



The Church of The Good Shepherd Annual Report 2016-2017

**We hope you will enjoy reading what went on in our church
in 2016**

**But the report only covers the past! If you want to know
what is happening at The Good Shepherd NOW and what is
planned for the future, go to our webpage**

www.churchofthegoodshepherd.co.uk

and make sure you don't miss out.

**During this past year we have joined with Kettle's Yard in
organising activities in Arbury. The cover photos which
were taken by Kettles Yard show some of what we have been
doing.**

WHO ARE WE?

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	
Assistant Curate	Rev. Judith Gretton-Dann	
Assistant Curate	Rev. Rachel Blanchflower	
Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	
Assistant Curate	Rev. Harry Rose	
Licensed Lay Minister	Linda Dean	
Licensed Lay Minister	Terry Barringer (from October 2016)	
Authorised Lay Minister (Admin & Music)	Ruth Banger	
Authorised Lay Minister (Pastoral Care)	Lilas Davison	
Authorised Lay Minister (Social Awareness)	Liz Collinson	
Churchwarden	Fiona Blows	
Churchwarden	Philip Morris	
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	
PCC Vice Chairman	Fiona Blows	
PCC Secretary	Ruth Banger	
PCC Treasurer	Jinty Keir	
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Lilas Davison	
Deanery Synod Representative	Ruth Banger	
Deanery Synod Representative	Ginni Carroll (until November 2016)	
PCC Members	Terry Barringer	
	Paula Carter	
	Esther Choolun	
	Liz Collinson	
	Hazel Maher	
	Alison Phillips	
	Jinty Keir (co-opted March 2015 – April 2016)	
	Jinty Keir (elected from 2016)	
	Ruby Leyshon (co-opted April 2015 –2016)	
	Ruby Leyshon (elected from 2016)	
	David Wilson	
Administrator	Ruth Banger	
Convenor PCC Buildings and Grounds Team		David Wilson
Convenor PCC Children and Families Team		Judith Gretton-Dann
Convenor PCC Pastoral Team		Linda Dean
Convenor PCC Social Awareness Team		Liz Collinson
Convenor PCC Worship and Music Team		Ruth Banger
Altar Linen	Margaret Handley	
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	

Chalice Bearers	Bill Elsey
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon
Children's Work	Paula Carter
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon
Coffee Makers	Guido Barzini
Food Bank	Liz Collinson
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	Paula Carter
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	Ruby Leyshon
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	Evelyn Walker
Good Shepherd News Editor	Ruth Banger
Intercessors	John Lamont
Jimmy's Night Shelter	Paula Carter
Lesson Readers	Rhodri James
Monday Club	Ruby Leyshon
North Cambridge Council of Churches	David Maher
Planned Giving Secretary	Ginni Carroll (March 2015 – November 2016)
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Lilas Davison
Rural Development Movement	Henry Disney
Sacristan	Stuart Keir
Safeguarding Officer	Paula Carter
Servers	Bill Elsey
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Fiona Blows
Sound System	David Wilson
Sunday Lunch Club	Jinty Keir



WELCOME

Welcome to this year's Annual Report of the Church of the Good Shepherd. It is a real privilege to be able to look back and see all that has been going on throughout 2016 in our church and community. We have continued to seek to serve and bless our neighbours, and to live our lives worshipping God, and loving one another. This year has additionally seen us spending a term considering what it means to understand God's grace to us, and to look at our response to that grace in our daily living; what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

As individuals, we have each of us faced difficulties and worries, and been supported by one another as we have done so. As a church, we now seek to move deeper into loving God and serving our neighbour in the year to come, looking forward in expectation of all God is still to show us of His love and faithfulness.

As curates, we have been so blessed by being in this church amongst you all, and sharing in all that God is doing, and we hope that you will be excited and blessed by what you read here and by the stories you hear of our community.

This report looks back over 2016 and of course, at the very end of the year, Dave Maher was taken ill. Though he is on the mend, he will not be fully active in the church for the majority of 2017. We know that Dave's shoes are unfillable. However, as a church let us together live out the example of Christ's discipleship Dave has shown us so generously, as we wait and pray for his healing and restoration.

*Judith Gretton-Dann
Rachel Blanchflower*



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Since the last APCM the PCC met in May, September and November last year and February this year. Meetings have been well attended and we are continuing to see positive benefits from the work of the various Church Teams. As the year has progressed we have been able to spend more time on our “real” work – supporting the Vicar in the mission and worship of our church – and less on the nuts and bolts.

We know the building needs to be cared for and the church grounds need to be looked after, so we are most grateful to the Building and Grounds Team for attending to many of these practicalities on our behalf. Just as we are grateful to the Families and Children’s Team for all they do to encourage the worship of our young people and to the Pastoral Team for co-ordinating help throughout our church members to ensure that no one slips through our care net (so far as is humanly possible). The Worship and Music Team have worked hard this year to review the format of our services and we continue to build on the work done in previous years and also to innovate. The Social Awareness Team has had a great year – Food Bank has continued, as has the number of Prayer Shawls knitted and crocheted. The Vicar is *ex officio* a member of every team and all of the Teams include PCC members and those in the church who are not PCC members but have relevant expertise (which is invaluable). All the Teams report to the PCC whenever they meet and it is the PCC which makes any necessary decisions – it is just great to have the help and involvement of the whole church supporting us as we make those decisions. Individual reports from each Team follow this report.

