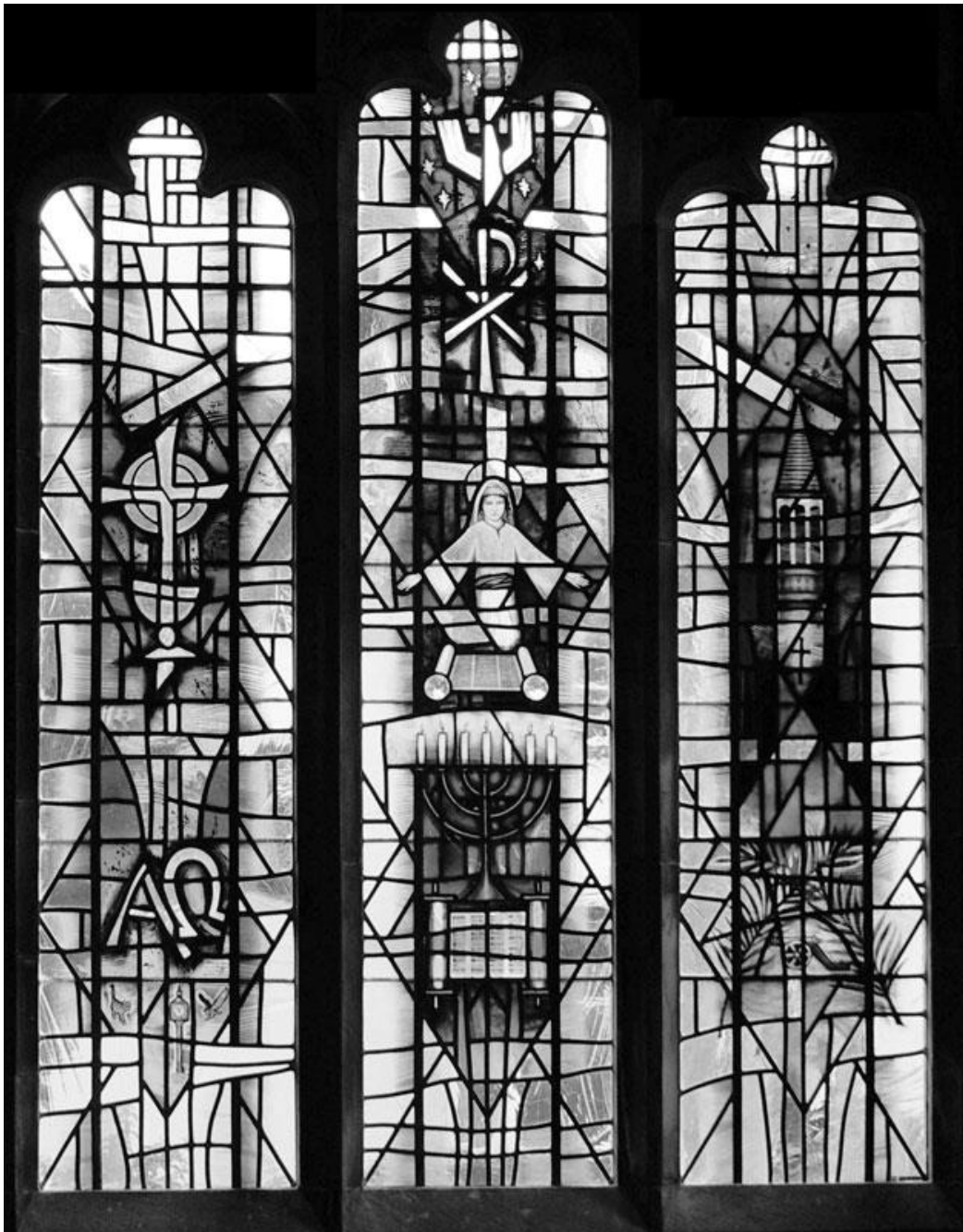


# St Barbara's Church Earlsdon

The annual report of the PCC  
AGM meeting 19<sup>th</sup> March, 11.30 am 2017



# St Barbara's Earlsdon | Agenda

## ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING 2017

### PRAYER

Annual Meeting of Parishioners to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 11.30 am

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Appointment of Church Wardens
- 3 Meeting closed

Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
2. Matters Arising not on the Agenda
3. Reports:
  - (I) Revised Church Electoral Roll
  - (II) Proceedings of Deanery Synod
  - (III) Church Wardens Fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church
  - (IV) The Annual Report of the PCC.
- (V) Consideration and Adoption of the Audited Statement of Accounts 2016
  - (VI) Appointment of Independent Examiner
4. Elections:
  - (a) Deanery Synod Representatives
  - (b) PCC Members
5. Appointments:
  - (a) Assistant Church Wardens
  - (b) Duty Wardens
  - (c) Sidespersons
6. Vicar's Address
7. Any Other Business
8. Proposed Date of Next Annual Meeting March 18<sup>th</sup> 2018
9. Closing Prayer

