

**THE PARISH CHURCH  
OF  
HOLY TRINITY, BIRCHFIELD**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2016**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY 7th MAY 2017**

**OUR VISION**

Holy Trinity, through Jesus Christ, wishes to continue sharing the love of God with others, regardless of age, race, gender or creed. To that end we welcome everyone to Holy Trinity.

# **HOLY TRINITY OFFICERS 2016**

## **VICAR**

**Revd Canon Eve Pitts**

## **READERS**

**Mrs E Christian**

**Mr K Rutherford**

**Mrs J Simms**

## **CHURCH WARDEN**

**Mrs C Callender**

## **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Mr J Alexander, Mrs P Nelson, Mrs M Bartley,  
Miss S Bartley, Mrs C Callender, Miss H Cross,  
Miss J De Costa, Miss J Francis, Mrs B Hamilton,  
Miss C Harris (Treasurer), Miss L McPherson,  
Mr M Odubanjo, Mrs M Scott, Mr F Stewart,  
Mrs A Watson, Miss M West (Secretary), Mrs M Barnett  
(Secretary from 2017)**

**Readers: Mrs E Christian, Mr K Rutherford,  
Mrs J Simms,**

## **FABRIC SUB-COMMITTEE**

**C Callender**

## **PASTORAL TEAM**

**E Christian, A Kooner, M Scott, J Simms, M West**

## **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**E Christian, H Cross, J De Costa, V Flowers,  
C Forrester, J Francis, B Hamilton, C Harris, P Nelson  
A Pitts, W Richards, J Rutherford,  
K Rutherford, M Scott, J Simms, F Stewart, W Walker,  
A Watson, M West.**

## **'INSPIRED GENERATION' LEADERS**

**Jennifer Alexander, Siobhan Bartley, Lorna McPherson,  
Wendy Walker, James Alexander**

## **SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

**H Cross**

## **DEANERY SYNOD**

**M Bartley (Lay Chair), F Stewart**

## **DIOCESAN SYNOD**

**M Bartley**

<b>Figures for</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Electoral Roll</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Confirmations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Weddings</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Funerals in Church</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Av Sunday attendance</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>111</b>

# **AGENDA**

- 1. Opening prayer**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of the last AGM**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Vicar's report**
- 6. Presentation of Annual Reports**
- 7. Treasurer's report**
- 8. Elections and appointments**
  - PCC members**
  - Sidesmen/Women**
  - Deanery Synod**
- 9. Any other business**
  
- 10. Date and time of next meetings, including PCC**
- 11. Closing prayer and blessing**

# REPORTS

<b>Page</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Vicar's report</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Warden's report</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Treasurer's report</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Leadership Group</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Pastoral Care Team</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Bereavement Group</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Holy Trinity Choir / Prayer Group</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Colour Groups</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Holy Trinity Brotherhood</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Mothers' Union</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Deanery Synod</b>

*Please note: the Financial Statements were not available when these reports were printed, so they will be issued separately.*

# VICAR'S REPORT

In many ways 2016-2017 was a good year. Why?

1. We are beginning to grow again in numbers after a fall from 2014. New people came to Holy Trinity in 2016. We must welcome everyone.
2. Our floor is done, so thanks go to those of you who made financial contributions.
3. The grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund is a tremendous boost to our future plans for our building, in particular the roof.
4. The choir is growing, and is a more enjoyable experience for the members.
5. The Lunch Club continues to do well.
6. Our new Job Club got off to a good start. More volunteers are needed.
7. The Mothers' Union is still going strong.
8. We have just received a grant to pay for the development of our church plans.

All the above are good for our church and future of Holy Trinity. Of course, we cannot sit back; we have an obligation to the future, so we must continue to work together.