We have started considering the Diocesan 2025 Mission document – self examination is not always comfortable but it is certainly necessary if we are to be a healthy church.

Finally, a big thank you to all who have served on the PCC and whose time of office comes to an end at this meeting – to our elected members Paula Carter, Esther Choolun and Liz Collinson and to our churchwarden, Fiona Blows, who is not standing for re-election. All have contributed so much in so many ways and will, we hope, continue to serve the church in the year to come.

Do pray for your PCC. We, together with the Vicar, are the decision making body in the Church and we really want those decisions to be the ones that God wants for

us, decisions which will foster positive growth. Decisions too which will help our church to be welcoming to all around, a true parish church for this area. We can only do this when supported by your prayers.

Ruth Banger (PCC Secretary)



PCC TEAMS

Building and Grounds Team

This year has been another busy one. We had to move fast when the heating broke down in a big way as we had to get a new system installed before the cold weather set in, which I'm pleased to say we managed to do. As we go to press a new church boiler is being installed.

We have also had all the paving stones in the paths around the church levelled and the man-holes have been raised, so we do not have to lift a paving stone to get to them.

Some people have had memorial plaques made, which have been put on to the memorial garden sleeper wall facing the church.

All the drain pipes have now been painted with a non-drying paint, to prevent anybody trying to get onto the church roof.

The upgrading of the church hall is ongoing, so we will see how things go in the next year

David Wilson (Convenor), Ruth Banger, Peter Langley, Ruby Leyshon, David Maher



Children and Families Team

It's with great joy - and a bit of extra rushing around madly! - that we are seeing numbers of children at the Good Shepherd growing. Not only have we welcomed several new babies into our Church family, but we now have a number of 3-7 year olds exploring faith through our Godly Play sessions in the Prayer Chapel, several of whom are shortly to transition up to joining the older ones at Sunday School in the Hall. This year it has been invaluable to have the Godly Play team help introduce new families to the materials and principles behind what 'playing in faith' is all about. Meanwhile, those at Sunday School have generously shared their discoveries, acting and craft skills with the congregation each week - masks have been made, races have been run and sketches have been braved. With a grant given this year for further equipment for children's work, such as washable table cloths and a large parachute, the action is surely set to continue! As the Sunday School have been following Roots material, which focuses on the same Bible texts as explored in the main sermon, our children's perspective always adds fresh depth and challenge.

All Age parade services have continued once a month - midst shoe boxes (156 sent off this year!), decorated oranges and royal celebrations, supported by a cautiously growing music group. Understanding how important it is for our children not just to participate in worship at the GS, but to grow in confidence in helping to shape it, it has been wonderful to have several of our children and young people help lead our prayers and spur us on as a church to supporting a water project

Throughout this past year the Children's Work team has continued to discuss and explore ideas about how our provision can keep pace with our growing youngsters, with space for fresh creativity. The possibility of a new group to help make the transition between Sunday School and Youth Group is just one of the ideas being explored.

We are extremely grateful to all those who have worked so hard and remained so committed to our children and young people. Our children's work on a Sunday overlaps and connects into so many of our other initiatives - SANG, the Holiday lunches, our work with schools and our Youth Group - it would be tremendous to have more people join the team in 2017 and help us to discover more of what our young people are teaching us of God!!

Judith Gretton-Dann (Convenor), Ginny Carroll, Paula Carter, Esther Choolun, Hazel Maher, Jude Maher, James Lewis, Susie Lewis, Sophie Murray, Catherine Nancekievill, Eleonora Scognamiglio, Jenny Thomas, Zuzana Lovell.



Pastoral Care Team

The team works closely with the Leadership of the church to identify pastoral needs, to co-ordinate visiting (especially Home Communion) and other aspects of pastoral care and to report to the PCC on a regular basis.

Pastoral care cannot be separated from other aspects of church life and worship, especially Healing Ministry. We have discussed the best ways of informing the congregation and wider contacts of who we are and what we can (and cannot) offer, and keeping our pastoral nets and networks in good repair. We are concerned to make time and space for prayer, conversation and reflection in our busy church life for example by more reflective events such as Quiet Christmas and other evening services. We have thought about how we might give people opportunities to explore the big questions and issues that may be important to them or be causing concern, by encouraging discussion with the preacher after the morning service and through initiative such as 'Blethering' or 'Grave Talk'. Linda and Terry have again attended the annual Diocesan Celebration of Healing and Wholeness, which this year focused on 'Living with Disability'.

The care of the dying and bereaved and the link to the Service of Remembrance (All Souls) is another privilege and responsibility. This year we have lost from our number, Kathleen Skin and Chris Beere.

We are also concerned with the welcome and integration of newcomers. It has been a joy to welcome babies Emmanuelle Prescott and Hana Lovell and see newcomers to the area and to the church settling among us.