## St Barbara's Church Annual Report for 2016

### Background

St Barbara's PCC has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

### Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

**Incumbent:** The Revd Tulo Raistrick  
**Wardens:** Mrs Andrea Driver (since March 2002) - ex-officio on PCC  
Mr Ian Leitch (since March 2012) - ex-officio on PCC

### Representatives on the Deanery Synod – ex-officio on PCC

Mr. Keith Wright Elected 2014  
Mr Phil Weare Elected 2014

### Elected Members:

Rosemary Brotherwood  
Margaret Cuttler  
Andrea French (Sec)  
Suzanne Frey- Kupper  
Elizabeth Hearn  
Gill Nottingham  
Mary Owen  
Christine O'Brien  
Peter Shankster  
Anna Stevens  
Thomas Watts

**Organist and Music Co-ordinator** Mr Norman Owen

**Choir Leader** Mrs Katherine Owen

## **Committees**

The PCC operates through a number of sub- committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC:

### **Standing Committee**

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

### **Property Committee**

Attends to matters relating to church buildings, fabric and content.

### **Mission Committee**

Attends to matters relating to ministry of the local church to the community and the world, such as ecumenical links, evangelism and the support of mission and relief agencies.

### **Worship Committee**

Attends to matters relating to all aspects of worship.

### **Children's Ministry**

Attends to the provision of Christian teaching for children 3-11 years old.

### **Safeguarding group**

Attends to matters relating to ministry to the children and young people in the church including Safeguarding issues.

### **Stewardship Committee**

Looks into the funding of our Church and the giving of its congregation

### **CTEC(Churches Together in Earlsdon & Chapelfields)**

St. Barbara's Church is one of 5 Churches in the Earlsdon & Chapelfields Area made up as a result of a covenanting of the churches listed:

- The Precious Blood and All Souls RC Church.
- St. Mary Magdalen. (Church of England) Chapelfields.
- Hearsall Baptist Church.
- St. Barbara's. (Church of England)
- Earlsdon Methodist Church.

. The five Churches work together wherever possible and come together for Worship 4 times a year. Each Church will send members to the Churches Together committee meetings, and in addition the Ministers undertake to meet regularly. We also support each other's work in the local Community.

Andrea Driver (Treasurer), Ian Leitch and The Revd Tulo Raistrick are our CTEC representatives.

## Average attendance at regular services in 2016

			<u>Children (under 16)</u>	<u>Adults</u>
<u>Sunday</u>	8 am	Communion		9
	10 am	Communion	10	65
	10 am	All Age worship (no Holy Communion)	16	63
	10 am	All Age Worship (with baptism)	19	90
	5 pm	Buzz@St.B's	18	22
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong	3	31
	6.30 pm	Soul Space		10
<u>Wednesday</u>	11.30 am	Communion		3

These figures exclude special services (see below).

			<u>Children (under 16)</u>	<u>Adults</u>
Jan, Apr, Aug and Sept	8 am	CTEC Prayer breakfast	-	-
10 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday		16
6 <sup>th</sup> March	10 am	Mothering Sunday	17	81
20 <sup>th</sup> March	8 am	Palm Sunday		11
20 <sup>th</sup> March	10 am	Palm Sunday	5	67
21 <sup>st</sup> March, 22 <sup>nd</sup> March and 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	7.30 pm	Compline		15
24 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday	2	45
25 <sup>th</sup> March	2 pm	Good Friday Devotional service	2	42
25 <sup>th</sup> March	1 pm	Children's workshop	18	18
27 <sup>th</sup> March	6 am	Sunrise Eucharist	6	27
27 <sup>th</sup> March	10 am	Easter Sunday	14	95
25 <sup>th</sup> September	10 am	Dedication Sunday	15	92
11 <sup>th</sup> October	10 am	Harvest	30	89
2 <sup>nd</sup> November		Service of thanksgiving and remembrance	3	53
13 <sup>th</sup> November	8 am	Remembrance Day (Holy Communion)	0	10
13 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30 am	Remembrance Day (No Holy Communion)	31	139
4 <sup>th</sup> December	10 am	Christingle (No Holy Communion)	33	69
11 <sup>th</sup> December	4 pm	Buzz Christmas workshop	36	43
11 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30 pm	Bowls club carol service	3	49
18 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30 pm	Carol Service	8	99
24 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30 pm	Nativity and Crib service	340	
24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	2	50
25 <sup>th</sup> December	10 am	Christmas Day	13	79

### **Outside the Church building**

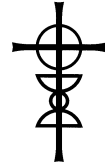
Regular visits have been made to housebound members of the congregation and to residential homes in the parish to give communion, pastoral care or hold services. On average, 4 people per week benefited from this in their homes.

The table below shows the average attendance of care homes visited for services.