## **Things for Improvement**

- a) Sometimes we still have a stubborn inability to work together; for example, not supporting each other's ideas. We cannot achieve without a conscious decision to support each other. When we work together, then we succeed or fail together.
- b) Worship. This is improving; our congregational singing is getting better, but there are times when people talk during the service, especially during the administration of communion. This is not good.
- c) Attendance at the prayer group needs to increase. Prayer is the life blood of any church.

d) Colour groups. Some groups work very well; they are important for church fellowship, and church growth. Please do not neglect your group.

e) Junior Church. We will rise again! We have been through a difficult time, but God will bless us again. It is the duty of all of us to invite young people and children so we can make a fresh start with Junior Church.

We have a good Bible study group, which meets every Wednesday at certain times of the year. Everyone is welcome.

Every church needs reliable individuals with willing hands to enable it to thrive, and everyone needs to feel valued.

### **Changes required**

1. We must be more welcoming.
2. We need a better understanding of what it means to be a Christian.
3. To show love towards each other.
4. Less talk by some people during the service.
5. Getting to church on time.
6. Improvements in the financial giving if we want Holy Trinity to survive for the future.
7. Better team work - it brings good results.

Let's work together.  
Thanks to everyone.

***Reverend Canon Eve Pitts***

## WARDEN'S REPORT

Our church is a community where people like to walk in, say a prayer, look around, or just sit for a while. I wonder if it would be a good idea to keep our door open longer on the days when we are in church. However, would we have people to help? With everyone so busy, I can only dream - but if there is anyone willing to help please let me know.

We thank God that the floor is done; God bless you members and well-wishers who have given to the Floor Fund. Some people gave so generously, while others still haven't given a pound. Any way, it's done.

We pay our Common Fund, which is calculated partly on how many people are on the Electoral Roll. At the moment we have 116 members, so we need £10 per week to pay our bills. If it were not for funerals and weddings there would be times when we would be unable to pay our bills. Some people still put two and three pounds in their envelopes. I don't know how many members realise how grateful we should be to our vicar, Reverend Eve, who has brought in thousands of pounds to our church from non-Holy Trinity funerals. Without such income there are occasions when we would not be able to pay our bills.

I look back on 2016 and wonder if it were a bad dream. We had two problems, but one in particular I can't get my head around. I hope and pray that the people involved will take time to look at themselves and say 'Sorry'.

We need more sides-persons, and people to help with cleaning on Thursday mornings.

Please do not leave unwanted items at the back of church, thank you: it makes the back look untidy.

'Thank you' to all sides-persons, those who help to clean, those who do the flowers, and the ladies who clean the brass over the Easter period. Didn't our church look beautiful again? Thank you all.

Mrs Mckie, thank you for looking after things when I'm away. I'm very grateful for your help, and for your kind words.

To everyone: many thanks for your prayers and support. We are looking to see our church grow from strength to strength. May the Lord keep and bless us; and God bless Reverend Eve Pitts and her family.

Love to you all.

***Cynthia Callender, Church Warden.***

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Introduction

Thankfully, Holy Trinity Church Birchfield has fulfilled another year amidst the ongoing financial and political pressures we are constantly faced with. This fulfilment would not have been possible without your support, committed giving and donations. Special thanks go to Rev Canon Eve for her ongoing hard work and dedication. A special 'thank you' also goes out to Anthony Pitts (Finance Team) and Cynthia Callender (Warden) for their commitment and support in ensuring that the monies are banked. More so, a special 'thank you' is extended to our Independent Examiner, Mr. Michael Hastilow. Words cannot express how grateful we are for his generous support year on year in certifying the accounts, free of cost.

## Financial Overview

In 2016 Holy Trinity has received charitable status and has been entered onto the Register of Charities. The registered charity number is 1168155.

Even though there has been a reduction in members paying towards the Planned Giving we have seen an increase in 2016. Envelopes/bank received in 2016 - £45486 to that in 2015 - £38379. There is also a slight increase of members giving by standing order (bank). Giving by standing order is a far easier and consistent way of giving. Remember, we can claim 25% back on your giving if you are a UK tax payer. If your weekly giving is £10 we can claim back an additional £2.50 a week. For 2016 Holy Trinity Church has claimed back over £2000 tax rebate as a result of your giving.