During the year the team has also given attention to Safeguarding and good practice and welcomed Paula Carter, COGS Safeguarding Officer to talk us through some of the issues.

Beyond the congregation, we are concerned with the residential and nursing homes in the parish. Buchan House, Havenfield and Alex Wood House are visited at least once a month for a Communion service and we may visit other times simply to be alongside people and to build a good relationship with the staff. Many residents are

physically frail and/or confused and we feel it is important to offer this gift of time and attention. If anyone would like to join with these visits, please speak to Terry, Linda or Rachel.

Linda Dean (Convenor), Terry Barringer, Rachel Blanchflower, Daughn Eva, Michael Lovell, Alison Philips, Ruth Reid, Janet Witting,



Social Awareness Team

This has been another busy year for us. As we write, we are into our fourth year of hosting Food Bank at The Good Shepherd. Since last January we have had 458 vouchers handed in (there will have been more by the time you read this) in exchange for food. This, of course, means that we have provided food for far more than 458 people, as the vouchers are for single people, couples, small families and large families, as required. We average around 8 people coming for food each week. All people who come for food must bring with them a voucher from an agency that knows their situation and no-one should have more than 3 vouchers in 6 months except in extreme circumstances. We have been blessed with wonderful volunteers from our own church, as well as Mark from St Andrew's, Jackie from Milton Church and Megumi from the Vineyard Church. We are very grateful to Alex, our usual van driver and also to Stephen, our relief van driver. We are also very grateful to everyone who packs up the food, talks to our visitors, makes cups of tea, puts on the music and generally provides a comfortable environment on Thursday mornings! We have recently also been giving out some fresh food – bread, cheese and bananas – which has gone down well. Since just before Christmas we have been able to offer help with electricity/gas which has been much appreciated.

The Ministry of Prayer Shawls continues. The shawls are blessed in Church and then go out with a label of blessing and are always very well received. We would be grateful for any spare balls of wool that could be spared or for donations towards wool – we do have a church knitting fund. Also, if you know of anyone who is ill or in distress we would be very happy to knit a shawl especially for them. Many thanks to all knitters!

Members of the team were active in participating in North Arbury Clean-up Day back in the Autumn. Many unwanted items, large and small, were disposed of. Also, the team continues to play a part in the lunches we provide for children and parents at half terms and during the holiday periods.

Please continue to pray for our church as we try to reach out with God's love to our community.

Liz Collinson (Convenor), Guido Barzini, Sean Blanchflower, Fiona Blows, Henry Disney and Judith Gretton-Dann



Worship and Music Team

First, the worship aspect of our brief. This was the year of our first Passover and an amazing afternoon was much appreciated by all. We plan a repeat in 2017.

At the request of the Godly Play helpers we modified our regular pattern of All Age services so that there is only one in Lent – Mothering Sunday. This enabled those who attended Godly Play and the Sunday School to cover the large amount of material presented to them at this time in the Church Year.

We are keen that the activities we engage in as a church are what is right for us to be doing *now*, and that it is not that we have done something before so still continue with it. After some discussion we decided not to hold the Posada in 2015. After one year without it, SANG has taken over this activity so it is now an ecumenical activity. We held our first Passover service and look forward to celebrating this next year too.

We are looking to refresh our pattern of healing services but this initiative is not yet sufficiently developed to be included in this report.

As far as the music part of our brief is concerned, we continue to have as wide a range of music as possible – the great advantage of not having a regular hymn book. We are regularly learning new hymns and songs while trying to continue with established favourites as well. One great delight is when some of our youngest members together sing a verse of the Gloria. And we really enjoy the variety of musical contributions from so many of our congregation. It's not how well you sing

that matters, it's whether you sing for God's glory that counts. At every choir practice we pray that God will be glorified through our music.

We again gave the congregation an opportunity to suggest hymns and "before and after" music during August and had a great response. We are blessed with our students at The Good Shepherd who make a great contribution to our worship and we do not want them to drift away from us at the end of their time in Cambridge. In 2015 we started a Students Sunday and each of our students chooses one of the hymns for that Sunday and speaks on what it means to them. This year we also had an amazing Sunday and we look forward to our students contributing to this service this year.

We are experimenting with music at All Age Sundays – what we sing, where we sit, encouraging instrumentalists to play with us. I am sure there will be more news of this in the next report.

We are grateful for the feedback given by members of the congregation regarding the music in the services. Music is there to enhance our worship; we know we cannot all like the same things but we hope there is something everyone can take away and think about in the following week.

We look forward in the coming year to continuing to work out the implications of the 2025 Mission document as it affects our worship. Worship is what we are all about and we are privileged to help to plan this.

Ruth Banger (Convenor), Rachel Blanchflower, Ginni Carroll, Linda Dean, Jinty Keir, David Maher, Hazel Maher, Phil Morris, Bronwen Taylor,



LOCAL INITIATIVES

Holiday lunch Project

After the success of this Project in 2015, the participants in this Project decided to continue into 2016. We were joined in the Summer by the Brown's Field Centre in Green End Road, so the lunch venues were The Meadows, Buchan Street, Brown's Field and the Good Shepherd, all on different days of the week.