Belvedere Park	7
Melbourne House	12
Belvedere House	11
Aylesdene Court	4
Herald Lodge	7
St. Andrew's House	24

# St Barbara's Earlsdon | Minutes

Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on



Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 11.30 am in the Church Hall

**Opened the Meeting in Prayer 11.40 am**

**Present: 32**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Second name</b>		<b>First name</b>	<b>Second name</b>
Dorothy	Hope		Thomas	Watts
Valerie	Irish		Don	Driver
Tony	Irish		Dan	Rathbone
Marion	Arkell		Christine	O'Brien
Peter	Shankster		Joseph	Owen
Keith	Wright		Gerald	Harrison
Elizabeth	Hearn		Monica	Harrison
Cyril	Hearn		Barbara	Metcalfe
Anna	Stevens		Jo	Johanson
Mathew	Horspool		Elaine	Parnell
Suzanne	Frey-Kupper		Andrea	French
Doreen	Merlo		Tulo	Raistrick
Kay	Whitney		Andrea	Driver
Mary	Owen		Lynda	Griffiths
Mark	Owen		Majorie	Leitch
Anne	Bissell		Maureen	Shankster

**1. Apologies for absence were received from:**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Second Name</b>		<b>First Name</b>	<b>Second Name</b>
Chris	Weare		Elaine	Settle
Phil	Weare		Louise	Moore
Lara	Collins		Cynthia	Wheeler
Pauline	Watts		Rosie	Owen
Peter	Watts		Jim	Griffiths
John	Mc Cuthion		William	Griffiths
Jill	Nottingham		Josie	Howie
			Cyril	Hearn

## 2. Appointment of Churchwardens

Andrea Driver has agreed to stand again as churchwarden for a 15<sup>th</sup> Year, Ian for a 5<sup>th</sup> year. Andrea and Ian were thanked for their excellent work and commitment. Agreed by a show of hands.

Andrea Driver	<b>Proposed in meeting:</b>	Elizabeth	Hearne	<b>Seconded:</b>	Cyril	Hearn
Ian Leitch	<b>Proposed:</b>	Keith	Wright	<b>Seconded:</b>	Dan	Rathbone

Andrea and Ian are duly elected as church wardens for the coming year.

Tulo thanked Andrea Driver for her extended service and appointed Elizabeth Hearne as a 'deputy Churchwarden' to shadow Andrea Driver with view to her stepping down as churchwarden not treasurer next year.

Elizabeth Hearn	<b>Proposed:</b>	Mary	Owen	<b>Seconded:</b>	Doreen	Merlo
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They are Ex-officio on PCC as of now and become an officer of the bishop only after they has been admitted to office at the archdeacon's visitation.

The meeting closed at 11.48

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Meeting opened 11.46 am

### 1) Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015

Minutes approved and signed by Tulo Raistrick

<b>Proposed:</b>	Mark	Owen	<b>Seconded:</b>	Elizabeth	Hearn
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### 2) Matters Arising not on the Agenda

None

### 3) Reports

(i) Revised Church Electoral Roll

Changes notified at previous PCC meetings.

None

Changes to be advised at the APCM on 13/03/2016

Removed Peckham Banana  
Heather Gleave  
Ella Orr  
Richard Orr

Added Brian Askew  
Sofia Bridger  
Thelma Briggs



Michael Fabunmi  
Natalie Friend-Du Preez  
Paul Friend  
Matthew Horspool  
Chris Moorley  
Rachael Moorley

Total names = 105  
Males = 36  
Females = 69  
Names removed = 4  
Names added = 9

There will be 2 more names added after the forthcoming PCC meeting.  
Keith thanked for his hard work.

(ii) Report of the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Keith referred us to the report within the annual report of the PCC and added that the proceedings are open to everyone, not just those on the synod. Please feel free to come along.  
Keith was thanked for his hard work in this area.

(iii) Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The inventory log has been checked.  
Other details of works are in the PCC reports.  
Ian also thanked the property committee and those who help with the work party who keep our church looking smart.

(iv) Annual Report for 2015 -

Tulo referred us to the PCC reports and summary sheet.  
Andrea French was thanked for her hard work.  
No questions were made

Reports were accepted with a show of hands.

Proposed:	Thomas	Watts	Seconded:	Barbara	Metcalf
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We also agreed that the report summary would be written for future APCM.

(v) Consideration and Adoption of the Audited Statement of Accounts for 2015

Andrea Driver took us through the accounts, the main points were:

P5 £249 Balances carried forward which takes into account the surplus of £5270 accrued last year.

P8 An increase in covenants and Tax return.

Andrea took us through the breakdown of the restricted funds income- as specified on the breakdown sheet.

There has been a change in the missionary giving to take into account other giving.

Accountant fees are split, but considerably less than previous.

Noyes Fludde- p11- £1480 was donated to 'Carriers of Hope'.

Questions:

We all recognised Noyes Fludde as being an amazing event.

Keith reminds us that we are still using our funds to break even.

Tulo commends us that we are financially much better than we were but we are using our fund.

This is an ongoing challenge to our church.

We do pay all our Parish Share and recognise the support of other churches as part of our giving.

We discussed the make-up of the Parish Share and the obligations within it.