Unfortunately, Holy Trinity church continues to rely on the income from funerals, weddings (statutory) and the hall to keep our finances afloat. For 2016 we have seen a slight fall in income from these sources; therefore, it is important that we give regularly and generously. Your giving should be the main source of income that keeps this church going.

We must say a big 'thank' you to those organisations and members/individuals who donated or gifted financially so that Holy Trinity church can continue God's work and to serve our community and those further afield. Holy Trinity has also donated to charitable organisations such as Breast Cancer Research, Christian Aid, Macmillan and more.

Holy Trinity Church now has full financial responsibility for the property at Leonard Avenue. Over the years we have received minimal rent from Mercia Housing/landlord which meant that we have not gained any economical benefit. The church has arranged with the property letting agent for payments to be collected and the church in return receives a percentage. Currently the property is undergoing roof repairs and will be rented again on completion. It is proposed for the proceeds to go into a saving account independent of the church's current account.

In 2016 fortunately and by God's grace we were able to pay all our creditors. We need to recognise that our church is like running an extra home that is we have to pay utilities, insurance, church/hall running and maintenance cost and more importantly the vicar (Common Fund). These costs increase every year like our own bills.

### **Jubilee Fund Account**

It is important to remember that the Jubilee Fund account is a designated account and is not a savings account. We do not have any savings to rescue us in any financial emergency, so as it stands we are operating on the edge. Through appeals made, funds donated/gifted are specifically paid towards the church repairs. There will always be constant movement of funds and these funds are ring-fenced and cannot be used for anything else. Due to the age of the church there will always be repairs to be carried out. Consequently, we need to continue with our fundraising drive in order to keep funds afloat.

Fundraising continues to be a tremendous source of income for Holy Trinity and we commend you wholeheartedly for your generous giving and support. The various groups have done brilliantly by organising fundraising activities such as raffles, the summer fayre, goodies/cake sale, gala dinners/lunches, walks, films and much more in order to raise funds for Holy Trinity Church.

In 2016 Holy Trinity Church raised funds totalling £19,947 and from these we were able to pay for major church repairs. We paid towards repair of the church roof (lead theft) and the floor! As self-funders, this has no doubt proven our eligibility as recipient of the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is vital that we continue our fundraising venture in order to secure future funding for the next stage from the Heritage Lottery Fund (2<sup>nd</sup> stage).

Finally, thank you once again for your tremendous support. We need to press on as there is still a lot of work to do. It is imperative that we continue to give generously and consistently. We need to work and worship together in love and unity in order to make sure this church remains open for this generation and the next.

God bless,

***Christine Harris and the Finance Team***

## **LEADERSHIP GROUP**

You know we have had a leadership team running for over 18 months .The aim of this leadership group is to show commitment and direction in all aspects of church life though our faith.

We, as a group, have spent a lot of time finding our feet. We have spent a lot a time tripping over ourselves which has lead to us not going on to deal with the more important issues within our church. We have as a group produced a mission statement.

Some of us have continued to support the church with extra financial giving. While there have been changes in the Social and Fundraising Group (i.e. disbanded) the Leadership Group have stepped in to arrange the social calendar and organise some of the events

I'm hoping that the team will be more productive and more proactive in church life and also more forward thinking. I hope that members of the Leadership Group will have the confidence to speak up and show what we can do.

***Keith Rutherford, Chair of the leadership group.***

## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

**Team Members:** Jean Simms, Evadney Christian, Angela Kooner, Mavis Scott, Marcia West

The Pastoral Care Team is continuing in its ministry of offering support to those church members who are unable to visit church regularly. More members have become housebound over the past couple of years, and the team do their best to support Revd Eve by keeping in regular contact with these members, either by phoning or visiting them. They offer communion and prayer to those they visit, and just as important, a welcome face from their church community.

Two members of the regular congregation, Christeen Forrester and Jill De Costa, have expressed an interest and desire to learn more about pastoral ministry. They are now in the first year of a course for those who wish to become pastoral care visitors in the diocese. After they have completed the second year of the course, which is called 'Offering Pastoral Care and Community Skills', the hope is that they will become commissioned pastoral visitors for Holy Trinity, Birchfield.