Donations of money and food was made available from various sources, including the Food Bank and we can report that the Good Shepherd alone provided lunches for about 500 in the Summer and half term holidays through the year in 7 sessions.

In addition, activities for the children were organised for an hour before lunch in the Church by a variety of volunteers.

We will continue to provide these lunches in 2017 and the first one will be on the 15th February in the Church Hall. Volunteers are always welcome to help with activities and dishing up!

Ruby Leyshon & Paula Carter (on behalf of all the others who gave their time)



Sing A New sonG (SANG)

‘Sing A New sonG’ (SANG) became one year old at the end of September. With 65-75 people now regularly attending this music group each week, it is hard to believe that we have not been running for longer. Sessions are happy, chaotic and messy – the combination of 0-4 year olds, cake, hand bells and, often, sparkly play-dough ensures that!

Over the year we have seen the SANG Community change and grow in different ways. Our Sanglings grow taller by the week, confusing our team leaders in their constant battle to remember names correctly – but we also held a little Graduation ceremony in the summer to say ‘farewell’ to those Sanglings who were moving onto pre-school and school in the Autumn. Issued with personalised certificates, a little prayer book and a ‘Footprints’ poem for children, we sang them on to new adventures with our love and prayers.

The summer months saw several of our singing sessions being held outside on the grass ‘picnic-style’ as the work on the Church heating system continued, whilst September introduced us to new members and invaluable volunteers, and a sharp increase in cake volumes.

We have enjoyed many parties – at Easter, in the summer, a Light Party and a Christmas one too – all accompanied with dressing-up fun, stories, crafts and seasonal goodies. It has been especially wonderful to have SANG lead a singing session at the Arbury Carnival, and members joining in with the Posada journey around North Cambridge churches and neighbourhoods. The SANG community has

also been crafting and carolling with Grace Community Church in Advent, and helping tell the Nativity story at the Good Shepherd's Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

Several SANG members have wanted to explore faith a little more deeply and have joined Anew, a relaxed group meeting on Tuesdays in the Haven to chat and learn together. Meanwhile, we look forward with great excitement to the baptism of five Sanglings on Easter Day!

It is impossible to overstate the privilege and joy of singing new songs as a community, seeking to learn together that indeed we are loved, known and special to God - even when the sleeplessness and tantrums are raging!!

We would love to hear from anyone wishing to volunteer with us – all ages and skills most welcome!!!

The SANG team Rachel Blanchflower (Good Shepherd) Erica Bowles (Arbury Road Baptist Church), Jo Burke, (Grace Church), Felicity Cowling (Good Shepherd), Sarah Phillips (Grace Church) Jo Thomson (Grace Church), Margaret Winchcomb (Arbury Road Baptist Church)

Volunteers: Linda Dean, Shirley Doubleday , Elizabeth Lamont



Red Hen Coffee Mornings

Another busy year at The Red Hen Project supporting children and families from Arbury, The Grove, King's Hedges, Orchard Park and The Shirley schools with many issues including poverty, isolation, housing, mental and physical health issues, relationships, bereavement, school attendance and anything else that impacts on the physical and emotional well being of children and their families.

As part of this work we support children and families on an individual basis as well as helping them to build their own support networks in their community. Part of this work involves our coffee morning, which we run every Monday during term time from 9 - 10.30 in the Good Shepherd Church Hall. The hall is a great venue for the coffee morning as it is central, easily accessible for the families and has a relaxed and welcoming feel. The group has moved from strength to strength with some weeks 40 of us all chatting, drinking tea and coffee, playing and eating

breakfast. We have watched relationships grow and blossom between parents and children and the peer support move out into the community. Through the coffee morning and its supportive positive feel, we have been able to encourage parents to attend trips out in the summer and to the pantomime as well as parenting groups, art sessions and now a cooking group. The confidence gained by these parents has been huge and they feel safe to seek advice on anything they are struggling with and sometimes the advice comes from Maria and me, the family workers, but sometimes it comes from their peers in the group. The confidence of some of the toddlers has also been growing week by week and they are very happy to come and have some independent time playing with other children while their parents have some space to chat to adults. The families who attend are a mix of people with children in the schools supported by us, others attending other local schools and some with preschool children who live in the community. It is great to meet the preschool children and their families early so hopefully if they need support once their children are in school, we will be familiar faces who they feel happy to approach with any problems they may encounter.

As we move towards our last year of funding from the Big Lottery, we are preparing to submit a new bid to the Lottery for a further 4 years. We are also investigating other funding opportunities to ensure The Red Hen Project is financially sustainable in the community to ensure that our work with children, families and communities can continue.

We are looking forward to another year of challenges, forming new partnerships and collaborations and new people to meet and support and families to see move on hopefully with new skills and improved family lives for their time spent with us.