Proposed	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Owen</b>	Seconded	<b>Suzanne</b>	<b>Frey-Kupper</b>
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Accepted by a show of hands.

Andrea Driver was thanked for her hard work.

(vi) Appointment of an Independent Examiner

**Andrea Driver recommend- Harrison, Beale and Owen Limited.**

Proposed	<b>Marjorie</b>	<b>Leitch</b>	seconded	<b>Elizabeth</b>	<b>Hearn</b>
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4) **Elections**

a) Deanery Synod Representative

Keith Wright and Phil Weare are our representatives for a three year term of office, from 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2017.

b) PCC members

At the present time the PCC is made up of the vicar, 2 churchwardens (ex-officio), 3 Deanery Synod reps- Keith, Phil and Ian (all ex-officio), and up to 12 elected members, who serve for 3 years, as agreed at an earlier AGM. Each year a 1/3 stand down, but are eligible for re-election. This year those that stand down are:

None

As our electoral roll has increased we can one more PCC member.

An opportunity for nomination was given but there was no-one who stood.

5) **Appointments.**

Duty Churchwardens

The following were appointed as Duty Churchwardens

Simon	Harper		Keith	Wright
Mark	Owen			

Proposed	Ian	Leitch	seconded	Anne	Bissell
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All agreed.

They were thanked for their hard work.

b) Sides-persons

The following were appointed as sides-persons

Brian	Askew	Peter	Watts	Maureen	Shankster
Helen	Cawley	Pauline	Watts	Andrea	Driver
Michael	Fabunmi	Jill	Nottingham	Andrew	Pitcher
Doreen	Merlo	Joseph	Owen		

All agreed by a show of hands.

Proposed	Thomas	watts	seconded	Doreen	Merlo
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If you would like to be a sidesperson, or a standby have a word with our Wardens.

6) **Vicars Address-**

**Vicar's Report on 2015 - APCM 2016**

**Introduction**

Been a full and active year in church's life

Hugely grateful to the many, many people who have made it possible through committed service, giving and prayer.

I hope you will be encouraged...

**Church Services**

***Sunday services***

Average weekly Sunday attendance grown by

- over 20% in last 3 years
- By 7.5% in 2015

This includes Buzz at St B's.

Be encouraged.

Not just numeral growth:

- choir continue to lead us fantastically well
- growing team of intercessors
- lots of positive feedback about our All Age services from regulars & visitors alike
- **Huge thanks** to Katherine and Norman and our choir, to our readers and intercessors, our ministers and preachers, servers, sides people and duty wardens, and caterers
  - **Action:** do invite people and be welcoming.

***Buzz at St B's***

- 18 months old
- Averaging over 40 each month
- Very important in attracting young families

- 8-9 families come regularly who were not previously coming regularly or at all to church
- important part of who we are as church
- **Thanks** to great team of volunteers who make it possible - catering, serving, crafts, drama, music
- **Action:** lets keep inviting people and spreading the word

### ***Prayers and Bears***

- Celebrated its first birthday last month
- Those who come greatly appreciate it
- Its linked 3-4 families into the wider life of the church
- Like to see more people come
- Challenge: children grow up or parents go back to work
- **Action:** Please spread the word

### ***Evening Services***

- Choral evensongs: choir fantastic - do come!
- Soul Space: committed core: now 2nd Sun in month

### ***Mid-week Communion***

- Do come along if you can

### ***Special Services***

Many highlights including:

- Dedication Sunday interviews with church members
- Christingle service
- Christmas Carol Service
- Easter Sunrise Service - do come!

### ***Choir***

Great to see the choir continuing to grow and develop under Katherine's excellent leadership

- **A huge thank you** to Katherine and Norman and all the choir for their commitment and time
- **Action:** Do consider joining.

### ***Growing in Faith***

#### ***Home groups***

- 4 groups
- Very positive feedback: people are always surprised by how much they enjoy them
- Wed night group: sermons
- Thu night group: Christian basics
- **Thanks** to Ian and Liz for leading the groups
- **Action:** Do consider joining a group. It would be great to see more of the church involved with these. Speak to me if interested.

### ***Baptisms & confirmations***

- First half of year lots of baptisms including two adults baptised and confirmed by Bishop Christopher

### ***Admitting children to communion***

- Extensive process of consultation & discernment
- PCC unanimously agreed the policy
- 7 children admitted to communion after thorough prep course

### ***Giving and service***

- Over 50 people filled in Hands Up forms offering new ways of getting involved in the life of the church
- 23% rise in covenanted giving
- In the black for first time in 14 years
- **Thanks** to Andrea Driver (treasurer) and Christine O'Brien (stewardship officer) and all those who give generously to work of the church.
- **Also huge thanks** to all those who give so much of their time to do jobs that most other churches would need to employ people to do: cleaning and care taking of the building; managing the bookings of the church hall and liaising with all our user groups (Elaine - thank you), much of the daily administration of the parish (Ian & Andrea - a particular thanks)
- **Action:** Still lots of opportunities to serve & give: please do consider this