Some of the team were able to attend this year's Away Day for Pastoral Care Teams, which was held at Carrs Lane Church Centre 18<sup>th</sup> March. The theme for the event was 'Love your Neighbour' and the main speaker was Canon Dr Andrew Smith, the Director of Interfaith Relations for Birmingham Diocese.

In his address he encouraged us not only to recognise how diverse our neighbours and the Diocese has become, but to remember the common things that link people together, whatever background they come from. As part of the day, team members had the opportunity to attend workshops about interesting ideas from Near Neighbours projects, welcoming neighbours, or how to share your faith with others from different faiths.

Once a year the team meets up with our pastoral care advisor, Jane Yeomans, who finds out how team members are doing in their ministry and offers additional support if it is needed. Pastoral visitors can be offered additional training to help them understand issues that may relate to the work they do. Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is an issue that the Diocese wants everyone who is involved in the life of the church to be aware of. Training is available for commissioned pastoral visitors to take part in.

If you would like to know more about pastoral care ministry or feel that you would like explore this type of vocation, please see Revd Eve or speak to any member of the team.

### ***The Pastoral Care Team***

## **BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

Holy Trinity Bereavement Group began on 13th May 2011.

This group was set up to offer support to bereaved members and their families from Holy Trinity Church and also to families of anyone whose burial service was taken by Rev Canon Eve Pitts.

We usually meet fortnightly on a Tuesday for discussion and also to plan our yearly All Souls' Service, which usually takes place in November.

The Team consists of four members: myself Elaine Dawkins, Geraldine McGhie, Ida Smith, and also Canon Rev Eve Pitts.

We also send out two letters a year to bereaved families, one to invite them to the yearly remembrance service held in November and one in the New Year to see how the families coped over Christmas without their loved ones.

We normally have four in the group, and if anyone is willing to join the team, please see myself or Rev Eve.

***Elaine Dawkins***

## **HOLY TRINITY CHOIR**

I have been a part of HT choir for just under two years. After some recent changes I was delighted to be asked if I would like to head the choir. I have a Certificate in Performance Skill and Presentation, so I welcomed the chance to put my training into practice.

As will all groups we have our ups and downs, but with God's help, respect for each other and commitment, we will sing well and gain confidence.

There have been recent comments that the choir has greatly improved, and I feel that with enthusiasm and friendship, Holy Trinity's choir will grow with pride and love.

***Jillian De Costa***

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PRAYER GROUP**

As leader of this group, about which I feel passionately, I have watched members grow with confidence and faith. It is an open group, which anyone can join at any time.

With the help of Mavis Scott we now feel that we can offer to go into the home of our Christian brothers and sisters to pray with them and their families. This will be by invitation-only, with three or four members of the Prayer Group taking part.

Sometimes, because of people's work commitments, it is easier for us to meet after service on Sunday for a short time of prayer. In the future we are planning a prayer walk and a prayer chain. Also, as a group we would like to visit St. Philip's Cathedral. You are invited to come and pray with us.

***Jillian De Costa***

# COLOUR GROUPS' REPORTS

## 1) Blue Group

Those of the group whom I have spoken too, which are the majority, are happy within the Group. I have managed to keep contact with the group through 'phone calls as well as Church, and everyone seems happy with this. As fund-raising there have been some hats for sale - these have all been sold but I am not aware of how much has been raised.

I was absent from the group for around two and a half months but previous to this, I was in regular contact with my group and also since I have returned to Holy Trinity.

At the moment we are arranging sometime together as a group, for social and fund raising purposes.

***Barbara Hamilton***

## **2) Gold Group**

Gold group have managed to meet together and eat out during 2016, but because no fundraising event has been created by the group we have agreed to make an annual group collection each year which will go to church. We are still in the process of collecting contributions from last year for this year and will continue to do the same for next year.