Chris O'Reilly

Kettle's Yard

Kettle's Yard has enjoyed its partnership with the Church of the Good Shepherd this year. Artists from the gallery's community programme have supported the Holiday Lunch project providing fun and creative activities for local families. In late November the Church of the Good Shepherd welcomed Kettle's Yard's Artist in Residence Isabella Martin to celebrate the end of her residency. Isabella Martin had been working in North Cambridge for nine months as part of the gallery's community programme, Open House. Noting that the map in Arbury Court only featured the city centre, Isabella was inspired to create a new map of North Cambridge created by local people's memories and hopes for the future. The Church of the Good Shepherd became a temporary Print Studio for a weekend and exhibited artworks made by the community as well as paintings by Alfred Wallis and Ben Nicholson from Kettle's Yard's collection. The weekend welcomed over three

hundred people from the community with over 200 copies of the map being printed in the studio by visitors whilst others enjoyed delicious refreshments, beautiful artworks and good conversation with their neighbours. [see pictures of the Kettle's Yard activities on the front and back covers of this report]



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Toddler Group (Fridays)

Toddler group on meets on Friday morning from 9.30-11.30 during term time and is open to anyone who is caring for a child pre-school child: grandparents, parents and carers. Activities are offered for all children attending. Along with our toys, including animals, bricks, books, cars, trains, and baby toys, we also provide an art activity that can be anything from play-doh, biscuit decorating to sticking and glue. We also try to cover seasonal events: Easter, Christmas but also things like Chinese New Year.

Tea and coffee is available for the adults drinks and biscuits for the children, with a mix of fruit on and off during the year. At around 11.00 we ask the children to help tidy up so we can get the ride along toys out – most children are very willing to help with this!!! We include a sing time session which the children really enjoy and they love to pick out their favourite songs!!

We also have a Christmas party and a few short services in the church to mark special occasions. We are a fun group who love to see any new faces!!!

Claire Duell



Schools work

It has continued to be a joy to work with, and learn from, the different schools in North Cambridge. Regular lively year group visits to the Good Shepherd have seen

children from King's Hedges, the Grove and Arbury Primary School asking excellent questions about the meaning of the church building and the significance of its different fixtures and symbols for the Christian faith. School assemblies at King's Hedges have been creative and engaging, whilst class visits to Arbury Primary School involved Reception children learning about Holy Week through the medium of Ribena, hot cross buns and chocolate Smartie eggs!

A particularly memorable week this past year was having the Church Schools' Trust transform the Good Shepherd into the streets, colours and experiences of Jerusalem for the exhibition, 'Nailed' in March. The exhibition explored some of the encounters that Jesus had, and stories He told, in His final week of life. Many schools attended this week, as did our own PCC members and church families and friends.

It has also been a privilege to be able to host North Cambridge Academy for their Remembrance Day service, Arbury Primary School for their Harvest Festival (we just about had room for the biggest pumpkin!!!) and the Grove for their Carol Concerts. All have revealed the commitment and skill of these communities.

As a Governor for Arbury Primary School, David has continued to seek to support the long-term pastoral and strategic direction of education in the local area. We are fortunate indeed to be able to partner and work alongside the schools' inspiring staff teams, and support them in the care they offer to parents and children in this parish. We wish all the schools great success in the year to come.

Rachel Blanchflower & Judith Gretton-Dann



Uniformed Groups

Beavers

We had an exciting year with two sleepovers and many other activities including Morris Dancing. We had a fantastic weekend in Heacham at the end of the Summer term despite the torrential downpour.

We currently have 17 Beavers, 3 Leaders and 7 of Beaver age on the waiting list.

Cubs

This year amongst other things the Cubs have attended CAW100 – Cambridgeshire's 100-years of Cubs celebration at Lode. Other activities have included City Centre night hike, chip shop challenge, cooking homemade pasta, a sausage sizzle at Byron's Pool and apple picking.

We currently have 25 Cubs, 3 Leaders and 2 Young Leaders.

Scouts

The year started with a very muddy Winter camp in January, followed by a night hike in February from Ely station to Waterbeach. At Easter our annual St. George's Day Fires and Fry Ups camp was well attended. The white water kayaking in June was a disappointed due to a lack of water! In August we had another action packed summer camp with the 1st Thorner and Scarcroft Scout Group, this time in the Peak District where the activities included mountain biking, hill walking, cooking, rock climbing, sailing, and abseiling. As ever the cooking competition featured the humble Taco in various disguises, sadly despite our best efforts the Leaders team lost out again. The year was rounded off with a City Centre treasurer hunt, which kept us guessing and indoor roller coasters.

Throughout the year we have also hiked, built, played, given and learnt through a huge array of activities and completed loads of badges. All in all a great year and we have big plans for 2017 including Winter Camp, Summer Camp in Wales and various other activities.

We currently have 16 Scouts, 1 Leader and 1 Young Leader.

Fundraising

This year has been particularly successful we received a £2,000 grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Youth Fund, in March a few Scouts attended the presentation evening and met Sir Graham and other local dignitaries. The grant was used to purchase patrol tents and much needed tables and benches.

After a lot of hard work and frustration, Michael successfully made our first gift aid claim which has already returned in excess of £1,000. A big thank you to Michael and all the parents that took the time to complete the forms, it really makes a difference.

Final Words

Thank you to all the Leaders and Committee members for their unending dedication and support that makes the events possible and to the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Parents for their commitment, hard work and attitude that makes it all worthwhile.

