enabled to lead worship in both assemblies and end of term services and to some extent at our Worship for All services. During the year Wendy Coleman, the children and families worker from St Andrew's Church, began to help and Sheila was pleased to hand over the weekly running of this group to Wendy from September 2017. Sheila continues to take assemblies regularly and the school comes to church at the end of every term for a service. The school now has a community room and holds twice weekly coffee mornings for parents, Sheila pops in from time to time.