### ***Connecting with the wider community***

#### ***HGTA***

- Noye's Fludde, film night, classical concert - attracted hundreds of people

#### ***Social events:***

- Earlsdon fete & christmas party two of the highlights - engaged with those beyond our church
- **Thanks** to Jo and the social committee

### ***Care Home & Pastoral visiting***

- Great work done - good to build on this
- Needs within our own congregation are growing as people get older

### ***Children***

- Take assemblies at Earlsdon Primary twice a term & host school visits
- Good connection with uniformed orbs

### ***Parish communication***

- Newsletter and website widely read & appreciated
- Huge thanks to Josie & Christine
- **Thanks:** Jim Griffiths and Simon Harper
- **Action:** do use website; do help to deliver newsletters

## **The Year Ahead**

Survey completed by PCC and other church members identified a number of strengths:

- good at using our gifts & talents
- being well organised

But areas that we could develop further were areas of

- prayer,
- spirituality
- relationships

Therefore, during 2016:

- looking to encourage more prayer within the life of the church (Prayer Chain has really blossomed; want to develop other initiatives too)
- grow deeper more caring relationships within us as a church

Linked to this, want to give time this year to seeing how we can provide more support to the elderly and those unwell

May God continue to guide us and lead us all as his church, that we may grow deeper in our love for Him and in our service of this community.

Comments-

Marjorie Leitch- asked about a 'Prayers and bears' report. One will be made next year.

Margaret Shankster- asked how many Choral Evensongs- there were four.

Anna Stevens- Praised 'How Great Thou art' as outreach and Ian informed us that something similar would occur in 2017, with something a little smaller this year.

Tony Irish- reminded us to thank the drivers who collect and return people from church.

Tulo added thanks for the children's workers and apologies for anyone missed out in the thanks.

## **7) Any Other Business**

Jo Johansson- May Fete- Jo made a request for bottles and chocolates for the tombola and raffles etc. Please sign up to help with the fete.

## **8) Date of Next Annual Meeting**

The next Annual Church Meeting was arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 11.30 am.

Closed the meeting in prayer 12.50pm

## Review of the year 2016

Full PCC meetings were held during January, March, May, July, September and November with an average attendance of 11.

The standing Committee met during February, April, June, Oct and Dec with an average attendance of 6.

We began the year approving the budget for 2016. An effort was made to reduce the use of restricted funds. During this meeting we also updated the safeguarding policy.

In February the Standing committee paused to reflect on the successes of the last year and future needs and developments that needed to be planned for.

As a whole PCC in March we allocated roles in the sub-committees and six months after the National Church Development survey we debated the position of St. Barbara's now.

We began our planning for the Bishops Week of prayer (5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May) during the Standing Committee in April. This allowed the PCC meeting in May to be very special. After agreeing the Heads of Terms for the Scout hut, we concluded business and spent the remainder of the meeting in prayer. Tulo lead us with spiritual prompts and silent prayer in the Lady's Chapel.

After reflecting on the work carried out in June, we began to consider the financial viability of St Barbara's in July. We looked at the Parish Share and agreed the flexibility needed by Andrea D and Tulo. We then discussed the viability of a stewardship campaign which was carried out in the autumn.

In September, we discussed how good we and the church are at outreach in the community. During November's meeting Tulo took us through the latest findings of the National church development survey- carried out during September.

The end of the year found us looking at the accounts of the previous year.

The following questions are some of the ones we have discussed this year.

What are the positive aspects of development in St Barbara's?

What are the negative aspects of development in St Barbara's?

How do we help people engage more with the Bible

How can we build a loving supportive culture?

How good are we at reaching out and connecting with people beyond our Sunday morning regulars?

Which services seem to be particularly effective at attracting new people?

Which church social events and other activities are connecting with new people?

What can we do as individuals/ as a church to be better at encouraging more people to be part of our church community?

If you have an opinion to express or a spiritual need to discuss them then please consider joining the PCC.

Thank you and God Bless

Andrea French, PCC Secretary

## Vicar's Report 2016

2016 has been a good year in the life of St Barbara's, with much to give thanks for. I'm particularly grateful to God for inspiring so many of you to offer yourselves in service in the church. Without your prayers, commitment, time, energy, labour and faith few of the things that we can give thanks for would have happened. Below are just some of the highlights from the last 12 months.

### Church Services

**Sunday morning services.** There has continued to be positive feedback about Sunday morning services, both from newcomers and regulars alike. People have appreciated the sermon series we have run over the course of the year, including the series on the early church between Easter and Pentecost, the summer series on the overview of the Old Testament, and the Advent series on the book of Revelation. The choir have continued to lead us musically to a very high standard. The All Age Worship services have attracted a number of families not previously coming to Sunday morning services

**Buzz at St B's.** Buzz at St B's celebrated its second birthday in September, and there is a strong sense of community and togetherness about this service. Children greatly enjoy the variety of ways to learn and worship and grow in faith, and parents and carers are very appreciative of the informal environment and the opportunity to build friendships. This service is made possible by a good team of volunteers, helping with catering, music, drama, craft, moving of chairs and tables, and much more. It is very good to see some of our regular families now beginning to take on these roles.

