**Holy Innocents Church, 2 Wilbraham Road, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6JZ**

# Annual Report and

**Financial Statements of the**

**Parochial Church Council of Birch with Fallowfield**

for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

Incumbent

The Revd R M Young (from April 24th 2018)

c/o 2 Wilbraham Road

Fallowfield

Manchester

Bank

NatWest Bank

437 Wilmslow Rd

Withington

Manchester

Central Board of Finance

80 Cheapside

London

Independent Examiner

Mr H Cairns

**Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council**

**and activities of the Parish**

***Membership of the Parochial Church Council***

The maximum number of elected lay representatives on the PCC is currently nine: each serves for three years, three retire at each APCM, and elections are held to fill the vacancies. We also elected two Deanery Synod representatives at the 2017 APCM to serve until 2020.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Incumbent | The Revd Richard Young |  | From April 24th 2018 |
| Wardens | Hilary Jones |  | From APCM 2015 |
|  | Lynda Newton |  | From APCM 2018 |
| Representatives on the Deanery Synod | Stuart Jones |  | From APCM 2017 to APCM 2020 |
|  | Betty Ormrod |  | From APCM 2017 to APCM 2020 |
| Elected members | *Mohammed Aghajan* |  | *From APCM 2017 until 2018* |
|  | *Kurosh Behpouri* |  | *Co-opted at PCC meeting May 2017 until APCM 2018* |
|  | Andrew Gait | PCC Secretary | From APCM 2017 until 2020 |
|  | *Barbara Kinch* |  | *Co-opted at PCC meeting May 2017 until APCM 2018* |
|  | *Lynda Newton* |  | *From APCM 2017 until 2018* |
|  | *Margaret Beetham* |  | *From APCM 2015 until 2018* |
|  | *Alan Clarke* | *Lay Chair* | *From APCM 2015 until 2018* |
|  | *Hilary Peate* |  | *From APCM 2015 until 2018* |
|  | Jenny Daggers |  | From APCM 2016 until 2019 |
|  | Stephen Pennells |  | From APCM 2017 until 2020 |
|  | Margaret Beetham |  | From APCM 2018 until 2019 |
|  | Kurosh Behpouri |  | From APCM 2018 until 2021 |
|  | Alan Clarke | Lay Chair | From APCM 2018 until 2021 |
|  | Andrew Dawson |  | From APCM 2018 until PCC meeting September 2018 |
|  | Ruth Nanji |  | From APCM 2018 until 2019 |
|  | Hilary Peate |  | From APCM 2018 until 2020 |
|  | Barbara Kinch |  | Co-opted at PCC meeting May 2018 until APCM 2019 |

***Committees and working groups***

The standing committee is required by the Church Representation Rules. Other committees and working groups are appointed by the PCC for the purpose of various branches of church work in the parish. Members of the PCC lead the working groups but members of the congregation who are not members of the PCC are welcome to join the groups.

*Standing committee:*

This committee has power to transact the business of the Council between its meetings, subject to directions given by the full Council.

*Finance and development:*

This group takes responsibility for: stewardship and giving; meeting our costs; financial planning; funding; investment; development; grant aid; and fundraising.

*Building Committee:*

This group works actively with the Finance committee in looking after all aspects of the maintenance and development of the church building.

*Education:*

This group takes responsibility for: Advent and Lent courses; one-off educational events; quiet days/away days; speakers at bread and soup lunches; welcome to students; and inclusion-related events and activities.

*Young people/Children’s church:*

This group takes responsibility for: the involvement of children in the life and worship of the church; provision for children and their parents within the church; and the encouragement of young people, children and their parents as active members of the church community.

*Music/Worship:*

This group takes responsibility for: the musical life and direction of the church, considering how to enrich and extend our current musical traditions and repertoire.

***Church attendance***

The average weekly attendance at the Sung Eucharist on Sunday was 70.

***Review of the year***

The church began the year in interregnum, and continued to be served by the various clergy who had helped us over the previous 18 months. The PCC would again like to record its thanks to these members of the clergy: to the Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth, the Revd Paula Robinson, the Revd Jonathan Tallon, the Venerable Karen Lund, the Revd Bill Raines, and in particular to our former curate Revd Nigel Hawley, who led us through the Triduum services at Easter.

Following interviews for a half-time position as Rector in late December 2017, the appointment of the Revd Richard Young was announced in late January 2018, and he was formally installed as Rector on April 24th 2018.

Children’s Church continues to have dedicated teaching on the second Sunday of each month related to lectionary themes.

Midweek Eucharists continued to take place on Mondays and Thursdays, with Morning Prayer on Fridays.