Finally I would like to thank the Church of the Good Shepherd for the use of the hall.

Roger Ling



18th/25th Cambridge (Good Shepherd) Brownies

Brownies have a busy and fun filled year as always. Our very popular and a little last minute Pack Holiday took place in the Spring and 18 of the girls spent 2 nights away from home on a Roald Dahl themed holiday at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket

Summer term saw the girls undertake a visit to the Tesco store in Milton where they discovered all about fruit and vegetables and were awarded their exclusive “Farm to Fork“ badges.

The run up to the Christmas holidays were busy and the girls were actively involved in making things to sell at the Christmas Market. We also worked towards a “Russian Challenge” which helped raise funds for a group of Trefoil members who travelled to Russia to carry out a Service project.

18th Cambridge Rainbows

Once again the Rainbow unit is full to bursting with a lovely healthy waiting to join list. The girls attend regularly and are enjoying all sorts of wonderful challenge badges. Chinese New Year, Roald Dahl and World Centre Adventures to name but a few.

They also went on the Tesco Farm to fork trail and got to taste test some yummy breads and cheeses.

The girls in Rainbows like having fun and thinking of ways to be helpful. Next term we will be thinking about the some of the Patron Saints and have some lovely craft activities lined up.

We will be celebrating our Thinking Day on Weds 22nd Feb and have a joint party planned to come together and celebrate Girl Guiding and Scouting all over the world.

Both units are also still actively collecting used Tassimo T-discs in an effort to raise much needed funds for our units to continue doing fun things and taking part in amazing challenges. We've managed to raise almost £500 so far and would love more people to get involved.

If you own a Tassimo Machine, and want to help, follow this link to find out more!
<https://www.facebook.com/TassimoCambridge>

Lastly and perhaps most importantly these two units (and all units in fact) are staffed and run by volunteers. Without the adult helpers units will have to be closed. If you think you would like to get involved with the units at the Good Shepherd or anywhere else, please do get in touch and we can point you in the right direction. Even just the smallest offer of help – once or twice a term. Help with unit accounts or fundraising – every little bit helps and will be gratefully received.

The Owls!



Sunday Night Youth Group

The youth work at Church of the Good Shepherd is lead by Jax and an ever growing small team of leaders. The group meet on Sunday afternoons and occasionally with Jax individually during the week. Since last year Emma has stepped back due to her increased workload and Janet, Rachel and Rhodri have joined the team. This has been really good for the young people to hear other people's perspectives, thoughts and feelings about the topics discussed. Over the year the team will come together to pray about the vision for the youth group and young people.

Over this past year many Sunday evenings have been spent doing Youth Alpha a course a course provided by Holy Trinity Brompton. It asks questions about faith, Jesus, life and death providing space and opportunity to wrestle with difficult aspects of life and varying opinions. All of the young people very much enjoyed it and put

forward their opinions with confidence. The highlight of last term came at the end of the year when the group went into Cambridge centre. The young people used their own money to buy items of clothing and toiletries to give those who we met who were less fortunate. They were clear example of Jesus hands and feet at work today blessing and loving others.

This term however has begun with a very different feel. Mocks for up coming exams have begun, stress levels are higher and life has become very busy for all the youth. This has resulted in rather fractured start to the term. None the less the group continues to meet, discuss and grow together.

The next thing on the COGS youth calendar is Exploration Station (a YFC event) which kicks off in a few weeks' time. The COGS young people will be part of the team that make it happen this year, helping with set up and talking to the younger youth. The event continues to provide opportunity to ask tricky questions and challenge our faith, so the pray continues to be that Jesus would speak into their lives and tell them how much He cares.

Jax Keal



FLOWER ARRANGERS

Our ever dwindling group of flower arrangers has managed to keep the two stands refreshed every week during the church seasons. We still need more help with arranging the flowers or tidying up afterwards as some weeks there is only one person on the rota. If anyone can help in any way to maintain our flower arrangements through the year, please contact or speak to me.

Iris Brown



HOUSE GROUPS

‘Growing as a Disciple is a course of ten weekly two hour sessions, devised by a diocesan team for use by churches and gathered small groups across the diocese. It is a foundation for those wishing to train for Authorised Lay Ministry and for all who wish to deepen their discipleship.

Course aims:

- To increase our knowledge of, and confidence, in scripture.
- To deepen personal faith through prayer and grow an appreciation of how the Bible speaks of our relationship with God and his purposes for us.
- To encourage one another as we listen to our different experiences and understanding of our Christian faith.
- To develop a greater awareness of how God might be calling us, as his disciples, to contribute our abilities and time to our local church communities.
- To generate enthusiasm and confidence to express our faith as we seek to live as Christ's disciples in our communities, workplaces, and in the wider world.

Each session lasts two hours and is a mixture of input, group discussion, reflection and prayer.

We ran the course at COGS in Autumn 2016 with Judith Gretton-Dann and Terry Barringer as facilitators and David Maher, Rachel Blanchflower and Linda Dean as leaders of table groups. 23 people (plus leaders) took part including two from other churches. Four from COGS clocked up nine sessions. Other people attended between two and eight sessions.