**Prayers and Bears.** This weekly mid-week service for the under 5s and their parents and carers will have been going two years in February 2017, and is continuing to blossom. Despite losing a number of children during the year as children started attending school or as parents went back to work, our numbers are continuing to grow, and we are attracting children and their carers from both a number of local churches and from no church at all. Prayers and Bears has been a valuable first stepping stone into church for some this year and an important reconnection to church after some years away for others.

**Evening services.** Our quarterly choral evensongs and monthly Soul Space services have provided an important space for meditation and worship throughout the year, and whilst still attended by small numbers, are greatly appreciated by those who do attend.

**Mid-week communion service.** This small service has seen a significant change in 2016, with the move from the Book of Common Prayer liturgy to a liturgy more familiar to Sunday morning attendees. The service has also been simplified and made more intimate, and the response to these changes of those attending has been very positive.

### Growing in faith

**Home groups.** We now have five home groups in the church and the promotion of the home groups in September saw a significant number of new people join the groups. There are now over 30 people meeting regularly in these groups, and the groups have been places where people have been able to grow in both faith and friendship. Themes explored in these groups have included the 10 commandments, the beatitudes and the events of the Passion.

**Prayer.** In last year's annual report, the desire to encourage more prayer within the life of the church was identified. During 2016 there were a number of very positive initiatives, including the creation of a prayer tree, which has been widely used, and the continuing growth and use of the prayer chain. Between Ascension and Pentecost, we also had Ten Days of Prayer, including prayer stations and resources on prayer. The feedback on this time was very positive, and we are looking to repeat a similar week in 2017. A recent survey found that people were much more sure that others in the church were praying for them than they were a year previously – a very encouraging response.



**Confirmations.** It was wonderful to see two of the adult members of our church get confirmed at the Pentecost Service at Coventry Cathedral, alongside fifty others from around the diocese.

**Giving.** An important sign of spiritual growth has been the on-going financial generosity of many in the church. For the first time in many years, our income has matched our expenditure and we have not had to diminish our reserves. This is tremendously positive.

### **Connecting with the wider community**

**Care Home and Pastoral Visiting.** Our committed team of care home visitors and those who do pastoral visiting has been an immensely appreciated ministry throughout the year, and one that brings much comfort to those who are house-bound or isolated.

**Funerals and Bereavement Support.** 2016 sadly saw the deaths of a number of church members, and the funerals for a significant number of parishioners. The bereavement support and the funerals led by St Barbara's church has been both an important witness and source of support to many in the community this year.

**Social Events.** Our Film Nights continue to be popular and well-attended, and provide an important social opportunity, especially for those who may not otherwise get to the cinema. Other events such as the Car Treasure Hunt, the Summer BBQ and the Pies and Poems afternoon all proved very enjoyable and attracted people from beyond as well as within the church. And the Earlsdon Fete was once again a huge success, with hundreds of people enjoying the church's hospitality.

**Children.** Regular half-termly assemblies took place at Earlsdon Primary School throughout 2016, and St Barbara's was also able to host a number of visits from the school and from Rainbows. In addition, links with the uniformed organisations continued to be positive, with their involvement in a number of our Sunday services.

**Parish communication.** Our website and parish newsletter have been well received throughout the year, and have helped many to keep in touch with the church,

### **The Year Ahead**

In the coming year, we will look to continue to build on the encouraging growth identified in this report, and to nurture faith. In particular, we will look to:

- Offer ways by which we can individually and collectively grow more in our understanding and application of the Bible;
- Provide greater provision for our secondary-school age children as part of Hive;
- Provide more opportunities for the deepening of friendships and relationships within us as a church community.

May God continue to guide us and lead us all as his church, that we may grow deeper in our love for Him and in our service of this community.

Tulo Raistrick  
Vicar

## CTEC Report for the Year Ending December 2016

This year the committee welcomed Rev'd Mary Shannahan, minister of Earlsdon Methodist Church, and bade farewell to Rev'd Stella Bailey, who moved from St Mary Magdalen Church to be vicar of St Nicholas, Kenilworth. At the AGM in May Rev'd David Sutcliffe, Anne Thompson and Andrea Driver were re-elected as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

During Lent two study groups followed the York course "*The Psalms*". In Advent, the groups undertook Bible studies based on the four lectionary readings set for each Sunday.

CTEC members shared regular table fellowship at the monthly Prayer Breakfasts. In January, we marked the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a pulpit exchange among all five CTEC partner churches, a Taizé service of prayerful reflection, and a United Service of worship. During the Week we also enjoyed a Fellowship Supper and Quiz at St Barbara's Church. During Lent, we met for a simple lunch each week, and the proceeds were shared between CAFOD and Christian Aid. On Palm Sunday CTEC gathered in two groups – at St Barbara's Church and All Souls Church – to share the Litany of Palms, before processing to their own church. We also met for united worship and witness on Advent Sunday and in One World Week, at which service we presented Carriers of Hope with the goods that we had collected.