The full PCC met six times during the year (including an informal meal in July) with a mean average attendance of 81% (range 77-86%). The PCC discussed, amongst other things, various projects that required work around the church, including work to improve and landscape around the car park, work to improve the signage around the church, and prospective work on replacing the majority of the kitchen, due to happen around Easter 2019.

Close links continue with St James School with members of the congregation serving on the Governing Body. The Eucharist was celebrated each term and Year 5 and 6 children linked with the church on a Remembrance Day project.

Thanks to the legacy from the estate of Geoffrey Hughes, the repair work on the organ took place, which further improved the flexibility and range of the instrument through the addition of pipeless stops, a piston capture system, a sequencer, a transposer, and a mechanically-adjustable organ bench, at a total cost of approximately £40,000 upon which we were able to reclaim the VAT costs.

The PCC also agreed to continue funding for choral scholarships for the academic year 2018-19. Three scholarships were taken up by those who had scholarships the previous year. An advert was also circulated in September and as a result we took on one further scholar who is also a current student at the Royal Northern College of Music.

For our Lent course this year, we were encouraged to read something we had not read before, and share with each other our thoughts on our reading; in Advent we followed a course put together by the Rector.

Our practice of co-operating with Church Together in Fallowfield and Withington for street collecting during Christian Aid week has become increasingly difficult and this year only one member of the church undertook street collecting, on streets where he has built up support over many years. That we were able to collect such a good sum is partly due to his efforts and partly to the generosity of church members in making individual donations and supporting a bake sale. However, we have been able to work with Churches Together in collecting for Christian Aid at branches of Tesco in Burnage and Didsbury which have done well.

The church continues to support Peace and Justice campaigns, including supporting local asylum seekers, Christian Aid, Traidcraft and Fairtrade, including a “Big Breakfast”in Fairtrade Fortnight.

The year has seen successful support result in permission to remain granted for at least six members of our congregation. Work with asylum seekers and refugees continues to be a large part of our mission, and work to fund a project that could extend this work in future is still ongoing.

Occasional Sunday lunches, with major input from the Iranian members of the congregation, took place at church during the year.

During the Calendar year 2018 a group of church members took part in a Prayer Circle, originally set up to support the work in the parish of peace and justice, especially for asylum seekers. Members shared every month in prayer on an agreed topic, suggested by one of those in the group.

The Mar Thoma church continues to use the church for services on Sunday afternoons and for special services at other times, though we are aware that they have recently acquired their own building in Heywood, so will be moving on in the near future. A Pentecostal group from Trafford continue to use the church on early Sunday evenings.

The Alteri choir continue to be regular users of the building. The Rusholme and Fallowfield Civic Society continue to make regular use of the building for events. The Beethoven Society and the Gorton Philharmonic each held one concert in church during 2018, the Medical School Choir and Orchestra two concerts, and the Manchester University Choir and Orchestra Society held their Christmas concert at church. The Cheshire East Musical Theatre company also performed a concert of both musical theatre and classical pieces, directed by one of our current choral scholars. A yoga class continues to take place every Monday evening at church in the upper apse area.

The parish has continued its support of refugees and those in need in Manchester by regular weekly gifts of food, toiletries, towels, blankets and other items to OASIS, a charity based in Gorton.

In Lent our giving supported the Asylum Support & Housing Association, and in Advent we donated to Traidcraft’s toilet-twinning appeal. A bake sale in support of MacMillan took place on Sunday 30th September, raising £175.

The church continues to be an access point for Withington & Fallowfield food bank, opening 10am-12noon every Saturday.

The church continued to receive vital income from the mobile phone mast installation. From October, the end of the car park was rented to Bardsleys, who are building a residential care facility further down Wilbraham Road.

In the autumn, the Revd Jane Walker joined us initially as a member of the congregation. She has since preached and presided at weekday and Sunday Eucharists. We hope that she will be licensed to the parish in 2019.

The Zweck-Lench family left us in early September to move to Australia. Their leaving was marked by a meal in church and a blessing from Richard. We continue to receive news of the family, particularly Sarah and Emma as they start their new life in Adelaide. Anna contributed a new composition to challenge the choir on All Souls’ Day.

Elaine Rose died in May 2018, following a long fight with cancer. Her funeral was held on Ascension Day. A legacy from her estate went towards the purchase of new albs for the ever growing sanctuary team.

John Murday died in October 2018. Like Elaine, his contribution to the life of this church and parish over the years is difficult to calculate. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Andrew Gait,*

*PCC Secretary,*

*March 2019*