Reaction and levels of engagement were inevitably mixed although mostly positive. Many felt that the course was trying to cover too much material too quickly and wanted more time for small group discussion and exchange of personal experience. A few people really appreciated getting to know more about the Old Testament, others struggled with these sessions. The most appreciated sessions were those on Prayer and Mission and a number of respondents wanted more on spiritual disciplines and spiritual formation. The Ministry Team are giving thought to what we have learned and how we might follow up. The Diocesan coordinators are impressed by our take up and grateful for our feedback. (COGS was the first church to run the course as a whole church activity, previous courses have drawn people from a variety of churches across the diocese).

Terry Barringer



SAINT JOHN'S ORCHARD PARK

Over the past 12 months Orchard Park has continued to grow and develop, with new houses built and an extra shop or two appearing. We still feel like a new and not very stable community, with a constant flow of people in and out. At St John's we've seen some change and growth, and the appointment of a part-time pastoral worker, Jon Carter. And our vision remains the same: to make and grow disciples who adore Jesus Christ, love one another, and serve the people of this community.

Our core weekly activities continue. After our Sunday morning service at the primary school at 10.30am, we eat lunch together at the Vicarage. Sunday afternoon sees groups of people playing badminton and 5-a-side football – a good way to get to know others. On Sunday at 5pm a small group gathers to pray for the local area. In our midweek small groups (Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings) we study the Bible together, aiming to help each other very practically to live in the light of what the Lord is teaching us. Growing to know and trust 8-10 others, being able to speak honestly about our lives and faith, and praying for one another regularly – all this makes our small groups so important for the life of the church.

Other activities this year have included: regular assemblies and involvement in primary school life for me; a popular Easter holiday club for children; a performance of the Mark Drama (an acting out of Mark's gospel); litter-picking; curry nights and board games evenings for locals; increasingly established Christmas events.

The Lord continues to bring us new faces, some of whom are brand-new to the Christian faith. At the moment there are three people attending a Christianity Explored course – an introduction to the claims of Jesus through Mark's gospel. We're now 65-70 adults and children on a Sunday morning. And visitors from Orchard Park pop in and out, on the fringes of church life, looking and listening.

Over the past year there have been real joys: people quietly serving and caring for others; studying the early chapters of Genesis, and seeing the goodness of having a loving creator; newborns arriving; people hearing of the saving work of Christ for the first time. And at the same time there have been real pressures: anxiety and work

stress; rubbing one another up the wrong way; deep family tensions; long-term illness.

But, our heavenly Father is good to us, and he will keep us, and the church is safe in his hands.

We are grateful for your partnership with us, and we pray on with you that the kingdom of Jesus will grow in the north of Cambridge.

Chris Lowe
Vicar, St John's Church Orchard Park



PLANNED AND CHARITABLE GIVING & FUND RAISING

The generosity of members in enabling the work of the Church of the Good Shepherd through the Planned Giving Scheme and church collections is very much appreciated.

Planned Giving totalled £57,391 in 2016, including a single unrestricted donation of £11,752 (2015: £45,880). Plate collections were £4,293 (2015: £4,556). Tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme was £14,904 (2015: £13,672), which is a valuable contribution to the Church's finances at no extra cost to donors. Planned Giving income, including tax reclaimed, is essential in enabling the PCC to budget for, and manage, our expenditure and to plan for the future. I would urge everyone who pays tax to complete a Gift Aid form, enabling the Church to claim an additional 25p for every £1 given.

The Church is very fortunate in having endowment income and reserves generated by the efficient stewardship of resources donated and bequeathed by faithful members, both past and present, over the fifty plus years since the Church was built. It is the aim of the PCC to continue this good stewardship so that the reserves are available for larger planned projects and unforeseen major expenditure rather than being used to subsidise the day-to-day running costs. Thank you to everyone who re-considered their giving or joined the Planned Giving Scheme following the appeal letters distributed over the summer. It is early days to assess the impact in covering

the day-to-day running costs of the Church but the PCC will continue to monitor this carefully over the coming year.

In addition to the Planned Giving, fund raising makes a significant contribution to the Church's income. The fund raising team organised a number of events including the Arbury Carnival cake stall, the plant and book sale, the Christmas market and two jumble sales which, together with our regular Sunday coffee income, generated £3,159 during 2016 for the work of the Church. This was only made possible by the enormous efforts and tireless support of the fundraising team, helpers, donors and customers.

Each year a proportion of the Planned Giving income is set aside for donation to charity and in 2016 £2,293 was given; £688 each to Cambridge Calais Refugee Action Group and Rowan, based in Cambridge, and £688 to Rural Development Movement and £229 to PHT Project, working overseas. Specific collections and fund raising events totalled an impressive £1,192 and benefited Practical Action, Christian Aid, Arthur Rank Hospice, Angel Tree Cambridge and the Children's Society, amongst others.

A big thank you to everyone who gave so generously, both to the Planned Giving scheme and to the specific causes supported by the Church, and to those who gave so freely of their time and energy on our fundraising activities.

