

Whitefriars Church, Rushden (Charity Number 1130312): Trustees' Annual Report for 2017

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Whitefriars Church, Rushden, has the responsibility in promoting in the parish of Whitefriars, Rushden the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

It became a registered charity during 2009, with the PCC members being registered as its trustees. Its object is 'promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church', and it has complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Review of activities in 2017

During 2017, the Church continued and developed the range of activities that it carried out. These included worship services on Sundays and other days, Stepping Out activities on the second Sunday of the month, and a range of other activities through the week, some provided primarily for church members and others aimed more at the wider community. Stepping Out is an initiative of missional communities which have been set up around a range of activities, with the specific intention of encouraging church members to invite friends and neighbours to have contact with the church. Many have also been involved in helping members of the community through the Food Bank and the offering of skills for repairs and maintenance, decorating, gardening, etc. Following a Vision Day planned in 2016 that was held in February 2017 with most of the church members attending including many of our children and youth. A Growth Action Plan was formulated that has helped the church leaders to focus more directly on some major issues. The Growth Action Plan contains a number of initiatives that are to be achieved within five years. The Growth Action Plan is updated every two months and a report is given to the PCC of the progress made. One major outcome of this has been the development of The Well – the planting of a new church in the northern side of Rushden, made up of a group of Christians from Whitefriars whose aim is to reach out to and disciple new church members. This group meets each week in the northern part of the parish and returns to Whitefriars on the fourth Sunday each month to share fellowship with the rest of the congregation.

The PCC met six times during 2017. The sub-committees met several times between PCC meetings, with their deliberations and recommendations being brought to PCC meetings as necessary.

Areas of PCC discussion and action during 2017 included a review of the church's safeguarding policy, use of the church minibus, updates on the church's youth work and its staffing and funding. Also carried out were spiritual surveys of all members of the congregation including an age-relevant survey for younger people, providing an up-to-date benchmark as to where our church is and where people think they are in their relationship with God.

PCC meetings also included active monitoring of church finances, and consideration of issues from the wider church, through reports from Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods and the Rushden & Higham Council of Churches. Consideration was also given to providing more financial help to the Diocese in covering the cost of ministry.

The PCC also agreed to continue to employ the Ministry Intern: this will continue until September 2018. She has been involved in all aspects of church work, but more especially with our youth and young people, working alongside our volunteer children's workers.

Our Family Support co-ordinator continues to work with those families whose needs fall outside the remit of social services: any additional support she requires is provided by other church members whenever this is possible and appropriate.

Regular monthly visits to residential homes in the parish have continued. A service of worship and Holy Communion is provided at The Beeches on the first Thursday of each month, and a service of worship is provided at Victoria House on the first Sunday of each month. A Christmas carol service

was also conducted at The Beeches. The church also makes its minibus available to both homes to enable small groups of residents to visit local garden centres.

Church attendance and membership

At 24 April 2017, 98 names were on the Electoral Roll. The average Sunday morning attendance (not including Stepping Out Sundays where the numbers are not registered) in 2017 was 108, 35 of whom were aged under 16 years. Major festivals such as Christmas and Easter, and special events such as baptisms were all well attended. There is also a slight fall during holiday periods. Away from Sunday, the church has contact each week with many children and adults through work in schools and the Stepping Out communities.

Melvyn Hunter.
PCC Secretary
March 2018

PCC membership

At the annual meeting of 2017, the following were either serving or elected to the PCC (finishing years for elected members are shown in brackets):

<i>Vicar</i>	Revd. Chris Youngman	
<i>Wardens</i>	Sarah Thompson-Fitch Sam Poulton	
<i>Diocesan Synod members</i>	Andrew Presland	(General synod)
<i>Deanery Synod representatives</i>	Melvyn Hunter Ken Owst Karen Woolley	(PCC secretary)
<i>Elected members</i>	Emma Croxon (to 2018) Chris Beckhurst (to 2019) Celia Underwood (to 2019) John Underwood (to 2019) Val Cummins (to 2018) Josh Benn (to 2020) Darren Barker (to 2020) Richard Holley (to 2018) Judy Buchanan (to 2020)	(Safeguarding)
<i>Staff members in attendance</i>	Sharon Clarke Nicola Mizon Julie Whiteley Imogen Allen	(Treasurer) (Youth minister) (Family support co-ordinator) (Ministry intern)

PCC committees and groups

Standing and Resources Committee: transacts business as required between PCC meetings, including overseeing the finances of Whitefriars Church, drafting the annual budget, monitoring income and expenditure and promoting planned giving.

Bridge Management and Minibus Management: carry out routine checks on the state of the Bridge and ensure that safety checks and routine maintenance are carried out; ensure that the minibus is correctly maintained and insured.

Mission Committee: promotes a range of mission and outreach activities including mission support, both in this country and overseas. Much of this is promoted to the congregation through the monthly prayer sheet.

Youth and Children's Committee: this oversees the management and development of the Whitefriars Church children's and youth ministries.

Each of these committees has a chair whose responsibilities include ensuring that sub-committees within each meet regularly and that meetings are properly minuted and reports returned to the PCC, management of the budget allocation, ensuring that expenditure is kept within the amounts requested.