The group hopes to get together again this year for a social event which will hopefully be within the next few months. Prayers and support for members of the group who are doing their best in difficult times; please remember you are not alone.

Finally, 'Thank You' to those of you who are able to give annually as a part of helping to support the growth and development of the church and may I suggest that time together is just as important as being a part of the body of Christ.

***Jenny Ransom***

\*\*\*\*\*

## **3) Green Group**

Sometimes it feels a struggle to organise a time and day to meet as a group: because of the weather, perhaps, or the time, or other commitments, or age.

The group has had great success in playing dominoes against the Brotherhood. We had fun doing this, two evenings of laughter, eating, drinking and good fellowship. Perhaps in the future this could be extended to matches between the colour groups at Holy Trinity.

*(Please note: there is a dominoes match against the Brotherhood, tomorrow, 8th May at 7.30pm. All welcome.)*

***Jillian De Costa***

## **4) Red Group**

Can you believe it? Another year has gone and spring is here?

I would like to thank the Red Group for their constant support at Holy Trinity Church in many different ways: such as:- donating your time, offering physical support, contributing items to various events organized within the church calendar, donating items for prizes in raffles, knitting, crochet, baking cakes, providing refreshments for the summer trip, a stall at the summer fayre and a stall for Aston Heritage day.

Also a much appreciated 'thank you' to Mrs Guy for her cake stall and Marie Barnett for being brave and courageous during her Sky Diving Jump: didn't she do it well?

A few of our members have not been here due to illness and some have been through bereavement, we continue to keep them in our hearts and pray for them. Despite all adversities the group shall go forward with new ideas for the future. May God continue to bless everyone in the church and wider community.

We are many different people but we come together to form one people. Let us move forward to a brighter and loving future.

***Waveney Richards***

## 5) Silver Group

Christeen reports – that the Group is in constant contact. There are mainly seniors in this group and it has been difficult for us all to meet as a group in one place. However, we are always in communication, mainly by phone, meeting in church on Sundays, home visits and at the Wednesday Lunch Club.

Christeen continues to make and sell salt-fish fritters after the Sunday Service as part of the on-going church fund-raising. This year we raised over £200. Many thanks to all for your support throughout the year- it is greatly appreciated.

It is hoped that as a mature group we should be able to generate more funds in the year ahead. All contributions welcome. We continue to support each other through prayers, encouragement and reassuring words with Christ in our hearts. Thank you all for letting me know that the phone calls and visits are appreciated.

Regards,

***Christeen Forrester.***

## HOLY TRINITY BROTHERHOOD

The Brotherhood is a men's group which meets on the first Monday of each month in the church hall from 7.30 until 9pm.

The subscription is £4 per month, which goes towards paying for the occasional outing such as ten pin bowling or a meal at a restaurant. We enjoyed a visit to Jimmy Spice's, Broad Street, in December, although one member became ill and was taken to hospital for one night.

We open every meeting with prayer and the group's hymn, *A New Commandment*. Sometimes we play games: draughts and dominoes are popular, while those who prefer board games enjoy a railway game, 'Ticket to Ride'.

Brotherhood members enjoy singing. We sang in church during the 11am Services on 13th March and 19th June, and at the Mothers' Union service on Saturday 10th September. Also, we were invited to sing at Pastor Tom Maginley's church in Handsworth at the Carol Service in December.

The Green group challenged the Brotherhood to a dominoes match in August. This was enjoyed by all, so we had another match in October.

Because of the weather we were able to go only once to 'The Drakes Drum' in Great Barr for Crown Green bowling. We have our own bowls and a key to the green.

The weather also affected our first visit to Edgbaston for a T20 match one Friday in early June: the rain caused the abandonment of the game without a ball being bowled! The following month there was better weather for another visit, although Birmingham Bears lost.

Officers (elected at the AGM in April):

Chairman – Mike Gregory; Vice-chairman - Eric Matthew

Secretary – Anthony Pitts; Treasurer – George Bartley

Our regular attendance is between six and nine men. We welcomed a new member in 2016: Sidney Galbraith.