We have continued our efforts to interact with the public informally. On Maundy Thursday, we handed out free hot-cross buns shoeshine stands in Earlsdon Street, with a leaflet explaining the meaning of Easter and details of local church services. In May, we participated in the Earlsdon Festival with a stall in Earlsdon Street, in addition to the activities by churches in their own premises. In December, we shared the celebration of Christmas by singing carols in three local public houses.

In May Lesley and Duncan McLaine of the Northumbria Community led a Day of Reflection on the theme "Love God- Love One Another" in Berkswell Parish Room. It was a most stimulating day giving much food for thought.

Each year CTEC supports a Charity. This year we selected Medical Aid to Palestinians (MAP), a charity that delivers medical and health care to those worst affected by conflict, occupation and displacement. We collected nearly £900 to send to MAP. During the year, we also sent financial donations to the Coventry Winter Night Shelter. We continued to donate goods twice a year to Carriers of Hope,

Building on the success of our Christian Arts Festival "*How Great Thou Art*" in 2015, we held a four-day mini-festival in October. We showed *Of Gods and Men* at a film night; we held a Barn Dance with a fish-and-chip supper; we organised a pop-up street café and coffee morning; and mounted a Variety Concert. We celebrated the success of the mini-festival in a united service of worship, with a shared tea, a talk by a representative from Medical Aid to Palestinians.

We continue to rejoice that for more than four decades our understanding and co-operation have grown. We are confident that, as our revised text states, "Jesus Christ is calling us to love one another and to serve God's kingdom in the world as one Church".

Ian Leitch    CTEC Representative

## Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Fittings, Furniture and Furnishing of the Church 2016

We have inspected the church property register, the log book of alterations and the inventory, and each is in order and up to date. Our inspection of the property register and log book was verified by PCC representatives in December. We have checked the inventory and found all items to be present and correct. The Area Dean verified that the inventory was correct during his Visitation in November.

A new inventory of every item in the kitchen has been created. We are in process of revising and updating the inventory of church key holders.

During the year maintenance and repair work has been undertaken continuously to ensure it remains in good order. Completed works include:

- a. The Hall storeroom doors were re-painted to match the cupboards.
- b. The boundary hedge on the north side of the car park was replaced with a galvanised steel fence and the cost born by the Allotment Association.
- c. The church heating system was serviced and overhauled and repaired in an attempt to ensure that a satisfactory temperature was maintained throughout all services.
- d. Two new microphones were purchased for the sound system
- e. Portable Appliance Tests (PAT) were successfully performed for all electrical equipment in October.
- f. many other minor works too numerous to describe.

The Church property continues to be maintained in very good condition. It has been gratifying to note that the extensive insulation work undertaken in the Hall in recent years is showing the anticipated benefits.

We express our gratitude for two donations: an anonymous donation from a church member has enabled the purchase of a table-tennis table for use by the young people of the church, and a gift from the estate of the late Dr Bob Payne will enable the purchase of a new Churchwardens' Board in church.

We wish to express our thanks to the Property Committee, to all who have participated in the monthly Work Parties for their work in the caring for church property and to all who have assisted us in carrying out our duties.

Andrea Driver and Ian Leitch  
Churchwardens

## Deanery Synod report 2016

The Synod meets four times during the year and the meetings consist of an act of worship followed by a presentation of some sort of activity which is taking place usually somewhere within the Coventry Diocese. The meetings are open for anybody to attend. The meetings take place at host churches within the deaneries of Coventry South and Kenilworth.

This year we met at St. John Baptist Berkswell, St. Stephen's Canley, St. Laurence Meriden and St. Martin's Finham.

We had presentations about their parish and their activities from St. John's Kenilworth, Christchurch Cheylesmore, St. Laurence Meriden and St. Martin's Finham.

And we learnt about the work of the prison chaplain at HMP Olney; had a presentation from a General Synod member entitled "what on earth is the church of England for"; listened to two young men about their work with Coventry and Kenilworth Youth for Christ; and heard from a newly ordained priest in Coventry about the subject of bringing the Gospel to those struggling with mental ill health.

I would have thought there was something in that lot to interest most of us – so make a resolution to attend a meeting in the coming year please.

If you are interested to hear more about any of the topics mentioned in this report or if you have an idea which you think might be of interest to the other churches in our deanery please speak to one of your deanery representatives.

Keith Wright

Deanery Synod member

### Social committee report

From 9 Film nights we had in 2016 total money taken from them was £170, the May Day Fete brought in £2121. There was another income beginning of June for £74.85 -We held a shared lunch, and also a Bar B Q we had brought in £12.70. The Egghead Quiz which raised £103 went towards Postage for the Shoeboxes.