Jinty Keir



STUDENTS

As usual, a number of students have enjoyed being with The Church of the Good Shepherd through the year as part of their ordination training. In 2016 we welcomed David Bigg, who is in his second year of curacy at Ridley Hall, and Felicity Cowling continued with the church as her 'context pathway' placement. We were sorry to say goodbye to Rory Balfour, Dan Barnes-Davies, and Mike Perkins who are gaining experience elsewhere, and Michael Robinson who is now serving in his curacy in Southwark Diocese

The students have hugely valued being a part of the community, helping with deaconing, preaching, assisting with home communions, SANG group, and Lunch Clubs. The critical feedback and encouragement from the congregation has been greatly appreciated.

The students are thankful for the warmth and welcome we find at the Good Shepherd, and are excited about the direction in which the church is heading. We are particularly grateful to Dave, Judith, Rachel, Linda and Terry for their supervision and support.

Felicity Cowling



SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club goes from strength to strength. The cooking skills of Pat Marsh, Ruby Leyshon and Paula Carter have been much appreciated – the meals have been fabulous. As previously, we have served a full roast dinner with a traditional pudding (or fruit salad) plus a cup of tea or coffee for £3.50 which is amazing value.

We were blessed in 2016 with five students all of whom have entered fully into all aspects of our church life – including Sunday lunches. They have worked really hard and we are truly grateful for all they do, and so cheerfully too!

If you feel you would like to join the team of cooks we would be delighted to welcome you, but the Sunday Lunch Club also relies on helpers to prepare vegetables beforehand and to serve and wash up on the day – might any of this be something you could do?

Jinty Keir & Ruth Banger



CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

2016 has been a busy year in which the exciting new events that began within the last few years carried on bearing fruit, however the year had a difficult end when

David Maher, our vicar, suffered from a brain aneurism just before Christmas. We are all grateful for the speedy diagnosis and skill of the medical staff, but even with this excellent care David's recovery after this trauma followed by major surgery will be necessarily slow.

The ministry team did a fantastic job of managing the many services and activities that went ahead over Christmas despite the severe illness that David had suffered which caused much concern, stress and worry on both personal and professional levels. The team are to be congratulated on the amazing job they did at this time, and their plans for the next few months.

David will be off for at least 6 months. It is important during this time that he is given an opportunity to focus on his own health rather than the church. Visiting needs to be limited and when he returns this will need to be in a controlled way.

Over the past year the ministry team have all worked well together both within the church and in union with Arbury Road Baptist Church.

Judith Gretton-Dann has done a lot, despite the challenges of ill health. She has continued to provide a lot of pastoral support and will be acting minister in place of David until he is able to return.

Rachel Blanchflower has continued to inspire us in her quiet thoughtful way and amongst other things has worked with the SANG group to reach out to some of the parents with young children.

Linda Dean has continued in her calm quiet way to give pastoral care to people in their time of need, we are grateful for this particular talent.

Terry Barringer has joined the team as a licenced lay reader and has as ever been willing to help and fill in, even when she is not taking a main role in the service.

The range of services has grown over the year and existing services have been adapted to suit the changing needs of the congregation. An example has been the reworking of the healing services.

The variety of music has been noticeable and much commented on with the all-age services providing a huge contrast in many ways.

Services have generally been well attended, although there is a lot of variation between weeks. In general the numbers attending services have either been stable or increased relative to previous years.

There weren't any house groups over the past year but there was a series of prayer meetings and meetings on discipleship. The discipleship meetings were well attended and gave a Terry a chance to extend and apply her presentation skills.

Holiday lunches have continued over the year and have been popular. The food bank service is also extremely active. Both of these are greatly appreciated and demonstrate real care and kindness within the community.

SANG is valued and enjoyed by both children and their parents. It has brought more people into contact with the church and encouraged some to attend services. The youth work continues to run with the group on Sunday evenings. All secondary school age children are welcome.

This year we have Felicity and David with us as students. This provides them with the opportunity to experience working within a parish. It has also provided support for our ministry team to reduce their load.

Unlike many churches we have managed to have working heating for a majority of the year. As we go to press, the boiler is being replaced. Lots of improvements have been made, such as making the paving safer. The memorial garden needed some maintenance and is available for those who wish to add something to remember a loved one.

The PCC teams have been a great blessing for ensuring the smooth running of different aspects of the church. If anyone has suggestions or comments relating to these aspects then speak to one of the team. If you aren't sure who is on the teams then speak to a churchwarden or member of the ministry team.

Fiona will not be standing for re-election as a churchwarden after three years in the role. This has been a particularly happy time for Fiona, who has learnt a lot about what goes on behind the scenes, and she has been constantly supported by other members of the church.

Phil has learned more over the past year as churchwarden. It has been an experience to discover so many things that go on within the church. He will be standing for re-election, accepting that the coming year is likely to be significantly different. We would like to thank all those who help within the church in so many different ways.

This next year is likely to be hard with David being so ill. Prayers and support are appreciated and we hope that people will appreciate that there will be limits to what can be achieved.

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**Here are the contact details for the members
of the Ministry Team**

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