**NEW MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME.**

Please see Anthony Pitts.

***Anthony Pitts***

# MOTHERS' UNION

This report is a chronological account of some of the events and activities the Holy Trinity branch of MU were involved with in 2016.

## **23<sup>rd</sup> January**

MU Quiz night, hosted by Anthony Pitts. Although we had enough people to form only three teams, it was an enjoyable, competitive contest, won by Rev Eve's team.

£84 pounds was raised for the Mother Union 'Mums in Brum Charity'. 'Mums in Brum' was the title was used for the annual fundraising for Mothers' Union 2016.

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

The Annual Valentine Service was held in Holy Trinity Church. Monies collected in church went towards purchasing the flowers and decorations. There was a good attendance, with most people observing the 'red' dress code.

The wine and chocolates and other refreshments were donated by Church members. 'Thank you' to MU members including, Erica Parker for staying back after the AGM meeting the previous day, to help with preparing the roses. Thanks also go to Waveney Richards and Angela Watson for the decoration of the church.

The event was featured on the MU facebook page with lots of likes.

## **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

The City Wide Mothers' Union Festival Service was held at Birmingham Cathedral. Holy Trinity's Banner, recently completed by Veronica, had its first outing, paraded around the Cathedral. There was good comments made about our banner by other members. The event was well supported by Holy Trinity Members.

## **June**

We invited professionals to a Sunday service to present a brief presentation on health issues: Diabetes, Stroke, Prostate Cancer and Dementia: The church was full because of a baptism.

The speakers spoke eloquently about how these health issues are affecting the community and how to recognise the symptoms.

There was a chance to meet the professionals at the end of the service, take away information and have the opportunity of blood pressure checks and private consultation

This event should be repeated to get the message across

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

Aston Heritage Day. This event was lead by MU member Jillian De Costa with Helen Cross and Barbara Hamilton supporting: MU had a stand at the event. This was a very good event, which was attended by members of the community and beyond who visited our church and learned about the history of Holy Trinity

### **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

The 140th anniversary of MU was celebrated with a street party at Birmingham Cathedral. The event clashed with the parish outing to Weymouth and most members attended the Parish outing. Pam Nelson and Sandra Golding attended the event. Non-members for Holy Trinity also attended. The day went well

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

MU attended the Holy Trinity new members' lunch. There were presentations from the leaders in the church to inform the new members who and what is available at Holy Trinity  
Veronica delivered a short presentation to the new members about Mothers' Union.

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Holy Trinity MU branch hosted its first festival service. It was well-organised by our members, and led by Revd Eve Pitts.

The Brotherhood sang, and Sandra danced.

Although we were disappointed by what we considered a low attendance, Erica Parker said it was a good turn out as Festival Services are not well attended

We had another outing for the MU banner and our members looked smart with their sashes. The event was well received on the MU Facebook page and Newsletter

## **September**

### **Job Club meetings commenced.**

Core group: Veronica, Branch leader, Anthony Pitts, MU Member, Geraldine McGie, HT Church member, Leonard Kaurrai, Volunteer, supported by Sandra Golding the MU's Community Development Worker

The Job Club aim is to support local people back into employment and training by supporting the clients with their confidence and social skills, presentation, interview and CV skills and letter writing. The plan is to work in partnership with local employers, education, Job Centre DWP, agencies, to achieve the goals.

***More volunteers are needed***

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

Ancestors Service; supported by all the leadership group including MU members by donations of refreshments and assisting with serving

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Inspired Event: Training for MU Members, led by Pamela Nelson: This was a very good event with exercises to get you thinking about ideas to bring to the MU. It was also good to network with other branches.

### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

Mothers' Union Council meeting held at Carrs Lane Church in the City centre. There were presentations from Pamela Nelson, our Learning Co-ordinator and Sandra Golding, the Community Development officer

Good opportunity to network with other member and learn about what's happening in the MU world.