The film nights prove to be popular and show a range of recent blockbuster movies. This year, our social events will focus on a range of activities and audiences. Help is always welcomed - even if just an hour!

Joanne Johanson

Chair

## The Choir and Music during 2016

The choir has been fairly stable this year singing at the regular Sunday morning services and 4 Choral Evensongs. It was hoped that a band would be a more developed feature of the church music but this didn't really happen due to commitment issues and timings. However, they did play at the February concert and people were inspired to make this band a reality. Dates have been set for 2017 so hopefully there will be great things to report at the end of the year.

Matthew Horspool achieved his Bronze Level ribbon which was excellent. However, due to time constraints others have not progressed. Katherine is hoping to rectify this in 2017.

Here are some highlights in the musical year.

- In February we had a concert in church raising money for Clic Sargent and NOFA
- In April the RSCM had a local area Meet the Director at St. Barbara's where choirs from other churches in the diocese came and joined our choir to sing with Andrew Reid.
- In September a large group went to Derby Cathedral for a workshop run by John Rutter
- We had a joint evensong with St. Nicolas Nuneaton in July, firstly at our church and the following weekend at theirs.

Next year will start busy for the choir. We have a concert in March with the Heart of England Co-operative Concert Orchestra. Our choir will be the core choir for a community choir to be created for the event. There is a planned trip to Gloucester Cathedral and Cadbury World. Now is the time to join the choir if you want to take part in all these exciting opportunities!

Norman and Katherine would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported them behind the scenes in their mission to enhance the music making at St. Barbara's.

Katherine Owen

Choir leader

## Children and Young People's Committee annual report 2016

This year Hive has had a positive time following the ROOTS material and learning more about Jesus and each other as we have met during the Sunday morning worship before returning to church to share with the adults. Some highlights were a glitter spectacular craft, using the giant prayer glasses to pray for others including refugees, the war in Syria and Donald Trump and the USA, topics that the children have a real interest in. Using craft, storytelling, discussion and eating we have explored faith in a fun and often deep way.

Spree: A youth group of 10 of the 8-teens went to the Midlands Spree this summer where we did abseiling, climbing, canoeing and archery as we camped and had input from the Youth For Christ and Urban Saints worship teams. Several children made commitments to follow Jesus and we all had great fun! We'll be going again this year so do let us know if you are interested in joining in.

A new initiative has just started with leaders taking those on year 6 upwards for a youth group (no catchy name as yet) once a month for their own session. Watch this space as it develops.

The Easter and Christmas Craft Workshops attracted good numbers of children from the parish to explore the meaning of the seasons with craft, baking and friendship as they make decorations, banners, cookies, calendars and countless crafty items. Both Workshops will run this coming year too.

### **Safeguarding Report**

The members of this group are: Tulo Raistrick (designated person) and Elizabeth (Liz) Hearn (designated person)

Tulo and Liz continue to meet to discuss how St Barbara's Church fulfils the policies that are set by Coventry Diocese. Liz Hearn presented a report to the PCC which outlined why safeguarding is important, how we monitor abuse, safer recruitment practices and policy for hall users. An audit has been made of all Hall users which shows their leadership, DBS and insurance details. A big thank you to Elaine Parnell for collects all this information. It has also been agreed that when the Hall is used by a group where children and adults at risk are in the group members of St. Barbara's cannot automatically enter the room during the session. If entry to the office is needed the outside door is to be used. Elaine is the direct link and any need to speak to a hall user should go through Elaine.

Liz Hearn/Sarah Raistrick  
Hive Leaders

## Mission Committee Report Year Ending 2015

The Mission Committee met only once this year - at the beginning of the year - when we discussed what recommendations we would make to the PCC about our mission giving. We recommended to the PCC that the following be allocated:-

CMS £567, US £567, Bible Society £567, Church Army £300, Coventry City Mission £300 and Mission To Seafarers £300

As has been the practice over recent years the profits from our Sunday refreshments have also been given to charity and it was decided at the meeting what those charities would be for the four quarterly sums available during the year. We therefore gave as follows:-

Ibba Girl's School South Sudan £173-11, Alzheimers Society £173-50, Coventry Night Shelter, Nurses on Motorbikes (Tanzania) £196-15

These recommendations were passed to the PCC where they were agreed.

The meeting also decided various other fundraising events including our Lent and Harvest Appeals for Coventry Cross of Nails and CORD respectively especially for their work in Burundi.

We sadly noted that we would not be taking part in the Christian Aid Week activities because nobody had come forward to take over from the current organisers who had decided not to continue – happily Helen Cawley came forward and with the help of the collectors ran a successful house to house collection during Christian Aid Week.

It's worth noting here that although the Mission Committee only met once, we have taken more time in PCCs to discuss and pray about what as a church we should be doing which has included our mission in the parish.

If you feel that you might like to get more involved in the mission of St. Barbara's or to have more of a say in what you think we should be doing please talk to me, Tulo or any of the PCC members. Thank you.

Keith Wright

Mission Committee Member