Good attendance from Holy Trinity MU members

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Holy Trinity Mothers' Union Celebrated three years, during the Sunday service.

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Our MU's first Craft Morning. Successful event, used to teach others a new skills in sewing, knitting, and to contribute to making the fiddle muffs lead by Masie MCarthy. Veronica and Sandra taught people how to use the sewing machine. This event was held jointly with the Winter Fayre and coffee morning

The event over ran the time because people were happy socialising with others and learning new skills. We hope to run a similar event in 2017.

***New members, male and female, are most welcome.***

***Veronica Flowers, Branch leader***

## **DEANERY SYNOD Report**

Whilst attending the various Deanery Synod meetings in 2016 various topics were discussed and choosing one was a challenge in itself. However, I decided on the presentation of God's people living in a multi-faith society.

As we go about our busy lives, sorting out our day to day problems and planning what is next on the list to tick off, we have very little time for to 'smell the roses', but the roses are there.

We live in a Multi-faith parish comprising Africans, Afro- Caribbeans, Buddhists, Indians, Pakistanis, Polish, English but to name a few. In the midst of this diverse group of people is a pool of resource waiting to be accessed.

To be one of God's people, you need a presence, you need to be able to engage people and respect people.

When you engage them first, you have their attention then the communication can begin and then they understand.

A Muslim is just another person who worships another religion.

We should demonstrate our love for our neighbours because they breathe the same air to survive. We were not provided with different methods of survival. We have to eat to survive.

If you are asked a question but you don't know the answer, smile and say you don't know, but try and find out. If necessary, ask your pastor.

Jesus did not say "Respect thy neighbour", he said "Love thy neighbour" - so you should learn about them; but this can be challenging.

Engage with different groups of people because we all have faith and it's a good ground for discussion.

During a conversation, if you are asked a question and you don't know, say you don't know then go and find the answer to grow your knowledge.

If you want to know something; "Smile and ask" so that your knowledge grows.

***Fitzroy Stewart***



# Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy

Since I became Headteacher at Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy in September 2015, we have continued our strong links with Holy Trinity Church, and I would like to thank Rev. Eve for all the hard work that she puts in to maintaining the special relationship we think we have with the church. Rev. Eve is a regular visitor into school, leading whole school Collective Worship and helping out within classes. I know that the children really do appreciate the time that Rev. Eve spends in school with them.

We are all very proud of the way in which members of the Governing Body work tirelessly to support the school and take on some of the burden for its administration. Both Rev. Eve and Helen Cross are members of the Governing Body and attend half-termly meetings. Helen Cross also spends a lot of time in school volunteering to hear readers, attending Nursery class and their special days and also she attends the majority of our coffee mornings. This gives Helen the chance to meet some of our parents and to get a feel for what goes on in our school. I am extremely grateful for the time that Helen dedicates to school.

Recently our school had its SIAMs inspection. This is an inspection of Anglican and Methodist school. Rev. Eve and Helen Cross both attended the day and were very supportive of the school. The inspector recognised the distinctive Christian values that the school offers the children that attend and we are tremendously proud of the 'Good' grading that the school was awarded.

The children always show the school to great advantage, especially if we have visitors or when they go on a visit. They are developing into caring and responsible citizens and the Student Council, which has 2 members from each class, will be meeting with the Governing Body soon to discuss issues which they feel are important to them.

The school continues to be popular in the neighbourhood and beyond with many parents feeling that as a Church School we are providing a special service to families in the community who want their children to be brought up in a faith school. This includes families from other faiths than Christianity as we have Muslim, Sikh and Hindu families in school to help us celebrate the richness of God's world.

***I would like to make an open invitation to any members of the congregation who have not visited the school to come and see us at work. If some members wished to come in a small group, some of the children would be more than happy to give you a guided tour and talk to you.*** If any of the congregation feel that they have a regular time that they can give to volunteer to hear readers, like Helen Cross is doing at the moment, then we would be very grateful for the support.

Thank you for the interest Church shows as we continue to work with uch wonderful children.

***Paula Burns, Headteacher***